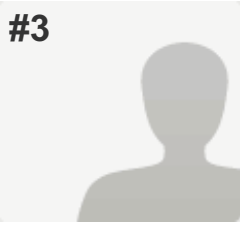


#3



COMPLETE

Collector: survey collector (Email)

Started: Sunday, March 15, 2015 8:13:02 PM

Last Modified: Sunday, March 15, 2015 8:49:22 PM

Time Spent: 00:36:19

First Name: Aaron

Last Name: Greco

Email:

Custom Data: City Council

IP Address: 174.51.110.206

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Q1: What is your name please?

Aaron Greco

Q2: Which Counsel district do you hope to represent?

District 7

Q3: Please tell us the best way to contact you if we have a question..telephone or email. Please provide either or both in the comment box below.

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Q4: Do you believe it is the ultimate obligation of City Council members to represent and advocate for their constituents in the neighborhoods they represent, rather than expedite the Mayor's office or private businesses that may benefit from these types of transactions between governmental entities?

Yes,

Comment:

As a City Council member I will ultimately be accountable to the voters in my district, not the Mayor's Office or any private interest.

Q5: Do you believe that preserving strong public neighborhood schools in each of our communities is very important to the viability and strength for the future of our neighborhoods?

Yes,

Comment:

As a future DPS parent I'm very concerned that my daughter (and every DPS student) be able to attend a high quality public neighborhood school. As much as any other factor, a strong public school system is critical to creating a civically engaged electorate. In addition, it's a crucial factor in attracting and maintaining the people and businesses that will keep Denver's economy vibrant into the future. Recognizing that DPS is governed by its own set of elected officials, I will seek out ways in which the city government and the schools can collaborate to the benefit of all.

PAGE 5: I. DESIGNATION OF UNDESIGNATED PARKS, PROTECTION OF OPEN SPACE, MORE PARKLAND

Q6: INC, in response to a request from the Department of Parks and Recreation, formed a committee to aid the department's effort to designate undesignated parks. While this committee has made progress over the past two years, the work is not finished. Would you support a concerted effort within all city departments affected to complete the designation of all undesignated Denver parks that are legally available for designation?

Yes,

Comment:

As Denver's population and built environment grows it's important that we protect our existing green spaces from short-sighted decisions. That means designating all currently undesignated parks.

Q7: In addition to designating undesignated parks, we also need to prevent the transfer of open space within designated parks to institutions within parks. Over many years, open space in designated parks has been re-allocated by the Manager of Parks and Recreation to institutions within parks such as recreation centers, museums, and zoos. It is important that open space within parks is protected. Would you ask for policy changes to protect open space within designated parks?

Yes,

Comment:

Any policy should include the flexibility to review the merits of each transfer case by case.

Q8: There is inadequate urban parkland in Denver given the size, density, and expected growth of Denver's population. For example: The city had 555,000 residents in 2000 and is projected to have 700,000 in 2020. While the Hancock administration may add additional parkland to the park system, the current plans focus on the acquisition of land at the periphery of Denver. We need parkland in the center of the city where the population is growing and "density" is a goal of the administration's urban development plan. Would you support the acquisition of additional parkland and open space within the center of the City of Denver?

Yes,

Comment:

It's important that the location, size, and amenities in Denver's parks complement the population and demographic patterns occurring in our city. To advance a variety of important public policies, smart growth in Denver should include preserving and enhancing access to parks for residents in neighborhoods that are growing. Recognizing the reality that land acquisition is more expensive in the center of the city, to the extent resources are available I would support expanding Denver's system by acquiring and developing new parkland while parcels remain available in and around the city center.

PAGE 6: II. ACQUISITION OF PLAYING FIELDS AND A FESTIVAL SITE

Q9: The urban parkland that does exist is viewed increasingly as a site for multiple and oftentimes conflicting purposes-- opportunities to experience nature, spaces in which teams can play, and sites for large festivals. These uses of the same land has created problems within our parks including damage to parkland and vegetation, limitation of public access to parks, and distress for neighborhoods bordering parks (eg., unacceptable levels of noise, traffic congestion, threats to public safety, and problems parking). As a result, a site is needed for large ticketed events such as festivals that is not located within neighborhoods. Well-lighted playing fields with bathrooms and parking outside of city parks are also required. Would you support the development of a Festival Site?

Yes,

Comment:

If a suitable site can be identified, I would be very interested in investigating the feasibility of a festival site. To the extent that some or all of the construction and maintenance of a festival site can be financed by permits and/or entry fees, so much the better. The redevelopment of the Western Stock Show site seems like a promising possibility. Festivals come in all shapes and sizes, however, and any changes in how we manage festivals should reflect that diversity.

