

Hi Roberta,

The Alachua County Environmental Protection Advisory Committee (EPAC) is conducting an oversight review of Alachua County's Environmental Protection Department (EPD). Members of EPAC have been interviewing existing elected officials, candidates, agencies, business and civic organizations. A review of EPD was conducted by the Commission about 10 years ago and a new review is timely.

As a commission candidate, would you allow me to ask you the following questions? I know that during your terms as Archer Mayor and Commissioner you became familiar and interacted with the department.

- Do you find that the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is effective and efficient?

I have first hand experience with the Dept. of Environmental Protection. I called on many occasions and they responded immediately and gave me answers to my concerns. They came when I wanted the air quality checked from a business with sand blowing in the neighborhood. They came to check the water in the retention pond for bacteria. This is just to name a few. I do believe that I would not receive such quick response from State or Federal. It is important to keep them local. I also worked with EPAC on the sludge problem in Archer. Just know that I want a clean and safe community and I believe that EPD plays a vital role in maintaining those priorities

- Do any of its services duplicate services provided by other agencies?

The EPD Dept. plays a very important role and provides more access to environmental services that benefits the least fortunate and most underserved areas. Each community is unique such as Archer. They always need help with a variety of issues. The Health Department and EPD should continue to work closely together.

- Does EPD act appropriately in carrying out Commission policies in the enforcement of environmental and land development regulations?

I too would need to do further research. I am unsure/unaware of any complaints in this vein.

- What should EPD's future priorities be?

Protect the environment. I would like to see the expansion of service to all small communities to ensure that the people are safe from anything that affects the environment. The EPD must stay grounded in Alachua County.

We appreciate your input, Roberta.

Thank you,