

Chris Caputo

Wilton Manors City Commissioner



Chris Caputo was elected to the Wilton Manors City Commission in November 2020 for a four-year term. Chris is a proud, long-time resident of the Wilton Manors area, currently residing in a Central Area home with his two dogs, Spartan and Fusilli. Chris was born in Buffalo, NY and raised in Fort Myers, FL. He moved to the area nearly twenty years ago when he acquired his first business, a tanning salon. He has a Master's in Business Administration from Florida Atlantic University. He cherishes spending time with his partner and fellow Central Area resident, Chris Fernandes.

Chris is the co-founder and Chief Strategist at Development Partners, a technology startup that provides digital strategy, consulting, development and marketing for small and mid-size businesses and non-profit organizations. Chris just accepted as second term on the Board of Directors of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, where he also holds the title of Membership Chair and participates on numerous councils including the Government Affairs Council, Affordable Housing Council, and GLBX Council. Chris serves on the Board of Governors for the Tower Club in Fort Lauderdale, FL and is an active member of the Wilton Manors Business Association.

Chris recently completed eight years of service as the Board Chair of the Pride Center at Equality Park. During his tenure at the Pride Center, he worked closely with the City of Wilton Manors to bring *The Residences at Equality Park* to life. The Residences are the area's only affordable housing community, offering 48 apartments for seniors (55+) who are on a limited income. The project was primarily funded via tax credits, national, state, local and private grants. Prior to serving as Board Chair, Chris lead the Center's Marketing Advisory Team.

As an individual living with HIV, Chris has passionately supported the SMART Ride for nearly a decade as a volunteer, rider, team captain, and top fundraiser. The SMART Ride (Southern-most AIDS Ride) is a 165-mile bike ride from Miami to Key West and holds the distinction of being the only event of its type to return 100% of funds raised by participants directly to the community.

Chris' long history of community involvement extends well beyond SMART Ride and the Pride Center. Chris has personally raised over \$110,000 for local and regional charities, including Make-a-Wish South Florida, Poverello, Florida AIDS Walk, Broward House, and more. Chris, along with the rest of his team at Development Partners, consistently volunteer their technical skills to help community non-profits and agencies more efficiently reach and serve their constituents.

In his free time, Chris enjoys triathlon training and events. Chris regularly participates in local endurance sports races from 5Ks to Half Marathons. Many weekends he cycles with other Wilton Manors residents as part of his SMART Ride training. Chris completed his first Iron Man in Western Australia in 2019, consisting of a 2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike ride, and 26.2 mile run. Chris hopes to see residents benefit physically – and our city benefit financially -- from the addition of more sports events, building on the success of events such as the Pride Center’s annual Rainbow 5K event.

During his term as City Commissioner, Chris hopes to improve the quality of life for residences in Wilton Manors while also driving economic development and small business growth for our city. He can be reached at (954) 557-2801 or via email at ccaputo@wiltonmanors.com.