

Downtown Surrey BIA
Questions for Council Candidates 2018

1. What makes you think you are qualified to run as a councillor?

As a lifelong resident of Surrey I have, with varying levels of interest, seen what city council is able to do for over 3 decades. I have been a homeowner, renter, and even homeless as i tried to find a place to rent in my early 20's. I have lived in Newton, Royal Heights, Fleetwood, Cloverdale, and South Surrey. I have relied on rollerblades, bicycles, transit, walking, and vehicles to make my way around and through our city over the years. I believe that my life experiences give me an extremely thorough understanding of the many communities that make up our city. As such I know that I will always look out for the best of our residents for as long as i am lucky enough to represent them on council. Surrey is my home and will forever be, and i would like to be part of a council that helps us become the world class city that we are destined to be.

2. What skills do you bring to Council if you are elected?

While many of my skills are not conventionally political I do bring more than a first glance may see. As someone who spent most of my school years being bullied, I learned to empathize with those whom may lash out because of their own issues. As someone who has dealt with mental health issues, I learned to be strong in the face of adversity, and accepting of others shortcomings. As the father of a young child, I have learned patience and a newfound desire to leave the world in a better place for future generations than has been left for me. I believe one of the strongest skills any person running for council can bring through, is the ability to see through differences and do what is best for the community. This is a skill that I pride in myself above all others, because it is a skill that encompasses everything else.

3. In your opinion, what do you think is the most positive thing that has happened in Surrey recently that makes you proud to live in here?

I don't see a lot happening lately that really makes me proud. I see potential that has been ignored and hope to see it realized.

4. Are you committed to a strong City Centre and the creation of a vibrant Downtown core? What is your strategy and commitment to business - arts – culture – technology and community in Downtown Surrey?

I am frustrated that Surrey does not have vibrant core anywhere. I see people having to leave the city to enjoy concerts, sporting events, even nightclubs now. I plan to work to improve the city's arts and culture through separate arts and entertainment districts, the latter focusing on the downtown area. To ensure the success of the area we will also need to make sure that proper development of housing, transit, and ancillary businesses is done to service our citizens as well as drive business and interest from other areas of metro Vancouver.

5. The Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association had advocated for the past five years for a professionally managed purpose-built shelter in Surrey. What is your commitment to having this project move forward? I believe we need to not only provide shelter of a high standard to those in need, but to ensure we also provide the additional resources and services to help them achieve a happy and comfortable life.

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6. What do you see as the top five issues facing Surrey?

- 1.Shortage in rental units
- 2.Unreasonable increase in housing costs
- 3.Proper intercity and interurban transit
- 4.Crime
- 5.A severe lack of park land and green spaces.

7. We know there is always a debate between perception and reality. Everyone wants a safe place to live and do business. What is your strategy to deal with the root causes of crime?

Crime thrives in the dark. We need to expose it to the light. That light is spread through community interaction, involvement and, education. By enacting programs that engage the community and open dialogue we will help the people of Surrey to connect and help each other, with help from expanded youth programs, to eliminate the fodder that gangs recruit to spread their influence.

8. Do you support child care space in private developments?

As my own child is in a private care facility, it would be hypocritical to oppose them. That opinion aside, I do believe both private and public child care facilities need to meet very strict conditions and audits to keep any tragic incidents to the absolute minimum.

9. How should requests for decreased amenity space in new residential or mixed-use developments (both indoor and outdoor) be addressed by the City?

I believe that if a developer wishes to decrease amenity space in new development that they should then contribute to a community fund that will be able to provide that space to tenants and people of the community.

10. The temporary modular housing is scheduled to be removed from the locations in Downtown Surrey in two years. Do you support the City's housing strategy that moves people from the current temporary housing into supportive housing throughout the City? If not, what is your solution?

Yes. There needs to be a more comprehensive strategy beyond temporary housing. I will advocate for the city to use the tools at its disposal to provide a more permanent system that includes mental health, education, and substance recovery facilities.

11. How would you make Council decisions more transparent?

I would help eliminate any sub rosa meetings and allow more public discourse. I know that council meetings are held after normal work hours to allow the public to attend but i would like to see

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the process expanded to allow more input. Possibly using sources like social media to allow the public to engage from home if they cannot make it to city hall.

12. What do you think is the priority for public transit South of the Fraser? What do you support?
Translink has neglected the South of the Fraser for far too long. I agree with Proudly Surrey that we should look at moving to a South Fraser Transit Authority and use our tax dollars to provide more service to Surrey, Delta, Langley, and Abbotsford. For rapid transit, the LRT system is a point where opposing it will keep any transit expansion in Surrey at bay for probably another 20 years. For phase two down Fraser Highway I think a skytrain system would make more sense and have suggested a couple solutions to translink management for dealing with issues such as increased car weight and size.