



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



Mayor Jean Stothert declined to Attend

Candidate for Mayor Heath Mello 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, I would need to obviously work with OTOC and help convene members, diverse stakeholders...</p> <p>...I think it's a conversation that we need to have but as in any other difficult issue I've always said that to be able to see a policy like this occur in Omaha, you have to make sure that you're able to build consensus, to some extent, in working with property owners, working with neighborhood associations, working, obviously, with members of OTOC, the city council, the city planning department code inspectors.</p>	<p>Will you assure <u>future waste management contracts have a transparent bidding process</u> with opportunity for public comment?</p> <p>YES, I will assure that the RFP's moving forward have a fair open transparent process and... allow the public to come in and provide environmental feedback in regards those contracts...</p> <p>Do you support immediately <u>returning to the existing contract with Waste Management?</u></p> <p>I do not support what the administration has done over the last two years in regards to comingling our yard waste with our solid waste. ...we see more greenhouse gas emissions be put forward when you comingle yard waste with solid waste.</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, OPD should continue current practice where police don't act as Immigration agents.</p> <p>How would you <u>make immigrants/refugees feel welcome?</u></p> <p>I would lead a Welcoming Omaha Initiative that brings our immigrant and refugee communities as well as our social service and non-profit providers inside City Hall to truly try to address some of the issues...</p> <p>...in regards to interaction with law enforcement and public safety but also other issues in regard to Civil Rights violations, engagement with regards to the most basic rights that people have with housing...</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, I will work with OTOC to get the Unicameral to act.</p> <p>What would you do to <u>limit predatory lending practices</u> and encourage responsible lending?</p> <p>One thing... we've looked at and explored is based on...the Good Neighbor Ordinance...looking at zoning ordinances as it relates to predatory lenders and payday lenders, in the sense of trying to restrict the number of payday lenders in certain vulnerable neighborhoods. ... the Mayor could help lead on is to help facilitate the creation of new products with the private sector in particular with credit unions ...</p>