

Michael Colon at the Bethlehem City Democratic Committee Forum May 6 (40)

The Bethlehem Gadfly Candidates for election, Gadfly's posts, Serious Issues May 7, 2019

(40th in a series of posts on candidates for election)

Michael Colon is a candidate for the one of three 4yr seats on City Council, running against Carol Ritter, J. William Reynolds, David Saltzer, Paige Van Wirt.



The candidates were asked a specific question, could respond to the answers of the other candidates, participated in several group questions, and made a closing comment.

Michael Colon's question: on opioids (7 mins.)

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"Although our City is thriving, the Nation's growing opiod crisis has not spared Bethlehem, what measures would you urge City Council to take to help those struggling with addiction?"

- The City has taken a number of measures to combat the opioid problem.
- The BPAIR program
- People who overdose are followed-up to see if they need treatment.
- Police, etc., carry NARCAN
- City Hall drop box for unused medication
- Pricing of NARCAN

Crampsie Smith added the possibility of the HOPE Program, an education program, and instituting prevention programs for kids (min. 3:50). **Ritter** advised that treatment now is not long enough (min. 4:45). **Carpenter** stressed that addiction is a disease, and we need to take away the stigma (min. 6:00). **Van Wirt** pointed to a program in Erie, where anybody who wants NARCAN can get it for free (min. 6:40). We must disseminate info about where people can get NARCAN.

Michael Colon's closing comment (1.5 mins.)

- great honor serving
- has been on majority and minority sides
- approach every issue new
- competency and integrity

Look for more on Colon as he responds to other candidate presentations and participates in group answers on such topics as their unique qualities, transparency, neighborhoods.