

Hello Poetry,

I am Patrick Smith and I am running for the position of Town Council Member in the upcoming May 6th election. I would sincerely appreciate your vote.

I was born and raised in Dallas. The only time I have resided outside the State of Texas was when I attended the University of Notre Dame and obtained a bachelor's degree in 1981. Thereafter, I was hired as a police officer by the Dallas Police Department where I worked through 1985. I met my wife, Shelley Kolman Smith, also a Dallas Police Officer, during this time. We were married in 1986 and have been blessed with three beautiful, intelligent children and two grandchildren.

After leaving the police department, I attended South Texas College of Law where I graduated with honors in 1987. I was hired as a Briefing Attorney by the Texas Supreme Court and worked there from 1988 to 1989. Since that time I have been in private practice with a focus on civil litigation and appeals.

In 1998, Shelley & I moved our growing family to the Poetry area where we have continued to reside for two & a half decades. For the same period of time we have attended St. John's Church in Terrell. We have loved living in the Poetry community and don't want it to change. But in the last two years, it has changed.

If I am elected, I will work tirelessly to restore the sense of community that most of us have known and loved. Based on my education and experience, I am uniquely qualified to help bring the Town in compliance with state law and to avoid potential liability as a result of the Town's repeated failures to comply with the Public Information Act and the Open Meetings Act. As everyone knows, the Town's budget has been spent far too much on the Town's lawyers and nowhere nearly enough on the Town's deteriorating roads.

I will also work to ensure that Town business and the Council's deliberations are conducted in the open and, to the extent possible, that every aspect of the decision making process is clearly visible to the Citizens. I will fight against the Town's business being covered in secrecy, whether during closed committee meetings or long, executive council sessions. Texas law has long agreed the inherent right of Texans to govern themselves depends on their ability to observe how public officials are conducting the people's business.

If I should be entrusted with your support I will be accountable to each Citizen and all of my communications and interactions with all Council Members and Citizens will be based on the unvarnished truth, not slanted narratives.