Mayor Questionnaire

**1.      What steps will you be taking towards helping fix the infrastructure in Corpus Christi?**

 I will identify the streets that took the most damages during the heavy rains that we experienced for days and days and give them priority. I will check every contractors credentials, and I will work closely with the City Manager and City Council to identify the contractor's credibility on completing the task on time and be sure they are bonded. We will analyze the efficiency of the present contractors and take steps towards a new bidding process.

**2.      When it comes to public transportation, what are your plans?**

I will encourage people to use the “B” and make it user friendly. I will work with the the RTA (Regional Transit Authority) on establishing rules to make it safe for everybody to ride on these buses and changing the concept of categorizing public transportation and “B” bus as “low income” users. I will encourage bringing companies that are alternatives to taxis  or cabs which are not so affordable or dependable to many. I will consider working with the taxi service to accommodate better rates so that more people can afford the service.

**3.      What will you do to progress education in Corpus Christi?**

I will have a meeting with the City Council and propose a board designated to educate and train the parents of the students that show low performance in school and give them the support on advocating to their children the value of an education. I will encourage the satisfaction through award recognition especially recognition among their peers and also the PTA meetings.

**4.      Do you support more non-discrimination legislation directed towards the LGBT community in Corpus Christi?**

I think that if the community would respect the people's right to choose their path in life without judging their actions, we would not need another legislation and will treat each other equally no matter of their gender, race, color of their skin, and sexual orientation.

**5.      Aside from the roads and water, what would be your highest priority during your time in office?**

Another big long term problem is the hundred year old water pipe system. This is another ignored infrastructure problem that cost us more that the streets. Wastewater treatment plants are one of our cities most urgent priorities. Very soon our sewer system is going to give up and we will not have water to flush the toilet or take a shower.

**6.      What are your plans to help fix the homeless problem in Corpus Christi?**

One year ago, I inventoried the homeless population in Corpus Christi, their background and their plans for the future. We have to analyze each case one at a time. Many of them do not want to change their lifestyle. City proposal of fining citizens that give them money was a well thought of plan. Many drug dealers and drug pushers are around to get their money. We have buildings in town that are boarded and unused for over twenty years. The city should release them to the winning contractor to take them over and build apartments or houses to rent to the ones that are willing to change their lives. I will look into the Corpus Christi shelters rules and regulations and recommend audits as necessary.

**7.      Do you support the ban on plastic bags? Why or why not?**

I do not support the ban on plastic bags. This is because I think that they are handy for many people who cannot afford or do not need large plastic bags from the grocery store.

**8.      Do you believe in climate change?**

I believe that we have to leave our environment alone and do not mess with our weather system and ecology that has been in place for thousands of years. As a Master of Science in Horticulture I know that our ecological system, it is created for a reason and that we should not mess with nature as it has its own destiny.

**9.      If another water crisis is found out to be caused by a refinery or other business, how will you deal with the responsible party?**

I am still waiting to hear from the City of Corpus Christi an answer to the request under Open Record Act, from the responsible party in charge of releasing the information, on the way how was the decision done when the Valero refineries were connected with our Corpus Christi water line supply. I did not receive anything yet, even though it past way out of time limit ( they have 7 days to respond). I am planning that together with the City Council to issue an ordinance for the responsible party to remove their connection with the City of Corpus Christi water supplies. I will negotiate building a desalination plant with the funds from the responsible party and the new entities that are using all they will use our water supplies. I will hold responsible for all the damages done to the Corpus Christi citizens and I will reduce the water billduring the period of this crisis that our citizens went through. I will look to alternative of using, clean underground water through a system already looked at for a while.

**10.  What will you do to fight pollution and environmental problems in Corpus Christi?**

I will work very closely with the Police Department, Code Enforcement division to issue the citations and fines on every kind of littering, car washing in the driveways,lawn trimming without using proper cleaning through blowing the remaining mulch. I will be sure that the citizens will pay close attention to the proper placement of the trash cans needed to be picked up by the city trucks (many of them don't close them properly causing littering from the cans ) and avoid overfilling. I will review the way to pick up the garbage cans by the city truck drivers. The city trucks many times mistakenly dump the garbage from the garbage cans on the street.

**11.  What departments do you feel need more funding and less funding?**

I will analyze the budget closely and look for the results in each department and I will recommend reward for the departments that did more with less and take away the funds from the departments that did not fulfill their task on the proposed budget ask for their needs. I will hold responsible the departments showing overspending without results.

**12.  What areas do you feel can be remedied during your term within the city.?**

As a Major degreed on  Human Resources Development I will pay special attention the the Human Resources Department that I considered on numerous occasion that the employees are not trained enough to select the best candidates qualified for the jobs that are available.

