

# The 2024 Apopka Voter's Guide

Know Your Candidates for City Commission!

**ELECTION DAY**

**March 19, 2024**

**7AM - 7PM**



**Nadia Anderson**  
Seat 3 candidate



**Eric Mock**  
Seat 4 candidate



**Nick Nesta**  
Seat 4 incumbent



**Darryl Richardson**  
Seat 3 candidate

## Polling Places

***Precinct 9104***  
APOPKA COMMUNITY  
CENTER/VFW  
519 S. Central Avenue  
Apopka, FL 32703

***Precinct 9204***  
NORTHWEST  
RECREATION COMPLEX  
3710 Jason Dwelley Parkway  
Apopka, FL 32712

**EARLY VOTING**  
**March 4 - 17, 2024 • 10AM - 6PM**

*Office of Bill Cowles,*  
ORANGE COUNTY  
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS  
119 West Kaley Street  
Orlando, FL 32806

## Questions for city election candidates

1. Much has been made of the type of commercial growth in Apopka, including retail and restaurants. What should be the city's role in that growth?
2. Outside of growth, what is the most important issue/problem facing Apopka and its citizens today? What can be done to solve that issue?
3. The firefighter's union is demanding \$2.8 million pay and benefits. Are you in favor of this? Why or why not? If so in favor of it, how would the city pay for it?
4. Are you in favor of the strong-mayor form of government as outlined in the current city charter? Would you want a strong mayor or city council-manager form of government? What other charter issues should the City Council consider?
5. In your opinion, what is the status of the city's various departments, including police, fire, utilities, recreation, etc.? What improvements could be made? How about the city's website? What other information should be available on the website?
6. What else would you like to tell the voters of Apopka and why should residents vote for you?
7. Would you support Apopka local businesses by adopting an inclusive bid, procurement and purchasing policy to protect opportunities for local businesses?
8. Please also include your age, family, number of years lived in Apopka, and occupation, if any.

## Voter information

The Tuesday, March 19, city election will be held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Precinct 9104 must cast their ballot at the traditional site at the Apopka Community Center/VFW, 519 S. Central Avenue. Precinct 9204 must cast their ballot at the Northwest Recreation Complex office, 3710 Jason Dwellley Parkway. Only registered voters who live in the city limits of Apopka are eligible to vote. Early voting begins March 4 and ends March 17, (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) at the office of Bill Cowles, Orange County Supervisor of Elections, at 119 W. Kaley St., Orlando. Vote-by-mail ballots may be requested by calling 407-836-8683, or go online at [www.ocfelections.com](http://www.ocfelections.com). The request for a vote-by-mail ballot must be received by Cowles' office no later than 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 9, and the completed ballot must be returned to Cowles' office no later than 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19, which is election day.

# City Council candidates

## Nadia Anderson

Seat 3  
Candidate



1. The role of the city should first be to protect the quality of life and the small-town charm the residents of Apopka all value and want protected. Secondly, the city needs to foster and maintain a business-friendly environment that allows for desirable, including retail and restaurants, and sustainable economic growth. In turn, that creates a balanced tax base between commercial and residential which allows the city to decrease the tax burden on homeowners. As your next Seat 3 City Commissioner, that will be my "business model" for the city.

2. There are obviously many individual issues facing our city, traffic, crime, parks, schools, police, fire, roads, etc. However, the overarching challenge I believe facing our community is what we want Apopka to look like in the future and the quality of life we expect for future generations. Those decisions are determined by Apopka's "Vision Plan" or "Strategy Plan." Everything then flows from the document, including the Comp Plan, future land use plan, infrastructure plans, etc. I believe it's time to revisit Apopka's Vision Plan with an extensive "public discussion" from residents across our city. That document will then guide all of our future plans, from our Comp Plan, future land use plan, parks plan, to the goals set by department heads and even future City Commissions. If done right and in the right spirit, it could truly reunite and revive what makes Apopka such a great place to live, work and retire.

