Downtown Surrey BIA
Questions for Council Candidates 2018

Thampy Ranjan

1.   What makes you think you are qualified to run as councillor? I have served in many community associations as director and helped hundreds of new families settle their lives in Canada. I am currently a small business owner living in Fleetwood with his wife. I understand immigrants and their path to business success and can support it.

2. What skills do you bring to Council if you are elected? I am honest and have integrity. Plus my Accounting and Finance expertise.

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? All the facilities that the city has to offer to families is amazing. The increased housing all around City Central which is walking distance to existing transit.

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 am committed to a strong city center. I believe we need a specific area as a focal point to show case what our city has to offer. I would continue the path that Holland Park has created. By encouraging festivals and events that bring the community together.

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? Homelessness is a crisis facing all cities. I am committed to finding a solution that works for all of us. We need to have shelters and facilities available for everyone in our community. With proper resources and training in hopes of one day joining the workforce.

6. What do you see as the top five issues facing Surrey? Transit, cost of living, homeless/social housing, crime and lack of schools

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 I feel equipping our police force with more up to date ways to fight crime, i.e. cameras. Also, we need to ensure we have more police officers to help with this solution.

8. Do you support child care space in private developments? Yes I do support private development of childcare. We are a growing city and need to keep up with the demands. Of course this being said we need to ensure they are regulated and are safe for our children.

9. How should requests for decreased amenity space in new residential or mixed-use developments (both indoor and outdoor) be addressed by the City? We need to look at other large cities around the world that struggle with decreased amenity space and come up with a solution that works best for our city.

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 and no. I support finding people permanent housing but I feel we need to get to the route of the issue. Are these people struggling with mental illness and need to have different support vs just permanent housing? We need to offer the correct treatment and tools to help them succeed in their new housing and new community they are going to intergrade with. We don't need a band aid on the problem but a real solution.

11. How would you make Council decisions more transparent?

Ensure we hold public meetings, online meetings and record these sessions so anyone has access to them at a convenient time for them. We need to stream live with the ability to have questions from the public as well.

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

SKYTRAIN period! We need to get people moving throughout the large city of surrey. We need to be consistent and keep with what we currently have.