

Terry Lister
April 12, 2012

Good afternoon members of the press

I am pleased to be the PLP candidate in Constituency 33 (C33), Sandy's South. I have represented Sandy's South since 1998 and have regarded my service as being the result of a sacred trust between myself and the voters of C33. With this mindset I have worked diligently over the past 13 years to provide the highest possible service to the constituents. I have made it my responsibility to respond and, to the best of my ability, solve the problems that my constituents encounter from time to time. As busy as I have been, I have never been too busy to address the needs of any of my constituents.

It has been easy for me to take this sort of approach as I was fortunate to have a wonderful teacher, role model, mentor and friend in none other than Mr. Walter Roberts. Mr. Roberts served Sandy's South from 1963 to 1998, a long period of 35 years. He was known for being caring, thoughtful, and committed. Who better to learn from!

Even today as I canvass constituents will recall issues that Walter addressed for them with appreciation. This is the standard against which I have measured my own performance. When Walter decided to retire in 1998 I was pleased to be given the opportunity to replace him. I did so with a promise to look after his voters as well as he did!

The mission of the PLP government is to move Bermuda forward. This is an awesome responsibility. I, and my PLP team members, take this responsibility very seriously and thus we have worked hard to meet the people's needs. Since 1998 I have served in a number of Ministries and have consistently strived to improve upon what I found, from the early days of the PLP government when I passed Consumer Legislation to protect the consumer to more recent times when I was able to broker a transport arrangement between taxis, minibuses and Government buses to ensure sufficient lift for our Dockyard based cruiseship visitors.

These are difficult times. No one can deny this fact however it is during such times that those entrusted with leadership must rise and provide the leadership needed. I have been available and able to do this in the past and continue to be able to do this in future. My constituents in C33 are not immune to Bermuda's challenges. They have experienced them and have shared with me the challenges that they face. I am acutely aware of the need to work even harder in these times to bring success to the people. The country has seen an extended period of name calling and blame laying. However these tactics do not solve problems. Having learnt this years ago, I have refused to be drawn into the negativity but instead continue to seek positive solutions. I offer myself to the voters of C33 once again as a committed problem solver. I will not get weary but will continue on for the cause of C33 residents and, on a wider scale, Bermuda's cause.

While there are important local issues to be tackled, C33 residents have come face to face with the national issues that affect the whole country. The state of the economy is of grave concern. The businesses in C33 have found it increasingly difficult to survive, few are thriving. Commercial landlords in C33 have concerns about their tenants being able to pay their rent and stay in business. While I encourage and support the efforts of William Spriggs and the western BEDC, I am very much aware of the challenges faced by the Sandy's business community. The uncertainty translates into difficulties in job creation so the overall business conditions in Bermuda must improve. I pledge to work along with the Government to ensure these conditions change for the better.

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Unfortunately the rise in crime has been felt in our constituency. We have had the murder of a young man who my wife and I have advised and encouraged. We have seen gun play outside of our grocery store and this same store was subject to a major robbery over the last Christmas period. The murder and shooting have resulted in convictions with heavy sentences but the robbery remains unsolved. We have been touched. We are aware. But we are still standing. We expect people to conduct themselves in a law abiding manner in C33. As a result, in addition to encouraging Neighbourhood Watch groups, I have worked very closely with the police to determine how C33 can be policed most effectively.

Looking to the future I am excited about two very positive situations in C33. This year's Budget indicated forward movement at White Hill Field. This is pleasing to me personally and to the many users of White Hill field. This is one of the best sports grounds in the country so the Government's pledge to act is very important. Also as most Bermudians know, movement is taking place at Morgan's Point. We know that this project will have a ten year build out so this means jobs and business opportunities for the people of the west end of the island. I am committed to working with the developer, Mr Nelson Hunt to ensure that this project goes ahead and that Bermuda gets what is so keenly needed now- a brand new first class resort property.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have expressed my thoughts here to outline why I need to be returned to Parliament along with the PLP government.

I am looking forward to the Election so that we can continue the work that we were called to do in 1998. The last 13 years have seen much change in Bermuda and, while our critics will point to challenges and alleged failures, I invite the voters of C33 to consider what this government has done for them and the service provided by this MP.

Thank you.