

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Mayor TJ Redefer - 302.542.1808**

**Commissioner Paul Bauer – 302.983.0300**

**For Immediate Release**



## **REDEFER AND BAUER FILE FOR RE-ELECTION**

*Incumbents Want Second Term to Build on Successes*

**DEWEY BEACH, DELAWARE, July 17, 2019** — Mayor TJ Redefer and Commissioner Paul Bauer filed for re-election Wednesday, seeking their second two-year terms so they can continue to build on the successes they achieved during their first two years in office.

Redefer and Bauer said they plan to run on their record of overhauling the government's operations, increasing financial transparency, making key staff changes, installing mats on dunes to increase beach access and implementing public safety plans that have kept Dewey Beach a wonderful place to live and vacation.

"Two years ago, our victory was a clean sweep of the old guard," Redefer said. "Challenges remain, and we want to finish the good work we've started.

"We cleaned up a lot of the mess we inherited," Bauer added. "The business of the next term will be to make structural changes in the government that will benefit the town and its residents for many years to come.

Redefer, 58, owns Rehoboth Bay Realty in Dewey and has owned property in the town more than 30 years. He's chaired multiple committees for the Sussex County Association of Realtors; is a longtime active member of the Dewey Beach Lion's Club; and served on the Dewey Beach Comprehensive Plan working group. He is married with two children.

Bauer, 60, is a business development manager for Staples commercial and enterprise accounts. He's owned property in Dewey for 15 years. He's served on the Dewey Beach Civic League board and volunteers at any and all events that portray the town in a positive way, including the Clydesdale Parade, the Dewey Easter Egg Hunt, and the Restaurant Olympics.

Redefer and Bauer noted that the election in September is particularly important for the town's future. Having longtime residents in office will go a long way for the harmonious government the town needs and the peaceful community climate Dewey residents deserve.

"We're two candidates who are doing the right things for the right reasons," Redefer said. "Paul and I are committed to making sure the right candidates take office, ones who are here for the long haul and have the town's best interest at heart."

### **Why are you running again?**

We are at a critically important time in Dewey Beach history and I believe I am uniquely qualified to take our town to where we need to go next. These are exciting and important days for Dewey Beach. It's critical that the people who serve as commissioners and the mayor are long-time residents who truly want what's best for the residents and the town's future, and who are in it for the long haul.

### **What challenges does the town face?**

When we ran the first time, we set out on a mission to clean up a mess that we did not create. We did that, but many challenges remain.

We now need to fund a 21<sup>st</sup>-Century police department that is appropriate for a town that has experienced the issues that Dewey Beach has. We've had a longstanding challenge with storm water management, and we need to build a more storm-resilient community for all. We must continue to protect our public bay and ocean beaches. We need a more robust budget, and must find creative ways to develop more consistent revenue streams to pay for the town's operations. And we have the large-scale Coastal Highway Resurfacing Project begins in the fall and will continue into the winter, which is a major initiative we have to manage.

### **What gains have been made since you were first elected?**

- We quickly designed and implemented a successful response plan to stop large fights in June in their tracks. We created the plan within days, and almost immediately we had officers from neighboring towns to assist us. State liquor control agents arrived as well. We consulted with Delaware's attorney general and leaders in the General Assembly. There have been no major incidents since.
- We created a truly collaborative program to purchase beach mats. Stakeholders from all segments of the community . including the local and state government, the business community, and property owners . pitched in to purchase the mats.
- We've done a long way to overhaul the government, though there's more to be done. We completed the process of removing and replacing the town manager, and we instituted a comprehensive financial reform package that increased transparency, improved processes, and cut costs.