3. I understand the importance of fair compensation for our firefighters who serve our community tirelessly. If elected, I would prioritize negotiating a reasonable agreement with the firefighters union, ensuring that their contributions are valued while also being mindful of the city's budget constraints. Exploring options such as reallocating funds or seeking additional revenue sources could be considered to cover the cost. I would not support a tax increase, however.

4. This is an important question and there are advantages to both forms of government. Though I am still open and listening to both sides, I believe Apopka has reached a point where a council-manager form of government makes sense. Like many cities, the council would hire a professional city manager who would be accountable to the elected officials. The divisive politics which seem to have infected our city lately would also be greatly decreased because the salaries of elected officials would be cut, and professional standards would replace many political decisions. Additionally, we should consider electing commissioners by single member districts instead of all at-large to avoid recent events where three commissioners have been elected from the same neighborhood.

5. Currently, the city's various departments, including police, fire, utilities, and recreation, perform commendably in serving our community. However, there is always room for improvement. Strengthening collaboration and communication among departments could enhance efficiency and effectiveness. Additionally, investing in technology and training to modernize operations and ensure the safety and well-being of residents should be prioritized. Regarding the city's website, enhancing its user-friendliness and accessibility, providing more up-to-date information, and implementing online services for residents' convenience are crucial steps to improve civic engagement and transparency."

6. I would tell the voters of Apopka that our city's future relies on strong leadership, deep Apopka roots, a collaborative spirit, and a commitment to progress and improvement. As someone who grew up here, owns a business in Apopka, has school-aged children

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## Eric Mock

Seat 4  
Candidate



1. I believe we need to reevaluate the master plan along with zoning and code. As Apopka has grown, updating each one has become more critical to ensure cohesive growth with a quality look and feel. The new developments at Kelly Park/429, will be able to develop using a clean slate. As a commissioner, I will listen to all stake-holders input. As a city, we need to ensure that we provide the best opportunities for success. No one wants to come up short and have new developments stymied by forcing them to comply with old, outdated code and master plans.

2. I believe one of the challenges we face is what Apopka's identity will be moving forward. Over years, many local leaders have invested time considering what a revitalized downtown would be and look like. I've seen several examples, and I believe all would greatly enhance Apopka and the downtown area. I'd like to move the agenda forward, review prior plans, determine if they meet current expectations, get new visions and then move to adopt the best plan and move forward ensuring the vision and plan becomes reality. As a city, we need to make it a priority where we can achieve the vision.

3. During budget planning, it is critical to know what revenue will be coming in and know what expenses will be; judging from the prior years performance. Pay and benefits come from the general fund which is funded by property taxes and sales tax and a couple other smaller areas. Property tax is the one area that Apopka has the ability to increase or decrease. While investigating the \$2.8M, I was able to find out, \$2.8M is close to the total amount the city had budgeted for the entire city staff/all departments. To facilitate paying this amount to the firefighters would require a large property tax increase to fund this request. I believe all public safety is critical to our residents, however allocating this amount of money for salaries and benefits to one department, would not be fiscally responsible at this time. Public safety is at the top of the list in budget considerations, but so are other critical services the city provides to residents. Water, roads, wastewater and recreation facilities are all services we use daily and deserve budget consideration.

4. I am in favor of the strong Mayor form. Whether it is a strong Mayor or city council-manager form, someone is still in charge. The biggest difference I see is having listened to discussions and comments during the charter review meetings, voters elect who the mayor is and commissioners would select and approve who the manager would be. Yes, commissioners are voted by residents, but as anyone can see from the past couple years, there certainly hasn't been consensus. 5 individuals voting for the residents of Apopka... I'll choose residents of Apopka. Review of the charter is timely. I believe there are ways to improve how the commission and mayor can work together for the betterment of Apopka. Build those systems into the next charter. Having listened to two charter meetings, it seems clear, massive change will not happen on this review. Each change would need to meet state statute specific wording and be approved by the sitting commission and then put on the ballot for Apopka residents to approve. It is highly likely that only one

