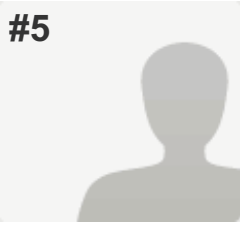


#5



COMPLETE

Collector: survey collector (Email)
Started: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 7:47:19 AM
Last Modified: Monday, March 16, 2015 7:52:45 AM
Time Spent: Over a week
First Name: Chris
Last Name: Wedor
Email:

Custom Data: City Council
IP Address: 169.133.140.5

PAGE 1

Q1: What is your name please?	Chris Cornell Wedor
Q2: Which Counsel district do you hope to represent?	District 10
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:

I believe this is where the frustration of the community has been elevated. It is the role and responsibility of the Councilperson to represent the people who them into office, first and foremost. I believe, having talked with many folks in my District, that this is the biggest disconnect and area that causes the most frustration. Their voices are not being heard and special interests dominate City Council. We have an opportunity to change this balance on Council on May 5. Having works under Dennis Gallagher for many years as his Audit Supervisor, I plan to accomplish this change by bringing my fair and objective approach to all City Council matters and using community input and data-drive facts to make decisions that are in the best interest of the citizens. I have demonstrated this over my career with the Auditor's Office and being nationally awarded and recognized for my work that has demonstrated effective change in government. In conjunction, while working with City Executive Directors, City Council, Boards and City leaders to bring about this change. All this while maintaining independence working in an elected office that is focused on accountability and transparency for the citizens of Denver.

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:

I am a Colorado native and grew in Colorado Springs and went to District 11 Public Schools, which is the equivalent of Denver Public Schools here. In order to keep communities thriving with growth and to attract families, must strive to ensure our public school system is something that makes people want to move to Denver for. Having strong neighborhoods that still offer the family homes while giving a little bit of the City life is what makes Denver so unique. Having amazing schools and teachers will help use accomplish this while strengthening our community as well.

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:

The first condo I bought was on 14th and Race. I was a few blocks away from Cheeseman Park and loved the fact that I had access to it and all the amenities it provided me. I am in favor of improving the quality of life for all residents of Denver with access to parks being one. With that said, I believe we should have all the data we need to make the decisions and evaluate short and long term effects of any actions we take. This will ensure that we are focusing on "the now" but maintaining a healthy perspective of the future.

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:

With that said, we need to evaluate the reallocation of open space to see what positive and negative impacts it has to the community. Ultimately, it should be what the community desires.

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:

Again, we need to add and improve infrastructure to areas that require it and that serve the needs of the community. Adding parks to areas of Denver that will not be utilized does not make sense. However, adding parks in high use areas makes much more sense to me.

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:

Yes, with that said, I believe that using our parks for some of these events is what makes Denver unique and a venue that attracts our community and it should not be used as a method or tool to isolate a group of people. Symphony in Cheeseman Park, Movies in the Park, recreations sports that help build community and personal relationships are what we should continue to encourage as this is what strengthens our neighborhoods.

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

Yes,

Comment:

Yes, but the same rationale applies to this answer as in #9. It would be a great options, however, it should not isolate groups of people. Nor should it be in a part of town that would adversely effect the attendance of an event.

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:

I would support this based on: 1) We review the City information and data to identify what parks may have this issue 2) Review CDPHE and EPA Standards as base guidelines 2) If the data is inconclusive or does pose a threat, we should find next steps to address it

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,

Comment:

Only if the above criteria are met. And after that, we should find methods and solutions that are acceptable based on community feedback and desire.

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:

It would make sense to have a fully representative voice in such a group as long as it is already not represented by other neighborhood organizations that fall under INC. This would be to ensure that the playing field is fair and balanced of course.

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:

Currently, enforcement is conducted by the park rangers who are responsible for the enforcement of rules and regulations currently and they have dedicated funding for their job positions.

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' 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?

No,

Comment:

I believe we can find alternative sources to funding through means and methods already in place in the City. If this does not provide a sustainable funding source, then the levy can be discussed as an option.

PAGE 11: Discretionary Projects

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

Yes,

Comment:

Plans for transportation plans exist in Public Works master Plan. It's getting them prioritized to get done that is the issue. This is where having a strong council member who advocates for your District will get that done based on the needs of the community.

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:

Six years ago the national Governors Highway Safety Association issued a plan "Toward Zero Deaths" and I believe Denver should join in the effort in the goal and vision. The current plan, at the State level, may include public safety awareness efforts, as well as engineering changes to roads. The plan could also include improvements to emergency service response, so that medical assistance is faster.

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:

Denver has a plan that touches on this currently and in fact does have plans to move this forward. However, it is disparate in places because of prioritization of all projects on a master plan for the City. Additionally, the City also needs to better identify who is responsible for the sidewalk paths to hold those accountable for damaging the walkways to restore them.

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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 we should always engage in these studies when parking becomes a rare commodity when growth occurs. I would favor multiple studies and choose which best fits the particular place such as: - Parking Statistics Studies - Off Street Parking - Current Street Parking - Parking Requirements

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.

Yes,

Examples:

This questions is based on each neighborhood. And because each neighborhood has it's own unique plan, it should be evaluated as such. For instance, my home in in the Golden Triangle and we have decided to make it a very urbanized area, which is why folks who choose to live there, do. However, places like Congress Park like the detached single family homes. At the end of the day, we all chose to live in areas we did because of the reason and factors. Those reasons should be respected with regard to zoning and development in the future.

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

It needs to be fair and balanced with the needs of the community and not incentive one group over the other.

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:

I believe this is the most transparent and fair way to have the voice of the community heard. I would advocate such action.

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:

Because it has been over 10 years and Denver has changed quite a bit over that time,I believe it should have another look. I also believe each neighborhood should review and update their plan as well. This will help ensure the new visions of Denver are aligned with each other moving forward. I would highly recommend that citizens be highly active in this process and that we should make the process to update and solicit feedback as open and transparent as possible.

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.

Grow Denver in the right places and in places that make sense.

INC 2015 Candidate Survey

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:

With that said, this would require data driven facts and methods to determine the outcome. The community should also be heavily involved when this may affect them personally in any area this is considered. It all requires much discussion and conversation that ultimately is decided by what is best for the citizens.

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:

I have spoken to many groups regarding this issue. I believe we need to regulate it and ensure it does two things: 1) Maintains a balanced playing field for all. 2) It maintains the safety of the people visiting and the safety of the neighbors it effects Funding would come, just as it does for hotels, in a form of lodging taxes and permits to operate.