**13.  What will you do to revitalize downtown Corpus Christi?**

I will do an inventory on all the empty buildings and vacant lots from downtown and contact the responsible parties with a recommendation with a term of the proposal on revitalization of the downtown area ( the largest one will be City of Corpus Christi). If the term will not be fulfilled, I will impose sanction and I will ask the City Council and City Manager to proceed with legal action for the city to take it and use it in proper manner to increase the value of our downtown beauty expected by the visitors.

**14.  How would you lead the city?**

I will be proposing different issues to the City Council, City Manager, City Attorney, City Secretary and we will decide how far can we go to make unanimous decision and if conflict will arise, I will recommend the issues to be presented to the voters, our citizens who are the main decision makers when it comes to accommodating their standard of living which is the best suitable for them. I will be very close to citizens from all walk of life and I will listen to their concerns when it comes to decision making process.

**15.  What will you do to show people that the water in Corpus Christi is safe?**

"Your vote for me is a vote for clean water." I will inform the citizens of the new project I am working on now, with a contractor. Which will use( if we all agree) the underground safe water which will always be handy in case of water crisis in Corpus Chris. I will be sure that I will bring the issue of disconnecting the source of chemical connection existing now in our water system from any other entity.

**16.  The mayor’s position is a non-partisan seat, how will you ensure that partisan politics do not take precedence while making decisions?**

 My position as the Mayor is to serve the people without discrimination on political, racial, color, gender, sexual orientation views. I choose to run for this position, because I chosen to treat everyone as a human race. Respect, fairness, transparency, are my attributes of being a good “Mayor for the people.” On making decisions in different issues the Partisan politics will never take place however I will avoid the corporation request or demand to be placed above our citizens who are electing us.

**17.  How will your background help you be mayor?**

 I served in many non profit organizations well known for a lot of activities in this community. I serve on three City Boards 4 terms. I was running on the two City Council elections before and I am very familiar with all city issues that need immediate attention. I am participating and I am very familiar with City Council Agenda and I am voicing my opinions in many circumstances. Having a business for 34 years and managing without any loans, not believing in "borrowed money" I build on more with less using every venue that would save me  the money to keep on building up through wise decision making. I managed a variety of other businesses and I am doing a business consulting to increase the revenue of every area of managing properly the budget. I met a lot of people in Corpus Christi through the nature of my business and through a variety of organizations. I belong to and learn from, so that I can be familiar with the problems that are facing our City. My education and background is a plus of my continuing leadership.

**18.  How will you be transparent to the citizens?**

 I will not have long hours of “closed door” City Council Executive Sessions, when our citizens future is decided through these meetings. I will have citizens to hear and participate in our process of decision making that because it involves citizens money in many the outcome of making these decisions. I will listen and execute in each of the public's comments and answers through directing the responsible party to solve citizens concerns and proposals. I will inform about new projects about our City without retaining any secrets from them.

**19.  Will you introduce any legislation to bring down hate crimes, domestic violence, or any other forms of motivated violence?**

I will propose a Zero Tolerance on Domestic Violence and hate crimes, squatters, bullying or any other forms of motivated violence. I will work with Police Department funds allocated and recommend to educate our police force to be well trained and be the best at any of the problems arising as described above.

**20.  If you do not win the election, what’re your plans?**

I will continue to produce and air my two TV shows as I do did for the past four years. I will continue to run my Small Business “European Floral Designs. I am working on finishing my book "Flight to Freedom, a True Immigrant Success Story" and making a motion picture, which I already started to work on years ago. I will continue to volunteer on City Boards and other Non Profit Organizations.

**Small business owner, Hostess of two local TV shows, Business Coordinator, Mediator for Nueces County Courthouse, Texas Master Florist.**

**Attended CCSU, studying Education and Business; Webster University, St. Louis, MO. earning MBAM and HRD. Received Master of Science in Horticulture from Horticulture University in Bucharest, Romania.**

**Member of Good Shephard Church, Executive Association , League of Women Voters, Friday Morning Group, Texas State Society of Washington DC, Interfaith Society, CASA volunteer. Served on three City Boards.**

**Born in Romania. Came to the USA in 1981 and Corpus Christi in 1982, raising two children – A son, Anesthesiologist in Corpus Christi, and Daughter, CPA, CFA in New York City . A true Immigrant Success story!**

**You can reach me at:**

**361-739-3029**

**margaretfratila@gmail.com**

**Margareta Fratila for Mayor on Facebook**

[**www.youstream.tv/recorded/652159**](http://www.youstream.tv/recorded/652159)

**https://www.facebook.com/margaretafratila**