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## Nick Nesta

Seat 4  
Incumbent



1. As your duly Elected Commissioner, I have a proven track record of advocating for smart growth throughout our city. This means growth coupled with future plans to improve our city including roadways, utilities and our public safety departments to name a few. This will allow our current residents to enjoy our city and not see a decrease in services while the city grows. We recently hired an Economic Development Director for the first time in the City of Apopka history. This position took over a year to fill for reasons unknown. This department head and department will aid in ensuring developments that are coming to the city provide synergistic value to other businesses and projects in the area and do not put a strain on our resources or amenities that our current residents utilize. The City of Apopka, through its newly formed Economic Development Department, should be creating a healthy economic environment to attract new businesses to come to Apopka. I will continue to support healthy growth and stand behind our Economic Development Department to allow them to do what they do best, promote the City of Apopka to the exclusive benefit of the residents.

2. Planning for the future is the biggest issue facing Apopka and its residents today. Throughout my tenure as your elected official, I have continually advocated for planning for our future. This includes a Comprehensive Plan that is updated to reflect the current needs of the residents and our current development trajectory. Since being elected the City has conducted a rate study for our utilities as well as our impact fees. It has been decades since our last rate studies and that has hurt our enterprise funds causing the city to pull from our reserves to balance these funds. The lack of planning for the future has caused an increase in costs on many projects and expansions of public services. I successfully advocated and achieved preferred investments of our residents' tax dollars assisting in keeping taxes low without having to sacrifice our public services. I have also advocated and successfully achieved the hiring of a Financial Advisor that has updated our investment policy since its last update in 1992 as well as working to create a capital projects plan to ensure our funds are invested at the most preferred rate of return to pay for our future projects. I will continue to advocate for future planning with our residents in mind. This will ensure we can grow without limiting resources to our current residents and promote a positive future for our youth.

3. The Apopka Professional Firefighters Association is in active negotiations with the City of Apopka. As this is an active negotiation no numbers are set or being "demanded" as of yet. As I have been in every productive negotiation meeting, I am keenly aware of what is being discussed and how fluid these negotiations can be. There are many articles that are still outstanding that will change the total picture for both the Union and the City of Apopka. Additionally, the items that are being negotiated by the union are not all required annually, they are a one time expense. Many are items that the City of Apopka should have already provided, like eye washing stations, wash basins and

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## Darryl Richardson

Seat 3  
Candidate



1. This is a topic that is very close to me as a business owner that has taken a huge risk downtown Apopka on 5th street. First and foremost the city needs a solid "Strategic Plan" in place and should be adhered to. A strategic plan that has 3-, 5-, 10-year goals or metrics to meet to ensure the plan is moving at the pace needed to be successful. If the city does not set goals, what does it hope to achieve? The city should leverage resources that are available like the Mainstreet Apopka group, and other third parties that have experience in building thriving downtown areas. This might include developers, retail vendors, property owners, and other stakeholders that could help to drive the growth Apopka needs to become a destination. Apopka has fallen behind other surrounding cities regarding this type of downtown growth. Apopka residents will drive to neighboring cities on the weekends for fine dining, and entertainment. Why not Downtown Apopka? We live in the greatest city on earth, it is our home, we should not have to leave it to find options outside our city. These options are ok to mix it up occasionally, however Apopkans want options within their own city, let's give them some options.

2. The perception of "Issues" varies from person to person or group to group. My vision of important problems will differ from others. I can say two key issues for me are Apopka's growing Homeless population and the explosive sprawl of new developments and housing.

Apopka's growing homeless population in Apopka is an ever-challenging topic that needs to be addressed. It appears Apopka, and surrounding cities just shuffle the homeless population from one section or city to the next area, eventually coming full circle right back where they started. If the homeless issue were easy to solve, the homelessness issue would have been solved already. There is no easy or simple solution to the issue. I have had recent, and amazing, experiences with a few groups that dedicate and volunteer their free time to assisting the less fortunate. I do think they should all band together- local Church Leaders, organizations like HOPE for Apopka and Matthews Hope, and civic leaders, seem to be working in smaller silos. These organizations, in a combined effort, could be more effective with the city's cooperation and some funding. The city owns a lot of small parcels that sit vacant around the city. Apopka could invest in mobile housing stations that could be built or acquired and be moved in the event of a city land swap or deal with a sale of the property. Larger used generators could be used as temporary power stations, however this will take funds to start which, with tight budgeting concerns, this could be an obstacle. At a certain point Apopka residents will need to vote on the value of these types of programs and how we are to pay for them. I do hope that I can be a part of the solution and bring everyone together to at least reduce the challenges with the homeless population Apopka is facing today.

