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NORTH MIAMI - NMB

Here's where the candidates for North Miami Beach mayor stand on key issues

BY RAISA HABERSHAM

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North Miami Beach mayoral candidates Evan Scott Piper, left, and Paule Villard.

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North Miami Beach voters will elect a new mayor on Tuesday, Dec. 5.

The special election was scheduled to replace [Anthony DeFillipo](#), who was [removed from his post in May](#) after he was charged with three counts of voting outside his district.

We asked [the two candidates](#) where they stood on key issues facing the city — how they will work to ensure commissioners are decisive on key issues, and how they will regulate the spending of city funds by elected officials and city employees. Here is how they responded:

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Mayor

What makes you the best candidate for mayor of North Miami Beach?

Evan Piper

I have the experience to make a difference from day one due to my commitment to public service combined with my years of successful business experience. In addition, I have the proven ability to work with and unite diverse groups.

Paule Villard

My 28 years in law enforcement and my previous term in office have prepared me from Day One to answer the challenge of restoring faith in city government. After all, I was part of the reform movement to restore the water plant, adopt important ethics reforms and create parks programming for seniors.

For the past year, the city commission has been divisive, sometimes failed to achieve a quorum for meetings and deadlocked in votes on some key issues, How will you work to ensure commissioners are decisive on key issues?

Evan Piper

Based on the fact that I have previous professional relationships with all of the sitting Commissioners from my City related work combined with my ability to unite groups, I will be able to create a productive work environment within our City Commission.

Paule Villard

Despite divisiveness, the commission passed a budget, voted on zoning matters, and passed legislation without significant delay. The big problem is that the commission cannot be allowed to operate outside of the law. Now voters will say who they think will best follow the rule of law.

Earlier this year, two city employees were fired and arrested for using gift cards intended for residents. City employees have been criticized for excessive procurement card use. How will you work to regulate the spending of city funds by elected officials and city employees?

Evan Piper

Eliminating wasteful spending is a priority. I will make sure that the City Manager immediately puts into place measures and procedures to control and justify City spending. In addition, my business experience gives me the ability to promote fiscal responsibility.

Paule Villard

Let's be clear. The former mayor's witch hunt for political enemies led to 2 great employees being arrested but those charges were dropped. On the other hand, the city's annual financial audit found everything in order and the city has possibly the largest reserves in its history.

RAISA HABERSHAM



Raisa Habersham is a local government reporter covering North Miami-Dade County. She is a graduate of the University of Georgia.

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Stephanie Kienzle

SK

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Just Now

Did the reporter bother to ask Paule Villard what "important ethics reforms" she "adopted?" Obviously not, because Paule didn't pass any ethics reforms, but she excelled at violating the ethics codes for the County and the State as often as possible.

Paule also had the chutzpah to say that "the commission cannot be allowed to operate outside the law," yet when she was part of a four-Criminal Commissioner majority, no laws went unviolated. (See: <https://www.votersopinion.com/2022/10/10/the-lies-and-crimes-of-paule-villard/>)

The two employees were arrested for stealing gift cards illegally purchased with ARPA funds to illegally fund Paule Villard's 2022 re-election campaign. It had nothing to do with the former mayor, but everything to do with the corrupt City Manager, Arthur "Duke" Sorey, who was hired by Paule and her three co-conspirators.

And finally, the City does NOT have the largest reserves in history. Before Duke Sorey came in 2021, the City had nearly \$30 million in reserves, but now it's about half that.

The Herald reporter, who refuses to return phone calls, texts, and emails from this blogger (unlike previous reporters who were more than happy to discuss NMB politics), has zero intellectual curiosity. She also appears to have an agenda. I remember when the Miami Herald was a premier publication. Sadly, this is not the case anymore. Raisa Habersham is an adequate reporter, but she's no Aaron Leibowitz or Sarah Blaskey.



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RA **Ronald Amon**

9 minutes ago

Evan over Wanda, uh....Paule, because business experience says a city should be run like a

business. Working with others is a plus. Can't get all misty eyed over that platitude ethics which means different things to different people. And not a whole lot to any of us.

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