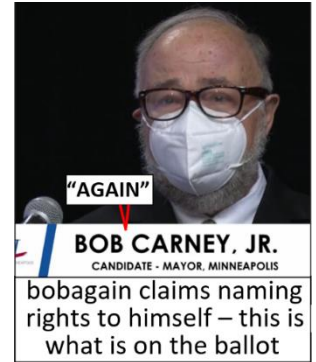




# Mayoral candidates talk of group campaigning; bobagain proposes “Candidate Block Parties” for Mpls neighborhoods from now to election; “Let’s meet to discuss this at the Minneapolis Occupy 10th Anniversary; 3 PM this Thursday (10/7) at “People’s Plaza”

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phone: (612) 812-4867 **Note: A .pdf file with graphics is attached.**

**Minneapolis, MN, 10/5/2021** – On October 4<sup>th</sup> another thoughtful Minneapolis Mayoral forum was held at the Plymouth Church parking lot, near Nicollet and Franklin Avenues. The audience – sheltered under an unneeded canopy -- was estimated at over 100 people. Ten Mayoral candidates participated; Mayor Jacob **Frey** was absent, apparently due to a COVID issue.



The participants were by and large the same group of candidates that participated in the League of Women Voters televised Mayoral forum on September 13<sup>th</sup>. “As with the LWV forum, we had a thoughtful discussion – and were ignored by the entire Twin Cities news establishment,” Republican candidate **Bob “Again” Carney Jr.** (“bobagain”) commented. “However, our ‘thought-pack’ of candidates may be starting to coalesce – there is still hope for having a real campaign for Mayor this fall,” bobagain added.

After the October 5<sup>th</sup> forum, bobagain was talking with fellow candidates **Jerrell Perry** and **Paul Johnson**. After touching on both the just-concluded forum, bobagain’s proposed People’s Plaza meetings, and the media’s woefully inadequate, money-heavy campaign coverage, **Perry** suggested candidates should start campaigning together. After the LWV forum, when a DFL forum was announced that would include only three candidates – excluded DFL candidate **A.J. Awed** – who reportedly trails only Mayor **Frey** in money raised -- called on all candidates to pledge **not** to participate in **any** forum whenever **any** candidate was not invited. “I signed on to Mr. **Awed’s** pledge, and like Mr. **Perry’s** suggestion,” bobagain said. What Mr. **Perry** suggested is actually similar to cooperation among ‘cancelled candidates’ in both the 2009 and 2013 Mayoral campaigns – I’ve e-mailed him additional information about that,” bobagain added.

## Is a “Candidate Block Party” coming to a block near you?

Building on this thinking, bobagain is proposing that all municipal candidates meet at “People’s Plaza” 3 PM this Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, to discuss having “Candidate Block Parties.” That is the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Minneapolis Occupy movement – daily assemblies at the Hennepin County Government Center North Plaza... which came to be called “People’s Plaza” – as part of the larger Occupy Wall Street movement. The assemblies and occupation continued on a 24-hour basis for weeks. “With the Minneapolis municipal elections approaching – and no shortage of serious issues on the ballot – it seems this would be a good time to renew the kind of public participation and dialogue that the Occupy movement represented,” bobagain added. “I’m working on a more detailed ‘Candidate Block Party’ written plan, and will e-mail it to my News Release and Minneapolis municipal candidate lists by Thursday morning,” he concluded.

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