

Downtown Surrey BIA
Questions for Council Candidates 2018
Saira Aujla

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

- a. I have lived in Surrey for the last 31 years and have experienced the vast amount of changes in Surrey since then. I have been actively involved and have also learned and gained knowledge in many areas. I have also raised my 4 children in Surrey, and have lived experiences through them.

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

- a. If elected I bring the skills that my career as a realtor has provided me with. I bring the skills that a mother brings to the table. I bring the skills that a community spokesperson brings to the table. I speak Cantonese, English, Punjabi and Hindi. I have the experience of running as an Independent City council in the previous City Elections. I have also gained the knowledge of running at a provincial stage.

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?

- a. One of the most positive choices or thing that Surrey has adapted is the positive connections linked to multiculturalism. As an immigrant to this City I have seen the vast difference from when I arrived to now. We have overcome many tragic losses and challenges by staying united. We have come a long way but will need to focus further to let multiculturalism stay the long route through younger generations.

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?

- a. I am strongly committed to a strong City Centre. I believe things is the strong connections that makes Surrey what it is. Having our vibrant downtown, will not only attract residents but will also attract tourist. It will also interlink the generation in staying committed to art, business, and culture. It will represent Surrey just like downtown Vancouver represents Vancouver.

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?

- a. I believe this idea is a strong and great idea as long as we cover all grounds as in safety, location, positive prospective outcomes.

Downtown Surrey BIA
Questions for Council Candidates 2018
Saira Aujla

- 6. What do you see as the top five issues facing Surrey?**
 - a. Transportation/ Infrastructure
 - b. Governance
 - c. Crime / Public Safety
 - d. Youth
 - e. Affordable Housing

- 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?**
 - a. The core of crime is based on many areas. I believe that we need to bring in youth related programs or bring in programs that help the one sin need (shelters, addiction related rehabs); I provide a programing to adults with teens. Work with the policing for to develop a plan. Look into a Ward System.

- 8. Do you support child care space in private developments?**
 - a. I support it only if it is in a private passed facility that has been regulated.

- 9. How should requests for decreased amenity space in new residential or mixed-use developments (both indoor and outdoor) be addressed by the City?**
 - a. I believe that the city should only get involved if it is bylaw related or unless it is related to the City property.

- 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?**
 - a. This aspect should be looked into but public involvement is also a must. Transparent into what area it will be directed to. It is only strategic is it doesn't effect the lives of neighbors.

- 11. How would you make Council decisions more transparent?**
 - a. Communicate with the public, have more access to programs offered by City, make the public meetings more interactive.

- 12. What do you think is the priority for public transit South of the Fraser? What do you support?**
 - a. I believe that a cut cover as Canada line should be developed integrated into the transit system. I believe we have spent so much into the LRT project that scrapping it will not be an option. Phase 1 would be proper to proceed with however we could look into developing the plans into an underground system.