

Gulf Harbors Civic Association Board of Directors

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS – 2022

President:

Paris Tsirnikas – Incumbent

Emmanuel “Mike” Rigas – opponent

Treasurer: Mr. Larry Williams - Unopposed

Director of Membership: Ms. Juanita Kurkechian- Unopposed

Director of Maintenance: Rich Connolly – Incumbent – Unopposed

Paris Tsirnikas

My name is Paris Tsirnikas. I have lived in Gulf Harbors for six years and have served on the GHCA Board for approximately two years. I came from New York where my husband and I owned a successful construction organization. We moved to Florida to enjoy our retirement together, but God had other plans and took my husband of 40 years to be by his side. That’s when I volunteered to apply my financial management expertise as the GHCA Treasurer. I also enjoyed raising funds and gathering our residents to improve our Gulf Harbors Floramar entry. When I finished my tenure as Treasurer in 2020, I ran unopposed and became President of GHCA in January 2021. From listening to many of our members, I realized that we needed a fresh vision. So far, our great team has made strong progress on several of the highest priorities:

- We developed updates to many of the antiquated By-Laws
- We completed an audit that recommended specific changes to bring GHCA into compliance with Florida State statutes, and have made procedural changes to comply with other Florida statutes
- We have initiated electronic and other alternative voting arrangements to enable greater membership participation
- We’ve renovated the exterior of our building and the old library, and we now have an ADA-compliant bathroom facility, completed economically in a highly inflationary environment

Perhaps most importantly, we also have promoted a transparent and open environment; this has helped our recruitment of members and their engagement, and we have raised record funds through both donations and fundraising initiatives (our events team has raised over \$25,000 this year alone!) Gulf Harbors clearly continues to evolve from a community of predominantly “snowbirds” and retirees. It’s become a lively, dynamic, and diverse community that includes more working adults and their families. GHCA also can evolve to become a valued conduit to interest and engage all of our residents, and without a mandatory or unaccountable HOA structure.

Although I feel pride in our team’s accomplishments to date, I would like us to realize a few additional improvement opportunities:

- We need further refinements to our By-Laws and Procedures – some remain needlessly complicated and confusing; other improvements would clarify and balance various roles and responsibilities, govern the use of GHCA property and its maintenance for our posterity, and provide for orderly succession planning
- We need to implement the financial management improvement recommendations from this year’s audit
- We also need to update the inside office of GHCA as well as the Annex, and consider improvements to our building systems

- We need a strategic plan and process to guide and optimize our future investments
- We have an opportunity to expand our membership to embrace and engage more Gulf Harbors non-member residents by engaging them through their interests, and perhaps also provide for another limited class of membership

I love Gulf Harbors and have been honored to serve as GHCA's President. Our team has been able to bring forth many positive changes that have improved our community and enriched our own lives with good friendship and meaning. I am able and willing to devote the time necessary to accomplish our next priorities and would be pleased to continue in the role for another term. I also believe that my prior experience as Treasurer will be especially important in the coming year as I can help our new Treasurer with his learning curve and backup if needed.

Emmanuel "Mike" Rigas

I know a lot of you from around the neighborhood and from the beach club. Those of you who know me, know that I love this community & I am committed to keeping it a great place to live. I appreciate this opportunity & look forward to speaking with you between now and election day.

Mike Rigas

Larry Williams

First, I would like to thank the Directors and members of GHCA for allowing me this opportunity to serve as your treasurer living in this community for 15 years has given me an insight into the progress this current administration has made to improve our life in Gulf Harbors from dressing up our entrance and medians, Civic Centre renovations and special entertainment events, just to mention a few. It is my goal to work with the elected officers board committees and membership to continue improvements for our community with my 50 plus years' experience in business I believe I can address your concerns and offer insights into current and future projects while keeping GHCA in regulatory compliance again thank you for this opportunity

Larry L Williams

Juanita Kurkechian

It is my pleasure to announce that I, Juanita Kurkechian, will be willing to volunteer as Director of Membership for the GHCA for the next 2-year term in 2023.

I have been an active volunteer for 2 years in the community working with the homeless coalition as well as our neighborhood. You might recognize me at any Gulf Harbors event selling 50/50 tickets, raffling off baskets, taking tickets at door, and helping Santa. I am currently the Chairperson of the Volunteer Committee in addition to being a representative on the Nominating Committee this past year.

I regularly speak to people I meet to join the many opportunities Gulf Harbors offers whether it is being a civic center member, beach member, clubs, or activities to join, in our active community. Welcoming new families has always been something I've done because it's neighborly, As part of the duties, this position holds I am eager to meet and greet new residents and give a sense of being in part of "the best community" there is. Additionally, the position holds a responsibility to inform residents of the importance of being a GHCA member and the many benefits it has. I wish to keep

the preservation and appearance of the neighborhood beautiful with funds received through membership as well.

In this leadership role, working side by side with fellow board members My goal focus is for the general membership to increase in participation and have a better understanding of the role they play in the governance and the importance of being active year-long, not just exclusively the right to vote and choosing board members.

I understand the responsible duties and will perform in the best interest of the community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Juanita Kurkechian

Rich Connolly

My name is Richard Connolly and I'm announcing that I'm running to continue my position on the Gulf Harbors Board of Directors as Maintenance Director. I'm looking forward to working closely with other board members, the community and office staff in an effort to continuously make Gulf Harbors a premier community and a great place to live.

For those that don't know me I moved to Gulf Harbors exactly one year ago this month, and have thoroughly enjoyed my time here in our beautiful community. I have two grown adult children, a son and daughter as well as 5 grandsons. I'm my spare time I love to enjoy the activities the community offers such as boating, fishing and of course our beautiful and private beach. I am also a lover of old cars and enjoy taking my 1964 Impala convertible to cars shows and events.

I am a Navy submarine veteran and believe my 36 years working in the electric utility business, at a large generating facility make me a great candidate for the job. In my career I supervised employees as well as coordinated and authorized work activities to be completed in a safe and efficient manner all while operating the facility. I also benefit from experience as a 18 year landlord of a multi-unit apartment building which has provided me with a wealth of knowledge in repairs and maintenance as well as tenant relations.

I am looking forward to continuing to serve our members and our community and provide facilities that we can all be proud of and enjoy using.

Thank you!
