

Downtown Surrey BIA
Questions for Council Candidates 2018
Paul Rusan

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

Surrey is my home, and I would like my city to move in a different direction. I am working for the Vancouver School Board for the last 4 years and I more than familiar with the operations of a local government institution.

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

Honesty, integrity, commitment, passion, creativity, and versatility.

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 happy to have access to so many parks, and I believe the city of Surrey is doing a good job to maintain these parks. Also, I like the new pool and fitness facility in Guildford which I use almost every other day.

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?

One of the roles of the government is to facilitate the relationships between its citizens. Usually the initiatives in terms of arts and technology are introduced by citizens, so If I get elected I would make sure that more projects will be completed.

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?

We live in the century of speed, where everything happens so fast, sometimes to fast and because of this some fellow citizens cannot keep up the pace. We all need to work together to make sure that nobody is left behind, when it comes to education, health and housing.

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

Infrastructure, public safety, homelessness, transportation, improper development,

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?

Bringing more police officers in the city is not working since this has been tried already. In dealing with crime we are dealing with inappropriate behaviour from the citizens. To fix a behaviour problem will

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take more than 4 years and we need to bring together various groups from our community such as parents, teachers, local government, police and behavior control specialist.

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

Yes, but they must be regulated to make sure the children are safe, and they receive good care.

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

Surrey is still a developing city and we need to look at other models from cities around the world which are successful in addressing this issue.

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?

Every 4 years the new government comes with different strategies, this decision will be revised once the new government is in place. I am not for or against this move. We need to look at the long-term housing strategy and see how this move fits into that

11. How would you make Council decisions more transparent?

The only way to make decision more transparent is to make all the meetings public.

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

This is an important project for the future of our city and the future of our children. In this case we need to listen more to the public and their collective experience. The people are for Sky Train, in fact none of the people I know or talk to are in favor of LRT.