

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

Neera Agnihotri

1. What makes you think you are qualified to run as councillors?
I am professional and personable. I want the residents of Surrey to feel comfortable in approaching me and being able to have a candid conversation about their concerns. In my roles I am held accountable to children, students, my staff and my clients. I have accountability and integrity.
2. What skills do you bring to Council if you are elected?
 - Listening skills with an open mind.
 - Transparency and inclusivity.
 - Honesty and professionalism
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 development of Central Surrey which has made it an attraction for not only students but families to come together and be part of community events. Surrey has become an attractive city that everyone wants to live, work and be a part of it. I want to ensure that this flourishes.
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?
 - Continue development in the downtown core
 - Encourage small businesses
 - Encourage large corporations plus government offices to come into the city
 - Promote post-secondary and trade schooling
 - Find space to bring culture and arts to all center of city which should include a museum and an arts theatre.
 - We should be the next Downtown
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5. The downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association had advocated for the past five years for a professionally managed purpose-built in Surrey. What is your commitment to have this project move forward?
I understand that this has been put on the back burner. As Council, I promise to advocate to bring forth this issue and lobby to partner up with provincial and federal governments.
6. What do you see as the top five issues facing Surrey?
 - Housing Affordability
 - Youth Programs

- Accessible Transit
- Public Safety
- Promoting Growth through Property Development & Community Attractions

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 Council I will advocate for the following

- Educate children at an earlier age about drugs, violence, bullying, equality, differences and inclusivity
- Encourage communication between parents and kids through programs for both parties
- Open the lines of communication with our existing police force and see if and where there are gaps in training, support or structure. I will advocate to implement programs/ processes which can narrow the gap and have a more positive outcome for our police force and community

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

As a single mother of two, if I had the opportunity and the convenience of being in the same building as my children, I would have had so many more time with my children. I would support a committee to be composed to see how we can work with the developers, city and families to offer such services.

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 would have to seek public consultation and to come to the most plausible outcome.

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?

As one of the fastest growing and well-known cities in the world, the Downtown city core has become an attractive hub. We need to promote the Downtown core but firstly take care of the residents of Surrey. They have a voice that need to be heard as well. We need to implement a more inclusive decision making process and have a committee which fairly represents all parties affected.

11. How would you make Council decisions more transparent?

I would invite feedback from the residents of Surrey. How would you like to see this transparency? I am one of you and want to be more a part of the decision making process.

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

Surrey is a large city and fast growing. We need to make accessibility one side of Surrey to the other side more efficient and effective. We need our own transit system to meet our needs. The needs of Surrey residents and those that come to work here as well.