Q10: Would you explore opportunities for and support the development of playing fields outside of city parks for Denver citizens?

Yes,

Comment:

Compared to other cities, Denver has an abundance of facilities for recreational sports. I believe this is a major attraction for young and healthy people looking to move to the area; however, it's evident that over time some sports leagues have crowded out other users of Denver's green spaces. To lessen the strain on parks being used for team sports that weren't designed for that purpose, I would be happy to explore options for developing purpose-built playing fields, especially given that some or all of the costs of constructing and maintaining these fields can be financed by user fees.

PAGE 7: III. USE OF RECYCLED WATER IN PARKS

Q11: Would you ask the City administration to convene a panel of independent experts in plant physiology, soil chemistry etc. to evaluate the safety of the type of recycled water used in our parks and to report the results to the public?

Yes,

Comment:

Although Denver Water has some of the most senior water rights in Colorado, as a practical matter we will need to promote the use of recycled water to accommodate a growing population in an arid state where much of the water originating here is required to flow to other, even more arid states. Before asking the City to expend resources on an investigatory panel I would like to learn more and understand the potential risks that accompany using water that is currently recycled to the standards of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Q12: If the risks of the type of recycled water currently in use are found to be too high, would you support all steps necessary to eliminate these risks?

Yes

PAGE 8: IV. PARK ADMINISTRATION

Q13: Effective government requires citizen engagement. INC has received multiple complaints and over many years pertaining to the use of parks. Complaints include the difficulty citizens have in influencing park policies. A new Office of Special Events has been formed by the Mayor and its function will have an impact on what events occur in parks. Would you advocate for INC representation on an Advisory Board for the Office of Special Events?

Yes,

Comment:

I believe INC participation on an advisory board for the Office of Special Events would be an efficient and effective way to ensure that citizens' concerns are heard and taken into account when planning and hosting special events in our parks.

Q14: Would you direct funds to the Department of Parks and Recreation to ensure enforcement of park rules and regulations within the entire park system?

Yes,

Comment:

Although the City Council does not control the Department of Parks and Recreation's budget to the level of enumerating specific dollar amounts for enforcing park rules and regulations, I will use my position on the City Council to hold senior management in the administration accountable to enforcing the rules that allow all of Denver's citizens to enjoy their parks.

PAGE 9: V. PARK FUNDING

Q15: Denver's park and parkway system is grossly under-funded. A broad range of funding sources must be pursued in order to sustain and to expand Denver's park system. This funding includes local and state-level dedicated revenue sources. Denver is surrounded by municipalities that fund their parks with a tax levy dedicated to parks. Would you support a tax levy to provide a stable funding source with which to acquire land for parks, open space, a festival site, playing fields, and for maintenance of all these for Denver's park system?

Yes,

Comment:

I think there's an opportunity to engage Denver citizens in a conversation around the many benefits that parks and open spaces bring to our city and the importance of funding them properly. Recognizing that we need to do our homework and get a sense for what priorities Denver's citizens would potentially support with higher taxes, if the public engagement process indicated broad support for a specific set of improvements and expansions to the parks system at a cost that's sustainable over the long term, I would happily support a dedicated tax levy whose purchasing power grows with the city's tax base. These priorities have to be weighed alongside the need for last-mile transit systems and expanded affordable housing.

PAGE 11: Discretionary Projects

Q16: If elected, would you support an increase to Public Works funding for discretionary projects in neighborhoods?

Yes,

Comment:

As a City Council member I will speak up for funding Public Works projects that address serious safety concerns on our streets and make our neighborhoods more friendly to pedestrians and sustainable modes of transit.

PAGE 12: Commitment to Vision Zero

Q17: Would you support Denver joining the ranks of cities that target elimination of traffic deaths and serious injuries as a moral priority by adopting a Vision Zero approach?

Yes,

Comment:

I support the Vision Zero concept and its principles of Ethics, Responsibility, Safety, and Mechanisms for Change. Recognizing that almost all fatalities and serious injuries on roadways are caused by human error, I support retro-fitting our existing system to design standards that significantly reduce the likelihood of serious traffic accidents. The frequency of hit-and run accidents involving pedestrians in Denver especially concerns me, both as a father to a young child and as an employee of the Colorado Department of Transportation. We should join Vision Zero cities such as San Francisco, New York City, Boston, and Portland on the leading edge of transportation safety.

PAGE 13: Best Practices regarding sidewalk installation and maintenance

Q18: Would you support Denver pursuing and implementing best practices from other cities regarding sidewalk installation and maintenance, with the goal of increasing walkability?

