



Omaha Together One Community (OTOC) Report Card

To see video clips and full transcripts from OTOC's May 1 Accountability

Session with 1 Mayoral and 11 City Council Candidates go to www.OTOC.org



District 2 Candidate Ben Gray responses

 <h3>Safe Rental Housing</h3>	 <h3>Comingling of Yard Waste</h3>
<p>Will you make sure <u>all rental housing meets basic housing safety codes</u>?</p> <p>YES, these are important issues, important topics to talk about and my first answer is absolutely yes.</p> <p>I don't think it's a secret as to how much I dislike slumlords and what we have attempted to do to get rid of them. My colleagues on the Council and I have passed some significant legislation with the abandoned building ordinance, but there's one other thing that we've done as well and that's, we created a land bank.</p> <p>And what that land bank will do is, first of all it will... buy property...and they will sell property, and they will sell property to you, and they will sell property to anybody. The only thing that they require, and we do require it, because I'm a non-voting member on the board, is that if you buy something that you're going to build on it or do something with it within two years. We're not going to have that same kind of foolishness with these absentee landlords that we've had before.</p> <p>I absolutely agree that a landlord registry is absolutely necessary.</p>	<p>Will you assure <u>future waste management contracts have transparent bidding process</u> with opportunity for public comment?</p> <p>YES, absolutely yes. Everything we do in terms of contracting and letting bids ought to be public. It ought to happen with you alls understanding and and involvement in the process. So, absolutely yes.</p> <p>Do you support immediately <u>returning to the existing contract with Waste Management?</u></p> <p>I also agree with uh going back to our OmaGro process there are some things we have to do, because there are some issues that were raised about financial costs and other things that we need to address... we need to find a way to do it so that it's not costing the City money rather it's we either break even or making money and I would like to see making money more than anything else.</p> <p>But there are things we have to do in the next contract and keep in mind ladies and gentlemen the next contract is probably not going to be an easy one and it's not going to be an inexpensive one, but we need to have one that we all can agree on, that we like and we think will work. So absolutely, yes.</p>
 <h3>Police Immigrants/Refugees</h3>	 <h3>Limiting Pay Day Lending</h3>
<p>Should <u>Omaha Police Department continue current practices</u> and not act as Immigration Agents ?</p> <p>YES.</p> <p>How would you <u>make immigrants/refugees feel welcome</u>?</p> <p>If I am re-elected, one of the first news conferences you will see is me standing in front of Yale Park and how bad they keep the Karen community, what those conditions are, and what these slum lords do with our refugees and people who have been here for a long time.</p>	<p>Will you work with OTOC to get the <u>Unicameral</u> to adopt <u>reasonable limits on Pay Day Lenders</u>?</p> <p>YES.</p> <p>When we have bankers and other financial lobbyists who can go down and hold up bills and continue to see that poor people are barely making it for you to be able to continue to line your pockets and keep people from doing what they can to raise themselves up from poverty. I hate Pay Day Lending more than I hate almost anything.</p> <p>Greatest Priority for City Council</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Close loop holes in small Emerging Business Ordinance 2. Deal with slum landlords, especially those who exploit their tenants.