

Taylor will be a strong representative for Newport's First Ward

At the Alliance for a Livable Newport forum for City Council candidates from the First Ward, incumbent Marco Camacho mentioned several accomplishments of the existing council that occurred "on my watch." I guess that is a backhanded way of claiming credit.

However, there is one major accomplishment that did not occur on Mr. Camacho's watch, no thanks to him. In the November 2014 election, Newporters overwhelmingly defeated a proposal to establish a full casino at Newport Grand.

The successful effort to beat back that gambling proposal did not come easily or cheaply. Hundreds of local volunteers

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spent countless hours and raised thousands of dollars to defeat it. All of that effort was required because, on a 4-3 vote, the Newport City Council asked the General Assembly to put a casino referendum on the ballot.

Mr. Camacho was one of the four who voted for it.

Fast forward to this year's election. Susan Taylor, a resident of the First Ward, is running against Mr. Camacho. She was so opposed to the 2014 casino referendum that at the last minute she campaigned for the First Ward position

as a write-in candidate.

Now Susan is running a full-fledged campaign to represent the First Ward on the City Council. She is eminently qualified to do so. An attorney, she has done her homework and really understands the needs and opportunities facing the council. She will bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the position.

And one thing you can be sure of: Whatever happens to the Newport Grand property on Admiral Kalbfus Road, any proposal that comes before the City Council to continue or expand gambling at that site will not have Susan Taylor's vote.

Roland F. Chase, Newport