

CANDIDATE VIEWS REGARDING SPRING BIKE WEEK

CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH RUN-OFF ELECTIONS - We encourage everyone who lives in the City of Myrtle Beach to VOTE in the City Election, which will be held Tuesday, November 15th. **All registered voters are eligible to vote in the run-off, even if you didn't vote on Nov. 1st. Your vote will count even more this time!!**

Myrtle Beach Harley-Davidson supports John Rhodes, Chuck Martino and Randall Wallace in the run-off election.

SUMMARY

The following chart is the opinion of Myrtle Beach Harley-Davidson. Below the chart is what the candidates had to say regarding Spring Bike Week specifically.

	CANDIDATES	Strongly Supports	Supports	Neutral go either way	Against	Strongly Against
Mayoral Candidates	Mark McBride					X
	John Rhodes		X			
City Council Candidates	Chuck Martino			X		
	Cynthia Powell					X
	Randal Wallace			X		

MAYORAL CANDIDATES

John Rhodes, Mayoral Candidate

- I'm for all tourism.
- We have to enforce the law. Then we will be able to contain situations that cause problems.
- The biggest problem is noise in the neighborhoods. We need to prevent bikers from going through neighborhoods.
- Keep them on the main roads, 21st Ave. or 38th Ave, on the boulevard, etc. and out of neighborhoods.
- Another issue to be addressed is bikers revving up their engines in parking garages where the noise echoes.
- Bike week was promoted by Myrtle Beach long ago. Bike week didn't start yesterday and it won't end tomorrow, no matter who's in office. You have to cooperate.

Mark McBride, Incumbent and Mayoral Candidate

Very divisive individual and we do not support his candidacy. Recently said he had the urge to nudge a biker with his car just because of the T-shirt he was wearing. That's not the type of leadership needed to lead this community into the future.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Randal Wallace, City Council Candidate

- I would like to see the noise problem solved. The community is up in arms because of the noise problems. We need to let the bikers know that we are not going to tolerate noise in the neighborhoods and encourage bikers to keep out of the neighborhoods and stay on Hwy. 17 and just the main roads. The noise needs to stop.
- Everyone is welcome to come here to the beach—we urge everyone to behave.
- We should not tell bikers don't come here.
- Another issue that needs to be addressed is obscene tee shirts.
- Behavior of participants in the Atlantic Beach bike week should also be addresses. One thing should be that they dress properly.
- We need to all come together, balance things out and deal with it.

Chuck Martino – City Council Candidate

Not sure how to respond to the open end question for a quantitative rating, but I would say that I am very supportive of any event in town that is made of law abiding and behavior controlled participants and does not impact the residents in the residential area with noise, traffic and bad behavior or display. I believe that everyone is welcome under those guidelines and protected under the Constitution, until they infringe on the rights of others, and I believe we have reached that point and action needs to be taken to correct.

That being said, I am very unhappy during each of the Bike Events with the following:

lack of respect for neighborhoods and ignoring road barricades

- Noise in the evenings along residential streets
- Lode and vulgar behavior and display as well as clothing
- Deliberate violation of our laws such as speed, noise and behavior
- The offensive items sold by vendors and merchants, tailored to the bike crowds
- The mixing of drinking and driving and presenting a hazard and threat of death or damage to themselves and others
- The tremendous expense to the city to provide crowd and law enforcement

Some things I believe need to occur and occur immediately to avoid a draconian approach to control, which I will support, if the industry and the enthusiasts don't exercise some self control in these areas:

- Strict abeyance of neighborhood barricades
- Boycott of vendors and merchants with vulgar merchandise
- Respect for the residents through voluntary compliance of noise and traffic laws
- Dealers and dealers association bringing down or hiring enough security to handle all the vendors and assist with law enforcement where permitted under state statute, or paying the overtime we spend as a result of the events
- Some public good to come from the event such as significant money raised for charity, roads or public improvements
- No alcohol sold within 1000 feet of any vendors or events
- Organize events and routes to avoid city streets after 10pm and encourage use of rts 22 and 31 as alternatives.

Some draconian steps I will be willing to support to control the events and protect our residents if the enthusiasts and dealers do not step forward:

- No further contracts with the Convention Center by any Dealer or Dealer association or related entity for the purpose of gathering bikers and instead sponsor concerts or events for local residents to enjoy and avoid the congested streets
- Strict enforcement with Police at Neighborhood barricades
- Establish DUI Check Points at various times of night and revolving locations specifically to deter traffic near neighborhoods
- Increased Noise Ordinance enforcement ALL day long
- Close some roads for parades and marches of other interest groups
- Modify all speed limits downward on all roads during large events to 15 mph to slow things done and discourage traffic, if necessary
- More police and law enforcement officers
- Denial of all vendor permits and special Events Permits in the City during the large event weekends except to Churches, Charity and Not for Profit Organizations

Cynthia Powell, City Council Candidate

- Her entire campaign is Take Back the Month of May. Strongly against all Bike Weeks.