Managing Sprawl - While I would not support (Nor could the city afford) an all-out moratorium on controlling the sprawl, there are ways to slow this sprawl and allow the city infrastructure to catch up. There are roads and utilities that need to be addressed so the city can handle the sprawl. In most of Apopka's public works and safety departments there is aging and, in some cases, unreliable equipment. The equipment lifecycle does need to be addressed, just like aging computers the theology of "just because it still works" does not mean it is effective in its role. As for managing the sprawl of developments, a strategic, time based, plan to allow certain areas to develop over time and not all at once could be

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## Anderson

in Apopka's schools and a homeowner, I care deeply about Apopka, our quality of life and our future. I have both public and private experience that I believe would be a benefit as a city commissioner. Before starting my own business, I worked for the U.S.

Department of Defense and Florida's DCF. As a private business owner, I employ people and I have experienced first-hand the impact government can have on a business' success. One of my strengths is the ability to bring people together for a common goal. I look forward to helping reunite our

Commission and our community.

7. As a candidate, I strongly support adopting inclusive procurement and purchasing policies to protect and promote opportunities for local businesses in Apopka. By prioritizing local

businesses in city contracts and purchases, we can bolster our economy, create jobs, and foster a stronger sense of community. Additionally, such policies ensure that taxpayer dollars are reinvested back into our local economy, benefiting all residents. I am committed to working collaboratively with stakeholders to implement these measures and support the growth and success of Apopka's vibrant business community.

8. Nadia Anderson, 33 years old, married to Chevron Anderson and mother of two school-age children. Having grown up here, graduated from Apopka High and lived over 33 years in the area, my Apopka roots run deep. I am a "Blue Darter" through and through.

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## Mock

or two items will be moved forward. For example, the current charter states Apopka will hold elections in December. This would need to be changed to match what our city elections are. Another example, do we want to call the "city council or city commission, council member(s) or commissioner(er)" ? I know that is not life altering, but it would need to be approved by the charter review and then presented on the ballot for voters to approve. Placing multiple items on a ballot can induce ballot fatigue. It is possible only one item passes the charter review; what form of government Apopka will have, strong mayor or city manager/commission run. The sitting charter review council would need at least a 3-2 in favor of changing and then voters would decide.

5. Currently police, fire and EMT's use a form of hiring/staffing related to population size. The more residents, the larger the area, the more personnel and equipment you need to cover with those emergency services. I'd like to understand what other cities the size of Apopka, approximately 60,000, use as their staffing models across all departments.

Apopka continues to grow and services need to meet those needs. We know when and approximately how big it will become by the developments that have been approved. I would not be surprised if other cities used a similar staffing model by population size. In today's world, we are not good at waiting longer than what we think is an appropriate time frame. As for the city's website, we should review and look for areas of improvement. Is the website user friendly? Is it intuitive? Is the search field robust? Once the website is improved, then you can look for additional opportunities providing additional information.

6. Voters will decide on March 19, 2024, who they want representing them on the city commission. I am focused on process improvement and quality outcomes. How do we perform as a city meeting those expectations? If systems are in place, are they working or do we need to review systems for improvement? These are questions needing to be asked before considering changing our form of government. Changing a form of government does not in itself change a system process.

I've spent my entire career working to access and offer suggestions for improvement. As Apopka continues to grow, having personnel in place, well trained with job satisfaction goes a long way in providing successful results. Performing city business when our population is 20,000 is not the same when our population is 60-85,000+.

I'm committed to working toward Apopka's bright future ensuring Apopka is a great place to live, work and play.

Vote Eric Mock for Apopka City Council, Seat 4 on March 19, 2024.

