

Fighting for you and with you

I have advocated for a better quality of life for residents of the ward. For example, I have worked on Mechanic Street to get the neighboring business to perform general maintenance to reduce the blight on



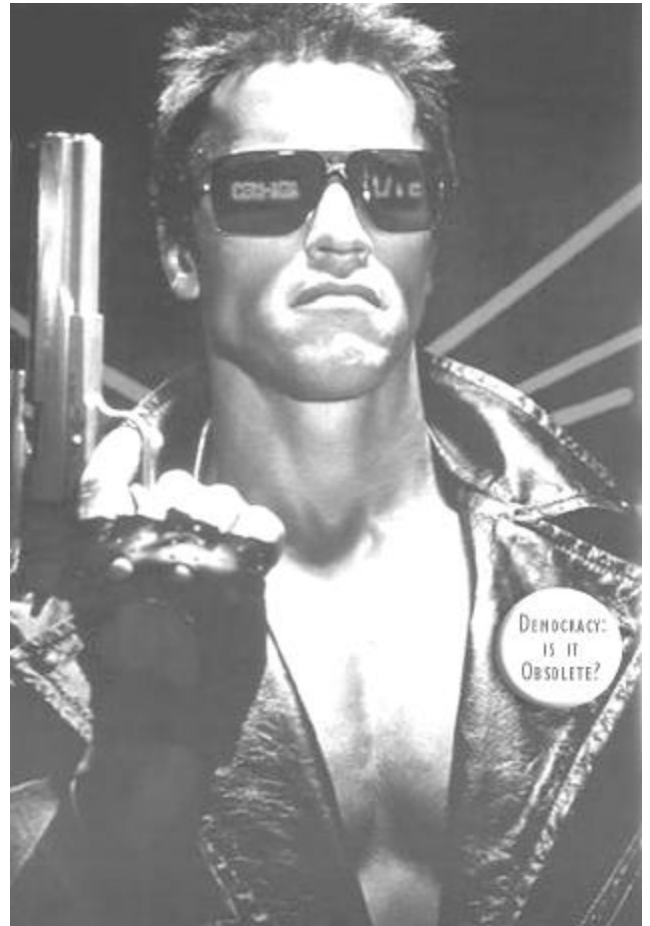
the street and I will continue to try to get rid of the sewer smell that invades homes. The Greens and I organized a neighborhood clean-up day, which drew **hard-working residents like Ed and his children** who raked the leaves on the entire side of their block. And there is an enthusiasm among residents for starting a neighborhood association, which I am excited about continuing to help with.

**This is how the Green Party elected officials work.** We help build communities. Since John Halle, your current Green Alderman, won the seat over two years ago, we have raised the standard on responsiveness to residents. **We thought people deserved better service from their elected officials, so we provided it.** We provided stop signs where residents requested them, opposed environmentally harmful projects like the English Station power plant and supported new initiatives like getting a cop dedicated to illegal dumping. We had tree stumps replaced with new trees, and led the opposition to the Cross Sound Cable. *It took an independent voice in city government to make all that happen.* I hope you will continue to support a stronger, grassroots democracy in this one-party town by deciding to **VOTE VIC.**

But these ideas are just a starting point. I want to know how YOU think city government can enhance our quality of life in Ward 9. Please contact me with any ideas, questions, or concerns. And if my ideas make sense to you, vote for me on November 4, and encourage your neighbors to do the same.

VIC EDGERTON  
(203) 215-4VIC  
votevicward9@yahoo.com

# DEMOCRACY



In California, all it takes to get elected is the ability to travel back through time and save the human race... and \$21 million.

In Ward 9, we have a different democratic tradition.

Printed on 100% recycled paper  
Paid for by **Elect Edgerton**, Joel Dubin, Treasurer

In Ward 9, we elected New Haven's first third party alderman in decades based on our **shared respect for good ideas, recognition that an independent voice is crucial for democracy, and grassroots, people-to-people politics.**

I'm not an actor (except that role in a 5<sup>th</sup> grade production of MacBeth). Nor am I married to a Kennedy. And, despite numerous attempts, I cannot travel back through time.

But I do have some good ideas about how, **as an independent voice in local government**, I can help our neighborhood address many of the challenges we face. I'd like to share some of those ideas on the top issues you raised when I spoke to several hundred of you over the last few months.

## Addressing Rising Property Taxes

In the face of a city-wide fiscal crisis, our neighborhood has seen property taxes skyrocket, pushing up rents and eating into incomes and savings. Homeowners, small business people, city employees, and renters are all sacrificing to maintain schools and other crucial government services.

Part of the reason our taxes are so high is that much of New Haven's prime property is owned by Yale, and **most of that property is not taxable**. The state's Payment In Lieu Of Taxes program only reimburses New Haven for up to 70% of the lost revenue. In hard economic times like these, the result is higher taxes, higher rents and lower services. I support the "Naclerio Amendment," a policy that will tell us exactly how much we lose because of these lost taxes, and will ask Yale for a "fair share" contribution to make up for the shortfall (probably around \$12 million).

As a Yale graduate, I know the university is a unique resource that adds much to our city. I also know that, given the challenges we face, they can and must do better, beginning with a discussion about how they can prevent further tax increases now. Then we can work on long-term tax reform.



## Bikable, Walkable Streets

With John Halle as our Alderman, the Green Party has joined with dozens of local cyclists to push for safer streets, resulting in the Orange Street bike lane that is now under construction. I will continue the charge, working to

- routinely add bike lanes upon repaving
- place bike racks outside neighborhood restaurants and stores
- add signs along existing bike lanes to raise awareness of the potential of being "doored"
- ensure tracking of cycling and pedestrian accidents in order to identify dangerous hotspots.
- help implement a range of "traffic calming" measures to slow cars and make the streets of East Rock friendlier to pedestrians, cyclists, and families.

## Cleaner Environment

I worked with Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice to get Yale to switch from Residual oil, the dirtiest possible fuel oil for energy production, to cleaner Number 2 oil as a back-up fuel. I participated in grassroots efforts to get New Haven city to buy 20% of its power from clean energy sources by 2010 and I provided testimony on the Cross Sound Cable and the Governor's Climate Change Plan. I have organized toxic tours and worked with the Newhall community to help assess their health risks from living on an industrial landfill.

I would like to continue to put my environmental and health expertise to work for Ward 9 and New Haveners by

- working with Latino/a and African-American populations who **fish from the mercury and PCB-contaminated rivers** to understand their risks and options,
- **changing the face of the waterfront** areas from heavy industrial to eco-friendly commercial developments that take advantage of the city's natural beauty, such as restaurants.
- working with communities and other groups to write a **sustainability plan** that guides and coordinates efforts to solve environmental, social and economic problems, which are all closely related.