

A Response to Tony Dawson's Endorsement of John DeStefano

BY Gary Highsmith and Michael A. Jefferson, Esq.

What has regrettably become clear is that former mayoral candidate Tony Dawson never believed in his platform, or he has chosen to betray it while selling out his supporters who believed in him. Within days of a 13 year old child being murdered at the home of a friend on a normally quiet street, Dawson has shamefully thrown his support behind the re-election bid of John DeStefano and the status quo.

On his campaign literature, Dawson correctly noted: "While DeStefano does nothing - our children are being murdered!" He was right. DeStefano is still doing nothing and now Tony Dawson is supporting the very individual he recently condemned for watching and doing nothing while our children die. Dawson also states: "We cannot change the direction of New Haven as long as our city is a WAR-ZONE. We cannot change our city with the same tired leadership."

Dawson doesn't stop there. He further states: "Hand-picked cronies of DeStefano still run the New Haven Police Department." He reminds us "New Haven is the 4th Most Dangerous City in America." Then in large bold letters Dawson shouts: "**NEW HAVEN DESERVES BETTER.**" Jeffrey Kerekes agrees.

If one recalls, during the NAACP sponsored mayoral debate at Hillhouse High School Dawson almost tearfully if not pathetically whined about how DeStefano never once sought him out for any board or commission appointments during DeStefano's entire tenure in office. Dawson went on to mumble that DeStefano's treatment was especially offensive given Dawson's experience as a sixteen year veteran of the Board of Alderman.

Throughout the campaign Dawson repeatedly called for "Honest Leadership." Given the mayor's most recent fib regarding the departure of Chief Limon it is simply astounding that Dawson can now drag himself tapping and grinning before the public and tell us, and sadly his supporters, that DeStefano is the best man to run this city. Dawson's performance would be greeted with thigh slapping laughter if the stakes weren't so high.

For the record – Jeffrey Kerekes and members of our team repeatedly reached out to Dawson to invite him to join forces with us to bring about real change in this final push towards victory in November. Dawson refused to even discuss it. **The offer still remains open to those who supported Dawson in the primary.**

While one can point to a myriad of reasons why New Haven finds itself steep in turmoil and perpetual danger, the root cause can be found in so-called leaders like Dawson. He and others like him go to great lengths to make the rest of us believe they are truly agents of change, yet when the time comes to ante-up they fold like a cheap suit. Martin Luther King once said - "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

The leadership of groups like the Firebirds, most members of the Board of Aldermen – both old and new and particularly those in the clergy should allow King’s quote to serve as their guide prior to giving vocal or even silent support to DeStefano and the status quo. In the case of the union backed aldermanic candidates – it is quite perplexing to know that during the primary many of them showered prospective voters in their respective wards with campaign literature that displayed a grade of “F” for City Hall for their handling of crime and school performance. Yet most have chosen to remain silent during this critical moment when we the people can change the course of New Haven’s political future.

Bishop Desmond Tutu once said - “If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.” Neither will the citizens of New Haven.

We often wonder what is wrong with our youth. One need only examine the integrity of those who lead them. These mixed messages, sealed with a Judas Kiss, are confusing to our kids and set a poor example of how one creates change, and rights the wrongs in a given community.

On his campaign literature Dawson unfairly referred to Clifton Graves – another mayoral candidate, as a “Puppet of DeStefano.” Now that the lights are on we clearly see who is in fact the real puppet of DeStefano. The only question that remains is – did Dawson receive his thirty pieces of silver before, during or after the primary?

IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE NEW HAVEN...

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE!

On September 13th – **VOTE ROW 1B – VOTE DEMOCRAT**

TONY DAWSON for **MAYOR**

Tony Dawson's priorities as **MAYOR** will be...

- ✓ **END** Destefano's back-room deals & cronyism in City Hall.
- ✓ Work **WITH** the New Haven Police Department to make our streets safer and **STOP** the **MURDER** of our children.
- ✓ Kick-off **"Project Kids Count"**, an effort to reduce school drop-out rates and keep our children off the streets.
- ✓ Control government spending & taxes, reduce city debt and make New Haven a more **"business-friendly"** city.

"Tony Dawson deserves our support. We believe he is the BEST CANDIDATE to lead New Haven forward." - Greater New Haven Clergy Association

DESTEFANO & GRAVES are **BAD NEWS!**



WHILE DESTEFANO DOES NOTHING—
Our Children Are Being Murdered!

- × 25 Murders in 2011 alone.
- × Hand-picked cronies of DeStefano still run the New Haven Police Department.
- × New Haven is the 4th Most Dangerous City in America.



CLIFF GRAVES
Not The "Record" We Need.

- × Worked for John DeStefano until June 2011. Puppet of DeStefano.¹
- × Suspended By the Connecticut Bar Association.²
- × Charged with Tax Evasion.³

1. City of New Haven/#95069188.
 2. JD Grievance Panel v. Clifton Graves, Jr. #10-0016.
 3. New Haven Register 8/24/11 Bar Assoc.