7. I certainly will support policies that support and protect local businesses. I believe as a resident of Apopka and a sitting commissioner, one should look first to Apopka. If there are no businesses providing the service needed or able to handle the scope and size, then we look outside starting first in the surrounding area, moving outward until we find and approve an organization. As our economic development director works to persuade new businesses to move into Apopka and to encourage existing businesses to expand, we can look for services that are currently not provided in Apopka getting them to move here.

8. I am 63, married to Rhonda for 33 years and we have two Golden Retriever dogs. We've lived in Apopka twice. The first time for 3 1/2 years and now we are starting our 6th year in May. I am a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Realty.

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## Nesta

ice machines to name a few. We also must keep in mind the items that are being requested are working to ensure we have an attractive department, as compared to other local departments, to retract and retain the best of the best in the industry. This will keep our overhead low due to low turnover, ensure our residents are protected and receive a short time frame for life saving help, keep our overall state of the Department on par with national rating standards which also results in lower overall insurance costs for our community and saving thousands of dollars over time. I am in favor of protecting our residents and providing the absolute highest quality of services that our residents expect and demand.

Funding these initiatives can come from many sources. We have finally initiated a Fire and Police Impact Fee. This will assist in helping those departments properly grow with our growing city without draining our limited resources.

Additionally, properly investing our residents dollars through safe and productive investments will aid in funding these investments in our Fire Department that match what other local departments are doing. Our taxes do not have to increase to take on these improvements. I will continue to support our Fire Department and Police Department and their needs and will continue to work to find alternative fiscal solutions to our growing and diverse issues that impact our residents.

4. I am in favor of being the resident's voice on the dais. Of high importance is that the City Council cannot update the City of Apopka Charter on its own. It can only decide what goes on the ballot whereas the residents vote on what to update or change. This process ensures the voice of the people comes through to articulate and direct the Charter. As your elected official, I have always advocated for the voice of the people of the City of Apopka to be heard. My first day on the job I successfully advocated against and struck down an ordinance that worked to silence the residents under the guise of "rules of decorum." The people of the City of Apopka have come out in one consistent voice saying they want a managerial form of government and I support the voice and will of our residents. The City Charter is a limited document that has not received any update

in over a decade. The City Charter is only as strong as the Council that follows it and enforces it. The Charter in its current form has not been properly enforced and needs a complete overhaul. Commissioner duties and responsibilities, term limits and perhaps districts should be reviewed and updated. I look forward to our Charter Review Workshops as there are more opportunities to hear from our concerned residents. The goal is to get these Charter updates on the ballot for November 2024 as long as the residents feel they have had ample time to provide input and review the changes.

5. The City of Apopka is still experiencing staffing shortages throughout every department including the Police and Fire Departments. This is not exclusive to the City of Apopka but we can do much better recruiting and retaining quality staff members. We can do this through attractive pay, increase in benefits, creating an environment of autonomy and not one being micromanaged from the top and a culture that is for everyone. Our staff members deserve to be protected, supported and provided with the best tools to perform their job. We must listen to our staff members and act on what we hear. Staff members throughout the City of Apopka have pleaded for additional staff members to assist in our growing city and very few departments have received an increase in budget for those needs.

The City's website has improved somewhat over the recent years and should continue to improve. One of the biggest improvements I have discussed with staff is an interactive map that shows all proposed, approved and under construction projects throughout the City with details of the project. Details like these are what residents want to have access to review at their leisure. As we move our city forward we must understand that the residents are who we work for and I will continue to support our staff in every department to ensure we are serving our residents to the best of our ability.

6. I went to school in Apopka, I've started many small businesses in Apopka, I met my wife in Apopka and I am raising my children in Apopka. I call Apopka home and have for 30 years. I understand the value of growing up in Apopka as well as some of the pain points. I understand our past and I can see our very bright future. To properly serve the residents a Commissioner must understand our rich history and there is so much value in having lived it. I want our youth to grow up being proud to call Apopka their hometown. Your vote should be cast for Commissioner Nesta since not only do I have the historical understanding of our city but I have a proven track record of putting residents first, promoting and advocating

for low taxes while still being able to increase services to our residents and small businesses. When I am re-elected, I will continue to advocate for fiscally responsible spending and investing, continue to be involved in all aspects of our city and continue to make decisions based on facts not emotion or unsolicited pressure. Don't just hope for a better Apopka, vote for it with Nick Nesta.

