

The Southeast Working-Class Task Force 2019 October-November Newsletter

SEW-CTF members affect local politics and international social issues

On Tuesday, November 5, SEW-CTF member Michael Smith ran for councillor of District 16 of the Indianapolis City-County Council. This is Councillor Jeff Miller's old seat--part of which is in the region representing areas such as Fletcher Place, Fountain Square and the Old Southside.

Though he lost running against strong well-funded traditional Democrat and Republican candidates, Smith made local history as a Green Party candidate--in fact the only Green politician running for a council seat.



Here's Mike's interview with the *Indianapolis Recorder* newspaper:

- Why are you running?
I am running to fight for the working class, against special interest, to remind the government that it works for us and to build true, viable, organic community.
- What issues would you like to address in office?
Better roads, public schools, transportation, getting rid of corporate influence over government and the building of a trickle-up economy.
- What else should voters know about you?
I am a US army veteran and a proud member of the Southeast Working-Class Task Force.

The *Indianapolis Star* also covered his campaign:

Smith's campaign has been different from his Republican and Democratic counterparts. Instead of using an app to find doors to knock, Smith has a list of registered voters by putting in a public records request to get it.

And instead of delivering every-day yard signs and mailers to constituents, he drops off business cards and hand paints his yard signs.

"I want to give the voters a chance at a true grassroots choice," Smith said in an interview at Shapiro's. "I'm there for them. ... Nobody's buttering my bread. I'm not here to make money. I'm just here to try to do the right thing."

Smith, the only Green Party candidate on the ballot this year, decided to run in December after sitting in on a meeting where he heard a developer talk about not caring what happened to residents. In March, Smith started canvassing signatures to earn a spot on the upcoming ballot. He needed 131 signatures, but collected more than 300.

And Smith has raised just \$120 in his campaign—an amount he was proud of.

<https://www.indystar.com/story/news/politics/elections/2019/10/23/2019-election-district-16-candidates-putting-people-over-party/3942195002/>

Earlier in the year, SEW-CTF chair John Harris Loflin received an e-mail from First Class Talent, LLC (FCT) regarding a request by the Rotterdam, NL Muslim organization SPIOR to locate him. SPIOR had also hired FCT to bring author, peace advocate and a former white supremacist Christian Picciolini to speak during their Nov. 3-4 conference on countering violent extremism in Muslim youth called, Crossing Oceans: Beyond "Us and Them." Also speaking was Mr. Mohamed Elibiary, a former US government official now specializing in advising Muslim organizations.

SPIOR wanted John to present his globally recognized concept paper on how education and other pro-active solutions can be used to reduce youth violence. The event consisted of: 1) a mini-conference with SPIOR board members and Islamic organizations; 2) a work-shop with Rotterdam young adults; and, 3) a meeting with local and national policy makers, police, and other institutions and organizations including the representatives from the US Embassy located in the Hague which co-sponsored the conference.

<http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Continuing-the-local-and-global-interest-in-proactive-solutions-to-reducing-youth-violence-by-the-Black-Latino-Policy-Institute.pdf>

Also note John's paper. "What's a quality education for urban students?" which is a critique of current privatization of our public schools by IPS and its allies in business and government, has 238 reads from 25 different countries on his Research Gate account.

<http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/National-and-International-Responses-Whats-a-quality-education-for-urban-students.pdf.pdf>



John presenting to Netherlands social organizations and local, national, and international governmental officials, including the US Embassy in the Hague



John having discussions with Rotterdam youth and young adults

In summary, what this all shows is we have much of what we need right here in Indy to solve our problems. It also shows the potential of our traditional IPS schools, which John attended (#s 75, 28, 8 and Harry E. Wood HS, 1961), to graduate Southside neighborhood working-class students who can think, imagine, create, discuss, publish, and act at local and global levels.

The SEW-CTF newsletter is edited by task force Chair John Harris Loflin (john.loflin@seindy.org).
The task force meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 in the McDonalds on 2830 Madison Ave.