***PERSPECTIVE FROM EXPERIENCE***

*Note: In preparation for the Forum, the following are questions asked of the Dwight Worden, who as a private citizen was involved in the Solana Beach Initiative and now serves as Mayor of Del Mar, widely acknowledged as a ‘Model City’ which is well managed and of service to its residents.*

**With permission from Dwight, we are publishing his responses to our questions – with the Disclaimer that he is speaking for himself and not for his city.**

***‘Dwight Worden Words of Wisdom’ –***

 **Prepare for a marathon, not a sprint!**

**Dwight was a member of the Solana Beach Town Council Board that led the drive for incorporation of Solana Breach and lived in SB at the time. He also worked as city attorney for the City of Del Mar from 1977-1983, and currently serves as Del Mar Mayor.**

**The best things about being a city are:**

* **Self-rule**
* **Local control of local issues**
* **Stimulation of local participation in government**
* **Representation on regional agencies [NCTD/MTS, SANDAG, County Water Authority, etc.]**
* **Control over a local budget**
* **Hiring a strong local staff**
* **Responsiveness to local concerns and input**
* **Easier ability for folks to run for office as much less $$ and time commitment is required for smaller elections.**

**Advice for La Jolla?**

* **Keep at it! Organize locally. Many incorporation efforts fail the first or even the second time, before succeeding.**
* **Anticipate the arguments against incorporation, do the homework, and prepare good materials like talking points, etc., to rebut them.**
* **Organize a team or teams to take your pitch on the road to local HOAs, service groups, environmental orgs, etc. Have a well prepared and consistent pitch.**
* **Get expert support that your new city is financially viable.**

**What if any are the drawbacks to being your own city?**

* **A city is only as good as the people willing to step up and run for office. Realize that a city can be taken over by "bad" people if the "good" folks are asleep at the wheel!**

**4. Most Challenging Part of leaving the County?**

* **Many county services will remain available to your city after incorporation --courts, D.A., jails, public health service, mental health service, etc.**
* **Need to address policing service--whether to contract for City of SD police service, contract with the County sheriff like Del Mar and 8 other cities do, or start your own PD.**
* **The key items that will shift are planning and zoning and budgeting, and those will shift to your new city from the City of SD. Not that much will change with the County.  There will be a transition period as you wean yourself from the City of SD and the county, and that has challenges, but is certainly manageable.**

**5. Why do you not have any potholes or destroyed sidewalks?**

* **Potholes and problem sidewalks exist. But these are a priority, so we have aggressive programs to address them.**
* **The priority assigned to this topic in your new city is something your new city will set, within budget constraints, depending on your local priorities, rather than having the priorities set by councilmembers representing the entire city of San Diego.**

**6. Would you vote for La Jolla to become its own city a Ballot Initiative were put to the SD electorate?**

* **I'll beg off on an answer, as that is up to you folks. I will note, though, that I supported the incorporation of Solana Beach and also of Encinitas.**