



**Commentary
For
November 19, 2009**

**Presented by Mary Lou Andrews
Mayor
City of Oviedo, Florida**

Word Count (431 words)

I appreciate being able to serve as Oviedo's Mayor for another term. There are so many initiatives that Council is working on – and I am very pleased to be able to see those initiatives through to completion.

I'm going to innumerate some of those projects, but before I do, I'd like to make a comment about working within the governmental environment.

Back in 1999, when I first served as Oviedo's Mayor and was a newcomer to the governmental process, I used to get so frustrated with how long every thing took to get accomplished. I commented to a fellow councilman that I was impatient with the "back and forth" decision-making process. He told me something that I will always remember. He said, "Be glad about that. If council didn't have a system of checks and balances, just think about the decisions that could be 'pushed through' without proper scrutiny and without proper representation. The process is designed to produce quality decisions."

It's important to always be several steps ahead of your current decision – it's important to look down the road and see what impact today's decisions will have for years to come. It's also important to take the time to get input and representation from the people who will be affected by your decisions and even to anticipate those who may potentially be affected by those decisions.

With that said, here are some of the items that Council is working on...

- Negotiations with a medical provider or hospital,
- Negotiations with a comprehensive developer for the "new downtown" and revitalization of the "old downtown" area,
- Partnership with Florida Department of Transportation for SR 426 improvements,
- Partnerships with Seminole County on the Community Redevelopment Agency, otherwise known as the CRA,
- Partnerships within Seminole County on the Seminole Way Economic Development Area,
- Building the "Improving our Neighborhoods," the ION Program,
- Strengthening our Infrastructure programs,
- Utilizing Land Design Innovations, LDI, to boost economic development in order to diversify Oviedo's tax base,
- and also, working with the Florida League of Cities to preserve the important Home Rule of our municipality.

Here's the bottom line – to get the type of city and city governance that residents want – residents must become knowledgeable and involved in the process. It's important for residents to pursue accurate information.

My request to residents? Please, visit our city Website at: www.cityofoviedo.net. Attend a council meeting on the first and third Mondays of the month. Contact Council via email or phone. Our Website includes this contact information.

This is Oviedo Mayor Mary Lou Andrews...because Oviedo matters!