

**Downtown Surrey BIA
Questions for Council Candidates 2018**

1. What makes you think you are qualified to run as a councillor?
I understand the need of school age parents, struggling families, and can provide sound inputs to our public discourse which has become more divisive and often fail to acknowledge the plight of struggling single mothers, low-income families and youths. In the last years, I have found social services organizations in Surrey and Internationally. I've worked at the front lines with Canadians, persons with disabilities, immigrants, students, newcomers, educational institutions, community organizations and government ministries at several levels. As someone who was an owner of a small business, I understand the needs of our business community and have some ideas on how we can attract new businesses and create high paying jobs.

2. What skills do you bring to Council if you are elected?
I speak for 4 Languages, I have travelled the world, Co-founded two organizations in Surrey and serve on numerous advisory committees as a director. I've developed programs that have benefited Children, Youths, Persons with disabilities and Families. As a community organizer and season executive, I have great leadership skills and visionary capacity which is needed in our council. Also, I will bring profound electoral experience which is required to shape our future elections. I have years of experience in policy development, management, and strategic leadership development which is necessary for a city like Surrey. As someone from a Biracial Family, I have an in-depth understanding of the need of having diversity and inclusion in Surrey. I've helped hundreds of vulnerable individuals and worked with some of the most active community leaders. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Masters in Electoral Policy.

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 am proud to live in Surrey because we celebrate diversity and togetherness.

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?
Yes, I am committed to a vibrant Downtown Core. My strategy is to forge partnerships with businesses interested in creating good jobs for Surrey residents. I will also suggest, that our businesses need to forge international alliances design to foster growth, exposure, and sustainability.
Also removing barriers for businesses in Surrey and enhancing their safety will be top on my agenda. I am committed to improving the arts, culture, technology and community engagement with Surrey residents.

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 am in favour. As someone who ran an organization in the area, I understand some of the challenges and I will advocate for it. The present model is not working, Downtown needs a professional purpose built shelter.

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

1. Shortage in rental units
2. Shortage in Services for persons with disabilities
3. Transportation (LRT vs Sky Train)
4. Crime
5. Increase in the homeless population

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?

As a community organizer and someone with a background in youth program development, I will partner with non-profit organizations and youths to create Youth driven Hubs in Newton, Guildford, Cloverdale, Fleetwood, North Surrey, South Surrey. These hubs will be run by social services organizations, in partnership with Youth leaders, who will be elected by youths. My intent is to establish something for young Canadians, Communities and Parents.

From my experience and observation, some youths I've to talk to, feel hopeless and disconnected in our City. There has never been any active strategy to make youth issues part of this cities agenda. I will make youth issues a priority in the council if elected. To do this, we need the voice of young people and their ideas to address the root cause of gang recruitment and crime. My hub creation will be one step. The next step will be to establish a permanent advisory committee made up of six leaders, representing all of the above neighbourhoods. These youths will advice City Councillors on youth-related issues.

This committee will be equipped with veto powers to oppose policies which are hostile towards youth initiatives. Members of this advisory committee will serve on a yearly basis, to give others a chance, and their contribution will shape the future of our city. This committee will provide inputs on how we can reduce crimes and help young residents to focus on: finding jobs, building their capacity, connect with employers as well as becoming active citizens. Youths are our future leaders and they need to be pruned, empowered and involved in our planning. This is an old issue because gangs are outsmarting our present leadership, which has failed in coming up with bold strategies to address the root cause of crime.

In my perspective, the City needs to create a conducive atmosphere of support for youths and parent. Even though parents need to take some responsibility, our city needs to provide more opportunities for collaboration. This strategy will produce more support networks in our communities and stair our youths into a more positive direction. The Youth hubs will become a safe haven for young people in distress and those at risk of committing crimes. What I am proposing is

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just a start of a long-term strategy, which at some point will involve parents committing themselves as permanent partners.

8. Do you support child care space in private developments? No position on this issue.

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 will consult with professionals if elected before making such a decision.

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, I do.

11. How would you make Council decisions more transparent?
I think debaters need to be given more time. If a decision is made both arguments need to be made public. No back door meetings should be allowed.

12. What do you think is the priority for public transit South of the Fraser? What do you support?
I know the Light rail has been confirmed and there is so little we can do to stop phase one. I support the Skytrain to be extended from King George to Langley and later to other cities.