7. Yes, I would support and adopt an inclusive bid, procurement and purchasing policy. This is long overdue and has been requested but never acted on by the current administration. It has been written about in recent letters but tied to information that was proven to be false. This has diluted and distracted many from the real issue of supporting and protecting our small businesses within the City of Apopka. I am properly positioned and prepared to properly facilitate that.

8. I am 33 years old, my wife Lauren served as an Elementary School Educator for over 10 years, we have twin daughters, Aria & Bella that are almost 3 years old, I have lived in Apopka for 30 years and my wife is a lifelong resident of Apopka and generations prior to her. I am a small business owner of a boutique Real Estate Brokerage Firm, Community Advocate and an Elected Official.

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adopted. I am not suggesting we do this, I am merely offering up potential solutions to help solve the expanding sprawl.

3. I have spoken to the Firefighter Union and they do not even know where this \$2.8 million dollar figure is coming from. Our Firefighters need to have the tools to perform their duties, period. You cannot put a cost on public safety, however you can use common sense to determine what can and cannot be done. Our Firefighters need to have salary and benefits that, at a minimum, match the national averages for cities the size and area of Apopka. This is common sense, as many can use the training in Apopka then follow higher paying salary offers which are sure to come their way. As for Firefighter re-

tention there are many benefits to have long time firefighters protecting our city, fastest response times since they will travel to all corners of the city, experience with the city equipment provided, how to overcome certain challenges with this equipment, to simply being proud to serve the great city of Apopka, thus being slightly better than national averages and certainly offering the best package in the immediate area will ensure our Firefighters will stay as long as they wish. I am pretty sure you would have no pushback from a single resident that would take money over their safety, nor would the majority of residents even have a problem with this package that is being proposed. I hope to review this plan, I will ask my questions, and

in the end a suitable negotiation and agreement will come out of it. Our Firefighters should not have to focus on their salary, taking care of their family, bills, or a and benefit plan. I would rather they focus on Apopka and continuing being the best Firefighters in the state.

4. As I have stated in previous candidate forums and on social media posts, this is too big of an issue for me to offer up a vote of support or non support. The people of Apopka should be deciding on the charter change to a form of Government they see that fits their idea of who should control the City decisions and policies. What I will say about this topic, it is my goal, when this issue does reach the ballot – the residents will have a clear and concise understanding of the differ-

ent forms to be voted on. Let the residents of Apopka decide on this issue, we commissioners are voted by the people, for the people and should be their voice. This is not "My" voice as I work and represent the people that elected me to do the job. It doesn't matter what I think or feel about the topic other than me being a concerned resident as well. I would add, at a minimum, the City Commissioners should be granted more control to offer more checks and balances through the decision and policy process as the city continues to expand. Apopka is the second largest municipality in Central Florida, at some point the city will need to modify the charter to effectively manage the city, the resi-

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## Richardson

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dents already see that it is too big of a task for one person to handle.

5. There is a level of dissatisfaction within most of the city departments I have spoken to. If we have people that work for the city that are not happy with their jobs, the result of this is the city will see an influx of churn which costs the city more money in the end to train and certify new personnel. I hope to get to the root of the issues, whether it be salary, benefits, or staff, we need to ensure the city workforce is satisfied with their current benefits package. The Fire Union is in continued negotiations which is simply costing the city money, where we could put that same money towards a suitable benefits package. Same with Police and city workers. If we can solve the employee satisfaction issue, then the work is done more efficiently and thoroughly. It is an inherent character trait of people in general, if they are happy they put more effort and pride into a task. I am a firm believer in yearly or bi-yearly satisfaction surveys and workshops. The city needs to rely on the employees to tell us what works or what is broken. The city employees deserve a competitive salary package, and, in some cases, somewhat better than surrounding cities to ensure a high satisfaction rate which, in turn, will ensure a longer tenured, more experienced, staff. I do believe the city has the funds available to address these concerns. I also believe in "Smart Cities." City-wide Wi-Fi access, smarter methods to share important information, and attracting more groups and events to monetize the resources the city manages today. Some of these city resources lose money every year. How can maintenance and expansion ever happen if

the parks and recreation amenities cost the city every year. The city needs to find creative ways to monetize these amenities to pay for upkeep and expansion.

