

The most recent E-Tracks had the following comment made at a recent Tucson Needs Business meeting that was ascribed to me: "if the only people making demands on the Council are the Neighborhood Associations then the interests of us in the county get ignored. Also if business people don't attend, their issues are ignored too. We are naïve if we think we don't have to pay attention to the City Council." Let me correct the record - I didn't even speak at the meeting. Those comments were those of another speaker who evidently does not share my views. I invite everybody to come and speak - in a passionate and respectful manner - at our calls to the audience. But to the extent that we get caught up in hyperbolic campaign rhetoric, trying to draw me into a "we/they" fight between neighborhoods and businesses that I do not ascribe to, we polarize and it is not productive discourse. What I have said is that I reject the false dichotomy of "business people" and "neighborhoods." Let's not be hypocritical - nearly everybody reading this, and nearly everybody who was in attendance at that meeting is, or has been a member of a neighborhood association or homeowners association. And each has enjoyed and appreciated the work done by the volunteers on their boards to protect and preserve the integrity and quality of life in the neighborhoods. Can anything get carried to an extreme? Yes. But the intimation that I pit "neighborhood associations" against "business" is false, misleading and incorrect. Since my election I have worked hard to bring multiple voices to the table in working out land use, and other code issues. I will continue to do that. Divisive rhetoric does not serve the cause of creating good public policy - and it does not reflect what I stand for.

I understand that there's an election cycle in process. I stand on my positions, and understand that they reflect a moderate element of the Party. I continue to believe that that element is not the minority voice in this Party. I will not allow myself to be drawn to extreme positions simply because it's 'campaign season' and I will not be silent in expressing a moderate view that I believe reflects the position of the majority of our community.

Respectfully submitted - SteveK