



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Focused Interruption Coalition Endorses Steve Arnold for Fitchburg Mayor and Wanda Smith for Fitchburg Alder, District 1, Seat 2!**

Fitchburg – The Focused Interruption Coalition has endorsed Steve Arnold for Fitchburg Mayor and Wanda Smith for Fitchburg Alder, District 1, Seat 2.

Candidate, Steve Arnold faces a three-way race putting him on today's ballot in the primary election. He and Smith will both be on the April 4th ballot for the general election.

Fitchburg resident and coalition member Jerome Dillard said of the candidates "Steve and Wanda hold safety and equity as their top priorities. They know one is never present without the other and have shown strong interest in implementing our 15-Point Violence Prevention Plan. I plan to vote for Steve today and both he and Wanda on April 4th."

Another coalition member, Zandra Hagberg, shared strong words of support for Arnold and Smith. "Equity and justice are the driving forces behind our work as a coalition and we partner with those working for authentic change. Wanda and Steve are just those people. Both are committed to continue working with us in answering the unmet needs of the growing and further diversifying population in the city of Fitchburg."

The coalition's 15-Point Violence Prevention Plan is described as an intelligent, holistic, and sustainable approach to building strong and safe communities. Among the 15 points are peer support, mentoring, and restorative justice courts.

The Focused Interruption Coalition is committed to the safety and self-determination of people from all communities, and to dismantling the conditions that support violence in all its forms. We commit to being the interrupters of violence and to take on this work. We commit to holding public leaders and institutions accountable for their response to this violence. We commit to continue encouraging and supporting the communities of color as those most impacted by this violence. We commit to doing everything we can to end this violence.

Coalition Members include Anthony Cooper, Minister Caliph Muab'El, Jerome Dillard, Aaron Hicks, Zandra Hagberg, Richard Harris, Martin Lackey, Minister Daniel Davis, and Jackie Morris.

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