6. See answer to number 8.

7. Not sure if I would favor or not as I would need to know the ground rules here. As for giving local Apopka businesses a shot, I would think we should give a deeper consideration to the qualifications to local Apopka businesses as a first priority review if they submit an RFI/RFP or bid. My ideology on this is that if a local Apopka business has similar qualifications, and most bidders are outside Apopka. First we look to qualify or disqualify the local Apopka business first, then move to the other bidders or submissions from out of town. If the Apopka local business can do the same job and is, let's say 5 percent higher in price, then the choice could be made during the selection process to choose the local business. This should be at the discretion of the City.

There should be consideration to the value, the project scope, length of time to complete, costs, needed resources to leverage...

What I personally think is that local is a better option. However, to limit your ability to shop costs and value because a local business simply entered a bid should not be the prerequisite to choose who gets the project awarded.

I would always like to choose a local business providing the same quality and value if applicable, however this is rarely the case. Larger businesses outside of local in many cases have more resources available to them than smaller more local businesses.

Without knowing the ground rules here, it is tough to say which is a better path forward.

8. Darryl Richardson is the son of Army Col. John Richardson and Elsie Richardson, and was born in Augusta, Georgia. Darryl is a 30-plus year resident of the Orlando area, while spending the last 6 years in Apopka. Darryl has always looked up to his hero, his father and mentor, that always challenged him to live life with strong conviction and integrity. Darryl always strives to be the person his father is today.

Darryl and his wife, Debra Richardson, are proud parents to daughter, Tiffany, and son, Anthony. They also have two granddaughters, Lelani and Savannah, and a German Shepard named Athena, and Great Pyrenees mix, Bear.

Darryl's career started in Florida in the late 1980s in the commercial printing business. His focus was on the retail market inserts and popular magazines like Sports Illustrated and Time. Darryl acted as the architect setting up the network and desktop graphic systems. With the rise of cyber crime in the early 2000's, Darryl refocused his career on Cyber Security and Data Governance roles. His new role was with the locally based Symantec/Veritas, with the primary target being State and Federal Government customers. Currently, Darryl is with Egnite, with a current role of Data Governance Architect. His primary function is Security & Data Governance Architect and understands the importance of protecting security and integrity of privacy data across the globe.

Holding many leadership positions within his 20 years in the Cyber Security

and Data Governance field, Darryl takes leadership roles with a team mentality and is not afraid to jump headfirst into a project if it makes sense to do so. Considered in the trade as an Evangelist, Darryl has spoken at many large trade shows, conferences, and State and federal events about topics ranging from data security and public awareness to the importance of governance and accountability. Darryl will never ask anyone to do something that he is not willing to do himself.

Darryl is passionate about Apopka and its continued improvement. Darryl is part owner of Apopka's very own Three Odd Guys Brewing; Darryl holds an important perspective on Apopka's growth. He sees firsthand the need to progress Apopka into a sought-after destination like other cities in the central Florida area.

Why should you vote for Darryl? "The choice is quite simple, for years, and no disrespect to our current city government elected officials, but we live in a world where elected officials have lost or forgotten the reason they were elected and who elected them in the first place. Why am I best suited for this role?"

I do not work for the City Government I do not work for the Mayor I work for the people of this amazing city.

I am the voice of the people, I will be the megaphone for the people, and a voice of the voiceless.

Apopka does not need another "One Size Fits All" politician, or candidate to occupy another seat on the Dais, period."

RE-ELECT

# NESTA

FOR APOPKA CITY COMMISSIONER SEAT 4  
on  
March 19, 2024

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