

For Immediate Release

April 20, 2017



OTOC to Hold May 1 Candidate Accountability Session with Mayoral and City Council Candidates

Over 300 leaders from Omaha Together One Community (OTOC) will meet with candidates for City Council and Mayor on **Monday, May 1 at 7:00 PM in the church hall of St. Leo the Great Catholic Church**, 102nd and Blondo Street. As of this date the following candidates are attending:

Candidates for Mayor of Omaha

Heath Mello - attending

Jean Stothert - declined to attend.

Omaha City Council Candidates

District 1 - Pete Festersen, attending

District 2 - Ben Gray and Dennis Womak, attending

District 3 - Chris Jerram and D'Shawn Cunningham, attending

District 6 - Brinker Harding and Dwight Pedersen, attending

District 7 - Aimee Melton and Brian Thommes, attending

Join us as OTOC seeks commitments from candidates on

Safe Rental Housing

Yard Waste Recycling

Regulating Pay Day Lending

Omaha Police Policy toward Immigrants & Refugees

For More Information: contact Mary Spurgeon at 402-830-5393 or marspur2@aol.com or call OTOC at 402-344-4401 or otocfornebraska@gmail.com

What is different about this Session: An **OTOC Accountability Session** is not a forum and it is not a debate. OTOC leaders will share the background of issues of concern with candidates and ask candidates to take firm positions and to work with OTOC to resolve the issues. These issues are ones of major concern that have emerged within the 30 member coalition of congregations and other community groups that make up OTOC.

Over 100 engaged OTOC and community leaders are involved in OTOC Action Teams to address those issues. Interested individuals work together to study the issue of concern. Research about the concern reveals the causes of the problem, suggests possible solutions, and discovers the decision makers with the responsibility and power to solve it.

OTOC leaders meet with all participating candidates prior to the Accountability Session. Leaders provide the candidates with the questions that will be asked and background information so candidates can be prepared to clearly respond with Yes or No and an explanation of their answer.

OTOC is non-partisan and never endorses candidates or parties. OTOC seeks to determine where candidates stand on issues of importance to the community and organizations. OTOC then makes that information available to our leaders and communities, so they can educate themselves about the candidates and their positions. ###