

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

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

Surrey has been my home for the past 27 years. I have raised five children here, have been an active member in my community-at my children's school and at my local church; am the block watch Capt. in my neighborhood, have facilitated community groups through Autism BC, chaired a parent advisory group through MCFD under CLBC, have held numerous positions in my local Conservative riding Association and am currently a director at Surrey Crime Prevention Society. Quite simply, I care about this city and about its future and believe I have a very commonsensical, pragmatic approach to problem-solving.

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

As I said above, I have a very commonsensical, pragmatic approach to problem solving. I also have a background in real estate, building and land development.

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 love the fact that citizens are rising up and wanting to take a proactive approach in problem-solving.

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 strong city center and a vibrant downtown core. I have two sons that both attend Simon Fraser University – the Surrey campus and am thrilled that they are both involved in two of the most innovative programs offered there; Mecca-Tronics Systems Engineering and School of Interactive Arts and Technologies. My strategy would be to continue to build a well-balanced community in downtown Surrey, while at the same time making sure the adequate infrastructure is in place to service it.

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 have this project move forward?

With the population of Surrey, increasing by approximately 10,000 per year we will definitely need more purpose – built shelters. I haven't viewed the project in its entirety, but with the recent removal of tent city believe it to be a much-needed project.

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

Public safety - particular attention to gang violence

Transportation

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smarter development and corresponding infrastructure

mental health, addiction and homelessness

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?

Build stronger communities-engage in community forums, encourage block watch participation, law enforcement seminars in schools, churches, gurdwaras; parenting classes, especially within ESL and new immigrant families; support organizations that encourage youth volunteers such as Surrey Crime Prevention Society to help law enforcement and feel as though they're doing their part to help keep their communities safer.

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

Yes, absolutely.

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 in the Safe Surrey Coalition platform-in that we should introduce Smart development guidelines to address issues exactly like this. Once guidelines are in place, developers will need to adhere to them. I don't believe we should be addressing this on a case-by-case basis.

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?

I would like to have seen this move a lot faster than it did in terms of moving people to where they should have been moved that supported their needs best. Moving people into supportive housing throughout the city is one option, but I believe that people are individuals and we need to look at what their needs are and support them in getting them met.

11. How would you make Council decisions more transparent?

Make Council have to provide an adequate reason for any time, closed to the public meetings are held. I'm a very transparent, authentic individual and am very confident in my decision-making ability. Electing trustworthy individuals to Council is certainly one way of doing it. As I have never held public office, I'm sure I could come up with more options once I'm familiar with the position.

12. What do you think is the priority for public transit South of the Fraser? What do you support?

Sky train, not LRT- continuing from King George to Langley.