

Downtown Surrey BIA
Questions for Council Candidates 2018

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

My qualifications start as a resident of Surrey for 55 years who has worked in this City for 40 plus years and of which 32 years were with the Surrey Fire Department. My strong Union background and even stronger role with one of the City's largest charitable organizations, the Surrey Firefighters Charitable society, show my desire to work with and for the community. As an incumbent, I believe I have shown the knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the duties of a councillor.

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

I pay attention to detail and am one that reads the fine print. All reports that are requiring a response, are read front to back and when there are questions or comments, they are asked and there is an expectation to have a response in a timely manner. I believe the other skill I bring is that of listening. People often wish to have their opinions and ideas heard and or presented. In the last 4 years, I have made a point of having these conversations in location around the City that work best for that person when possible.

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?

The one thing that stands out and provides the proud moment is the step that was made with the Surrey Outreach team and it various members that led to the removal of tents and the respectful transition to workforce housing which led to the clean-up of 135A street.

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?

For the City to maintain a world class feel, we need to ensure we have an animated downtown core. This includes a performing arts center and nearby entertainment district.

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?

From my perspective, I would rather begin to move away from the term shelter and provide temporary housing in settings (meaning in other town center as well) with the agencies to provide assistance which can lead these people, who find themselves in a vulnerable position, to opportunities to become productive members of society. In addition, I believe there is an appetite to provide this type of housing that could be located in a setting where recovery can be an option to various drug and alcohol addictions.

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

- Crime as it relates to gang violence and our youth
- LRT vs Skytrain
- Road conditions and congestion
- Accelerated growth as it applies to infrastructure of roads, schools and healthcare.
- Environmental issues as they relate to growth with tree retention in new developments and the maintenance of our green spaces that are specific to our Biodiversity strategy and parks and recreation strategy.

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?

The Mayors task force on gang violence prevention and the Public Safety Strategy clearly identify key area of prevention and education. We need to target the “hot spots” in the city and provide programing in those areas to keep the youth active afterschool. We also need to embed resources in our schools to idedentfy those youth in our elementary schools who may be vulnerable to entering a gang lifestyle.

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

We on council are acutely aware of the child care space shortfall in the City. I have had many discussions with our planners and developers with their projects to create the amenity spaces for child care to operate. This built in model allows young working families the ease to drop off their child in a location that is part of their complex thus creating more time at home with their family.

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

About 18 months ago I had requested staff to look at this directly. The direction that was given was to have the costs associated with the shortfalls to better reflect what the City could do with those collected fees. It is my hope that we create a sliding scale where small developments (10 or less units) who would have little impact on community amenities, could be at one end of the sliding scale and those with over (75 as an idea) units would have more incentive to provide for the required by-law amenity that simply hand over a contribution.

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. In fact there is a company in Surrey that has a history of providing housing to the indigenous people of BC that is a superior product. This company in owned by a First Nations group and has the ability to provide job opportunities to those who will be moving from where

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they are to where they may be moving to. A concept of feeling empowered on the next stages of their life.

11. How would you make Council decisions more transparent?

Council decisions are all on the record, published and recorded on video. They are open to the public in chambers and allowed to sit in all advisory meetings and open public safety meetings. The Public has all of our contact information and the ability to sit down face to face and or talk via phone is always there. Possibly the agenda for Council could be set sooner so more time could be there for the residents to be informed, and possibly some way for the processes of 1st readings to final adoptions to be better understood.

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

I support the notion of LRT throughout the City to build communities in our City. Sky train will not build our City as that technology will not have the frequent stops we need to service our town centers. LTR is ground level which works much better for our Seniors and those with mobility issues. It is expandable to accommodate more growth whereas there have never been an addition of a Sky train station on any of the lines. My vision is for the City to be connected from the North on 104, to the South in Semiahmoo, from Scott Road to Langley. LRT is being developed in 9 other Canadian cities right now and in 400 locations worldwide. While Sky Train has its benefits to a region, LRT has the biggest benefit to our City. LRT will get you around Surrey and Sky train will get you out of the City.