



November 1, 2013

Dear Friend,

For the past 20 years we have been more or less spared any need to think much about the political leadership of New Haven. Mayor John DeStefano, Jr. was very competent and inventive. Now, as we near this Election Day in New Haven we wish to share our thoughts about the candidates for Mayor of our city. We are sending this note not so much to attempt to influence your vote on November 5, but rather to raise some issues and perhaps start some conversations that we think have been absent from the general discussion.

Soon we will welcome a new Mayor without the benefit of 20 years of trial and error, most likely without the benefit of a dramatically expanding economy and hard pressed to recreate the two decades of a great partnership with Yale University and Yale-New Haven Hospital.

Those of us on this letter share some basic views and values about the world. We try to be optimistic about the future, but are realistic about how the world works and how things get done. We try to look beyond the first impressions of a new person who will be important to our lives; past the gossip or what we might read in the paper or on the Internet. We are old enough and have been caught short by jumping to hasty conclusions too many times – we need to know the substance of the people with whom we work.

We like to think that building a world in which opportunity and equality for other people is at least as important a value as making sure we are okay ourselves.

This brings us to this Election Day in New Haven. We have seen polls about the probable results and know that Toni Harp is far ahead, yet we are surprised at how few of our own friends and neighbors seem to be considering a vote for Toni. Yes, the other fellow is earnest and clearly estimable in his own right but we think you ought to seriously consider a vote for Toni Harp.

Why are we unabashedly supporting and enthusiastic about Toni? We find her calm and quiet approach to be just perfect for the coming storm of issues. We appreciate her humility and in-check ego. Some tell us they think she does not really want the job or does not have the fire in her belly. We say nonsense – she has exactly the thoughtful, confident and inclusive approach that we think the next Mayor must possess. She's been prepping for this job for 30 years – she just did not go around telling people about it.