

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

Neneng Galanto

1. What makes you think you are qualified to run as councillor? I have lived and worked in Surrey for more than 24 years and my training and experience would be very useful to the community.
2. What skills do you bring to Council if you are elected? As an experienced career and employment counsellor, college administrator, entrepreneur, college instructor, and volunteer, I have lots of skills to offer to our community. I am also one of the founding members and first auditor of Multicultural Helping House, a non-profit organization.
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 Surrey? We have new buildings that can accommodate businesses in Surrey, but personally, I am proud to be a part of the first cohort of Community Leaders Igniting Change program at Simon Fraser University that encouraged me to serve our community to the next level.
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 would like to have a strong City Centre and a vibrant Downtown core. I would like to advocate for more support for entrepreneurs, promoters as well as those involved in arts, culture, and technology.
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? Yes, I would like to support positive measures to make the project successful.
6. What do you see as the top five issues facing Surrey? I would consider the following as the top issues: transportation, drugs especially the legalization of cannabis, homelessness, mental health, and support for the sandwich generation-people who are looking after their own children as well as their parents who need care.
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 career and employment counsellor, it is important to listen to people and find out the reason why they are committing crimes. For example, I have experienced talking to a distressed panhandler who did not know what to do. I bought lunch for both of us on the street and after listening to him and giving him direction where to go for help, he ended up finding a job. He waited for me at the same street after few weeks just to thank me for listening to him.

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8. Do you support child care space in private developments? Yes, if it is possible. There was a situation when one of my students could not have a babysitter for her toddler. I asked permission from our director if I could allow the toddler in the classroom. Wow, that was one of the most interesting classes we had because our topic was about childcare and we had a real child in the class as an object lesson with the instructor as the babysitter.
  
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 like to make use of the empty areas for positive activities, but I would like to do more research before I could make further comments on this.
  
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 believe in listening to people who will be affected by this project before even doing anything. I like the idea of supportive housing when it will be able to encourage people to see their value and reason for living.
  
11. How would you make Council decisions more transparent? I would like to listen to people's opinion and respect their views.
  
12. What do you think is the priority for public transit South of the Fraser? What do you support? I am one of the customers of public transit and it became a habit for me to ask my co-passengers if they would prefer LRT or Skytrain. Among the hundreds of people that I have already asked, nobody like the LRT. As I mentioned before, I would like to listen to people and not to political parties and that is why I am running as an Independent candidate.