

Dear FBRA:

As a candidate for First Selectman, I believe four issues of great concern to FBRA membership include the following: (1) danger to human life and property damage from wind and flooding; (2) safe streets to walk, bike and drive on, for people of all ages and abilities; (3) excessive noise, disruption, and pollution from students and others living in, or visiting, the beach area; (4) fair and consistently applied property appraisals and taxes.

1. (A) We must commence a comprehensive coastal resiliency study using qualified experts. The Town may be best served by contracting with multiple engineering/coastal geomorphology experts, working independently to produce separate recommendations to be compared/contrasted. We cannot afford to get this wrong. Any resulting plan will likely be multifaceted, incorporating several disciplines, including engineering, conservation, zoning, etc.
(B) We must maintain/replace our coastal infrastructure in a timely manner, not just tide gates, pump stations and drains, but also the WPCF and other facilities on One Rod Highway that- without proper “hardening” - could impact the safety of area residents during a storm.
2. I am the lead author of a Safe and Livable Streets Ordinance that I hope will be passed by the RTM next week. This ordinance puts basic processes in place to ensure all users of the right of way are considered during street improvement projects (such as paving). Seniors, children, adults, and people with disabilities must be able to walk, bike and drive safely.
3. I supported the amended noise ordinance. However, its implementation and effect must be monitored. Those invested in beach-area properties and subjected to regular (and growing) disruption have not been treated fairly. It will be a priority of my administration to work with the police, universities, and students to ensure the rights of residents are respected and upheld.
4. Homeowners in the beach area have been hit with extraordinary increases in appraised home values and resulting taxes. Many have had to suffer through the process to correct appraisal errors. I will make development of a more transparent and professional appraisal process a priority. I will also deliver the leanest possible budget that can provide the services residents deserve and expect. That means no more ill-conceived vanity projects, non-productive legal expenditures, or extraneous headcount.

I'm a CPA, with an MBA in Finance and MS in Accounting from NYU. I started my career at KPMG and have held executive roles at Arthur Andersen, Barclays, Aetna, Citigroup, and White Mountains Insurance Group. As a CFO, I have built strong finance, accounting and reporting teams that performed with the highest level of efficiency and integrity.

While retired, I have been very active on the RTM and returned to school to earn an MPH from GWU. I am not a golfer and earned my million-mile frequent flier status more than 20 years ago (so not so interested in traveling). I want to give back to Fairfield and make a course correction to a wonderful, but poorly managed, town.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bill Gerber