On September 13th – **MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

VOTE ROW 1B

Vote **TONY DAWSON** for **MAYOR**

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Committee to Elect Anthony Dawson
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New Haven, CT 06519

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Jeffrey Kerekes
Or Current Resident
43 Lyon St
New Haven CT 06511-4925

TONY DAWSON

is the **ONLY** candidate for **MAYOR** with the experience to **STOP** New Haven's **CRIME-WAVE**.

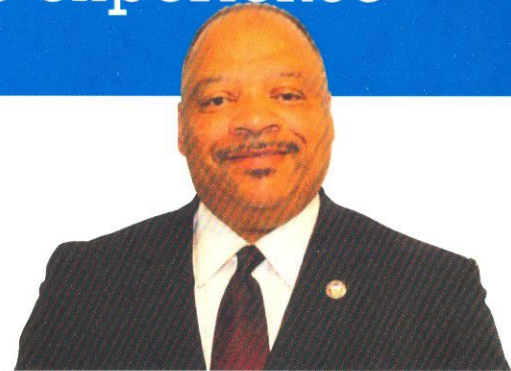
TONY DAWSON

- 30 years experience in law enforcement.
- Worked hand-in-hand with the New Haven Police Department.
- As Alderman, passed legislation protecting our families.

THE DAWSON PLAN INCLUDES:

- ✓ The immediate firing of NHPD Chief Limon.
- ✓ Deploy police resources to New Haven's most troubled neighborhoods.
- ✓ Increase neighborhood police walking beats.
- ✓ Create New Haven/State of Connecticut Crime Task Force to identify areas of cooperation between the State Police and NHPD.

Tony Dawson is supported by the
Greater New Haven Clergy Association.



ANTHONY DEMOCRAT

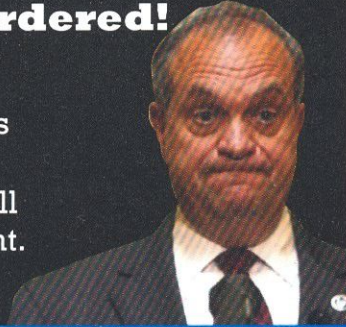
DAWSON

for NEW HAVEN 2011

HONEST LEADERSHIP

While DeStefano Does Nothing— Our Children Are Being Murdered!

- × 24 Murders in 2011 alone.
- × New Haven is the 4th Most Dangerous City in America.
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NEW HAVEN DESERVES BETTER.

Committee to Elect Anthony Dawson
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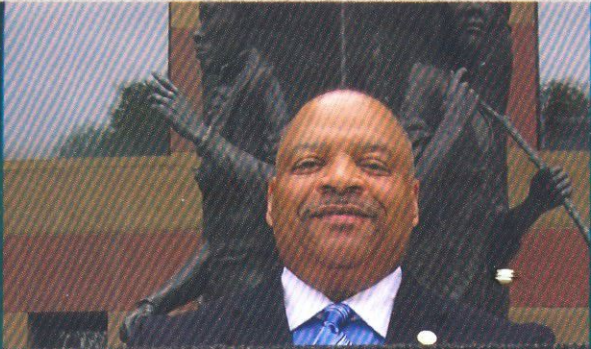


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ANTHONY
DAWSON
for **NEW HAVEN** 2011
HONEST LEADERSHIP

LIEUTENANT ANTHONY DAWSON

THE ONLY CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR WITH A
PLAN TO STOP THE KILLING.

“We cannot change the direction of New Haven as long as our city is a WAR-ZONE. We cannot change our city with the same tired leadership.”

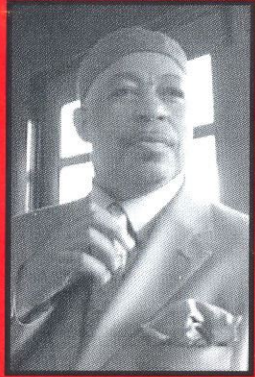
Anthony Dawson

- As Alderman, Tony Dawson has passed tough crime-prevention legislation.
- Dawson has 30 years experience in law enforcement.
- Dawson has hands-on experience working side-by-side with the New Haven Police Department.

THE DAWSON PLAN INCLUDES:

- ✓ Create New Haven/State of Connecticut Crime Task Force to identify areas of cooperation between the State Police and NHPD.
- ✓ Deploy police resources to New Haven’s most troubled neighborhoods.
- ✓ The immediate firing of NHPD Chief Limon.
- ✓ Increase neighborhood police walking beats.

VOTE 1B – VOTE DEMOCRAT - VOTE DAWSON for MAYOR – SEPTEMBER 13TH.



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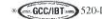
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- ✗ New Haven is the **4th Most Dangerous City in America.**
- ✗ **25 Murders in 2011 alone.**

NEW HAVEN DESERVES BETTER.

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