Yes,

Comment:

I would definitely support a plan to improve Denver's sidewalks to bring them in line with the most walkable communities in America. Universal pedestrian access within neighborhoods and to our city's commercial and transportation centers, cultural facilities, and open spaces is a matter of social justice, public health, and environmental responsibility.

Q19: . Would you support the City of Denver engaging consultants to study the effects of parking on neighborhoods in areas where high rise development is contemplated prior to approval of the development. If so, what parking study process would you suggest?

Yes,

Comment:

I believe the City should encourage developers to minimize the impact their projects will have to the local demand for on-street parking, and understanding the current and future states of residential parking near proposed dense developments will help bring about a more multi-modal, less car-dependent transportation system. A good site-specific parking survey would estimate the impact of a particular project by taking into account factors identified by the Victoria Transport Policy Institute, such as: • Vehicle ownership and use rates in the area; • Residential density; • Employment density; • Land use mix; • Transit accessibility; • Walkability; • Nearby car-sharing or bike-sharing services; • How parking is proposed to be priced at the development and whether it is bundled with or unbundled from dwelling units.

Q20: Do you believe the 2010 Zoning Code adopted by City Council in 2010 has benefited all neighborhoods in Denver or some neighborhoods? Please cite examples.

No,

Examples:

The 2010 zoning code has provided a great deal of predictability and has provided several urban neighborhoods with options and flexibility that were problematic beforehand. I know of one family in the Highlands who were not permitted under the old zoning code to have an accessory dwelling, but were able to accommodate aging family members by upgrading and expanding a garage under the 2010 code.

Q21: What changes do you believe need to be made to the 2010 Zoning Code,If any, and why.

The zoning code is five years old. Obviously a great deal has taken place in Denver these past five years. An overhaul isn't necessary, but revisions should be explored in an era where requests for zoning changes are becoming more prevalent.

Q22: Will you urge the Mayor and city officials to appoint representatives of residential neighborhood organizations to all city boards, commission, advisory committees, collaborative groups and task forces which consider planning and zoning issues. If so, describe the efforts you would take to ensure such appointments are made.

Yes,

Comment:

RNOs throughout Denver should make it a priority to promote participation on the City's numerous boards, commissions, advisory groups, and task forces. Not only it is important for fair representation in complex policy issues, but Denver's boards and commissions are a proving ground for future community leaders and elected officials. I would be happy use my experience on campaigns and community engagement to help RNOs recruit citizens to apply for seats on the City's boards and commissions, and as a City Council member I will lend my support to neighborhood leaders from District 7 who apply.

Q23: INC has been advised that the Director of Community Planning and Development is recommending Blueprint Denver be revised and updated. Do you support such a recommendation and describe what process you would support to ensure neighborhood participation.

Yes,

Comment:

Blueprint Denver should be reexamined to address our need to guide transit-oriented development and to better explore planning in a city where its people are beginning to interact with a different, more innovative transportation system.

Q24: Please describe your vision of "smart growth" for the City of Denver in ten words or less. The vision should capture stakeholder expectations of your anticipated leadership on City Council.

Context-sensitive dense infill redevelopment with multi-modal transportation connectivity.

Q25: . Entertainment districts which extend the hours for alcohol to be served, often until 4:00 a.m., have been adopted in a few cities throughout Colorado. Would you support an entertainment district in certain areas in Denver? If so, where and until what time?

Yes,

Comment:

I would support an entertainment district if (after engaging all relevant stakeholders including affected RNOs) its proponents are able to demonstrate that an entertainment district enhances public safety, has tangible economic benefits for the community, and does not negatively impact the quality of life for residents in or near the district. I don't have any preconceived notions of where a potential entertainment district should be situated or what business hours it should adopt.

Q26: Short term rentals, that is rentals for less than 30 days are now illegal in Denver residential neighborhoods. Do you support the adoption of an ordinance which would permit short term rentals in Denver residential neighborhoods. If not, why not. If you would support an ordinance to allow short term rentals in residential neighborhoods, please describe the process you would support, including the process for funding.

Yes,

Comment:

Unregulated short term rentals in residential areas are a fact of life in Denver and other major cities, and thoughtful regulation is the practical way to mitigate their potential undesirable side effects. The City Council ought to pass ordinances that regulate short term rentals from the standpoints of zoning, permitting, and taxation. Owners of properties offered for short term rental should be subject to a user-friendly permitting process that includes demonstrating that the property complies with building codes and is properly insured, and that the owner has a mechanism to remit lodger's tax in Denver. The cost of a permit should be set so that all inspection and enforcement is funded by permit revenue rather than any general fund revenue source.