

## **LTE submitted by Nick Varro, Fire Fighter/Paramedic, Marco Island**

I am writing in support of city council candidate, Dr. Jerry Swiacki. As a former resident of Marco Island (now living on Capri) and member of the Marco Island Fire Department, I have seen a lot of transition in the city government over the last few years. It seems that each time we get to know a new city manager and settle into a relationship with them, the council changes course. This has been very difficult on us as city employees, it affects our morale and distracts from long-term goals.

I got to know Dr. Swiacki through the COPCN campaign and also because I work with his nephew. Dr. Swiacki stands out from others I have met. He is genuine and actually listens. He isn't defensive, he doesn't talk over you, and he has repeatedly taken the time to get to know our department by sitting down with us to talk, supporting the Fire Foundation, and coming to all of our fundraising events. He always seems objective and follows through on what he says.

I don't know much about politics, but I know that we still have to show up every day to do our jobs whether there is infighting in the city, misleading anonymous emails are sent out, or our budget is slashed for a minor tax cut. Our job is to keep you safe. Dr. Swiacki is a man who has dedicated his life to that same cause and I would like to acknowledge his contribution to our city and encourage you to vote for him.

*Nick Varro*  
Fire Fighter/Paramedic, Marco Island