

# Mayoral candidates Grubb and Reynolds on the most pressing issue facing the City

The Bethlehem Gadfly Candidates for election, Election May 2, 2021

 *Latest in a series of posts on candidates for election* 

selections from [Christina Tatu, “Q&A with Bethlehem’s Democratic candidates for mayor.” Morning Call, April 22, 2021.](#)

## **Q. What do you think is the most pressing issue facing the city and how would you address it?**

**Grubb:** Gentrification. It is becoming more and more difficult for longtime and lower income residents to remain a part of the community. Addressing affordable housing is the first step to rectifying this. If a diverse population can’t afford to rent or own a home in Bethlehem, its character will suffer as a result. Diversity is a strength, and losing that strength will negatively impact the pool of qualified people to fill employment opportunities in the city.

**Reynolds:** The pandemic has upended our community in many ways and we need to emerge as a stronger, fairer and more vibrant city. Families, small businesses, nonprofits and our institutions have all made incredible sacrifices during the past year. We need to assist our residents most affected by the pandemic as well as invest in building a more resilient community.

Our response must be directed towards both short-term relief and longer-term planning in Bethlehem. We must continue to attract jobs and new investment to our city. Private economic investment in our community is needed to fund our basic city services and keep taxes as low as possible. Every job that is created in our community makes it easier for City Hall to continue to deliver high quality public safety services, pave our streets and invest in our neighborhoods.