**Candidates Name:** *Nat Robertson* **Email:** *nat@natrobertson.com*

**District:** *Mayor* **Phone:** *910-835-0835*

**There is a direct correlation between low crime rates and homeownership. What are your thoughts on reducing crime in the community?**

*Yes there is! Since being elected in late 2013, we have experienced an overall decrease in crime rates to include a 24% reduction in property crimes. Recognizing that our crime rate is only one factor of a healthy community, I’ve also focused on economic development, and policy that helps create jobs. That being said, we are definitely moving in the right direction as noted by the Fayetteville Observer in their July 15th article stating “Fayetteville Home Sales Hit New High, Hinting At Shift In Market”. As your Mayor, I will continue to focus on the reduction or crime, creating more good paying jobs, keeping our City clean and improving the amenities within our communities*.

**There is also a direct correlation between job growth and housing growth. Do you have a plan for attracting new business to the area?**

*Again, I must agree with you, the recent local data backs that up. Since being elected as your Mayor in late 2013, our unemployment rate has fallen from 8.9% to 5.3%, and our housing market has hit a new high. We have also been able to maintain the status by Wallet Hub as being the most affordable market for first time home buyers. These are all good indications that we are in the early dawn of a strong housing market. That is no accident; I’ve worked hard to loosen the regulations to make City Hall more user friendly for our residents, developers and businesses. I will continue to fight for growth and work with our professional Economic Developers, both local and State, to bring Fayetteville more recruiting wins and good paying jobs.*

**What is your definition of “quality of Life” within a community?**

*All over the state of North Carolina, people are talking about the great things happening in Fayetteville since I became your Mayor in late 2013. I recognize for Fayetteville to be more competitive with other cities in the Southeast, we had to get to work! And I’ve done just that…*

*Since becoming Mayor; the property crime rate has fallen by 24%, the unemployment rate has fallen by 3.6 points, home sales have hit a decade high, I’ve signed a 30 year lease with the Houston Astros for a new stadium, we’ve passed a Parks Bond referendum, our reputation is improving and we have a renewed self confidence. That’s how “quality of life” is measured.*

**How would you generate revenue for the city… other than property taxes?**

*The General Assembly has taken away most of the tools we had to generate revenue without it affecting our ad valorem tax rate. I believe in general, a user fee is the most equitable way to generate revenue. If you use a service, you shouldn’t mind paying for it. This year we adopted a less than revenue natural tax rate(that means after the County’s re-evaluation, you taxes will go down) by adding a user fee to assist in the rising cost of trash collection. Around 70% of our residents will experience a lower tax bill this year for the first time in decades.*

**What new ideas / concepts can you bring to the office you are seeking?**

*I have been recognized as the most responsive City politician and the most respected civic leader, because I have put policy decisions over politics. I will continue to listen to needs of our residents and work hard to continue moving Fayetteville forward. My priorities remain to keep our residents and businesses safe, to bring new jobs to Fayetteville and to keep our City clean and growing. We must monitor commercial encroachment into our neighborhoods, work on expanding our Downtown footprint to include Fayetteville State’s campus, and lessen restrictions on new and existing businesses.*

**Would you take REALTOR Political Action funds from the Longleaf Pines REALTORS, Inc. to help with your campaign? If yes, do you have an open campaign account?**

*I would be honored to receive REALTOR PAC money again if offered, yes.*

*My campaign name is “Friends of Nat Robertson for Mayor”.*

**Please list any endorsements you have received to date.**

*At this time, early August, I have not received any campaign endorsements.*