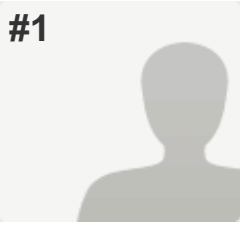


#1



COMPLETE

Collector: survey collector (Email)
Started: Friday, March 13, 2015 4:37:01 PM
Last Modified: Friday, March 13, 2015 4:55:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:18:02
First Name: Elizabeth
Last Name: Adams
Email:

Custom Data: City Council
IP Address: 67.176.23.19

PAGE 1

Q1: What is your name please?	Liz Adams
Q2: Which Counsel district do you hope to represent?	District 6
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.	

PAGE 3

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: The ultimate obligation of a City Council person is to represent the citizens who elected him or her. District 6 is home to many diverse groups – small businesses, neighborhood organizations, churches, schools, as well as homeowners and renters. If elected, I pledge to keep an open door and consider all points of view before taking a position on an issue.
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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:

Many studies show that strong neighborhood schools are the cornerstone of building a diverse and strong neighborhood. The advent of school choice in the early 1990s has changed that dynamic. While it is important for parents and students to have the option of alternative programs or schools that may better meet a student's needs, the availability of choice should not dilute the accessibility to strong, viable schools in every neighborhood. Both of my children are the product of DPS. I served as PTA president at Steele Elementary and East High School and believe that all families should have equal and easy access to quality education in their neighborhood.

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:

Open space is critical to Denver. I support efforts to evaluate the undesignated parks and legally designate them whenever possible.

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?

No,

Comment:

I am not familiar enough with the current park open space allocation policy to comfortably say that I could ask for policy changes. I would certainly be open to discussing what policy changes might be needed, as I value our open space in our parks.

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:

While Denver is mostly developed, there are opportunities to increase Denver's open space within certain infill development projects. I would absolutely work with developers and property owners to create new parks in Denver's urban core.

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:

Some parks aren't suitable for some uses by large numbers of people. Under certain conditions – budgetary, zoning and availability of property – I would absolutely support the development of a Festival site.

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

Yes,

Comment:

Again, considering a variety of factors listed above in Question 9, I would certainly take a leadership role in acquiring more non-park recreational space for Denver residents.

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:

There is research at a local and national level that indicates that recycled water may pose a risk to our park vegetation. I would welcome further evaluation of the issue and advocate a partnership with other governmental agencies to address the issue if deemed necessary.

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:

It might be more precise to say that I would support the steps necessary to mitigate these risks.

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

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:

If the Department of Parks and Recreation demonstrated need for additional funds to enforce rules and regulations I would be open to supporting the allocation of funds.

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?

Yes

PAGE 11: Discretionary Projects

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

Yes,

Comment:

One of my priorities as a city council person is to work to support our basic infrastructure – public works included. As I consider increasing funds for any particular department for a specific use I will need to understand the full scope of our budgetary priorities and our revenue streams.

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:

Denver ranks very high in traffic fatalities, and we certainly need to raise awareness about this critical issue and move toward a solution. Vision Zero can certainly be a goal as we bring this issue to the forefront.

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:

Pedestrian movement within our city is a critical issue as our city grows. As I have been knocking on doors in my district I am surprised at the inconsistency of sidewalk quality and availability. I am eager to see what other cities our size have done to create more walkable environments.

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?

No,

Comment:

I believe a cooperative effort between Public Works and Community Planning & Development to look at 'neighborhood parking plans' is a good idea. I am not positive a consultant is needed, but I am always open to evaluating what experts can show us. Best practices from similar cities should also be explored. There are some tools available to neighborhoods and in use already, such as residential parking permit areas, but the City should take a more in-depth look at parking and explore new options and tools so that a balance can be created and neighbors are engaged.

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:

The adoption of the 2010 zoning code has certainly influenced the way the City is handling growth and economic development. Overall, I believe the City has experienced a lot of positive growth, but I know not every project is created equal and there are concerns and interests on all sides of this issue. The 2010 code update has impacted many neighborhoods differently. Some neighborhoods rezoned from multi-unit to single-unit zoning in 2010, and people that wanted to preserve existing single-family character are happy with that. Other neighborhoods have experienced zoning that enables more growth and redevelopment. These areas were rezoned largely in line with adopted plans including Blueprint Denver and small area/neighborhood plans. Neighborhood planning processes are very important as they shape the level of growth and stability any one neighborhood will see in the future. I support refining our planning efforts and updating Blueprint Denver, as a lot has changed since 2002.

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

I believe the City has adopted nearly 10 amendment packages since the adoption of the 2010 code. I know there is an entire team of zoning experts at Community Planning and Development (CPD) working on this very issue. I believe the City needs to listen to the input from neighborhoods on code issues and also have a robust plan for process and communication of these important changes. I don't know which specific issues are in need of fixing right now, but as Council person, I will be open to all ideas and evaluate each issue thoroughly with our Planning Department, neighborhood groups and all stakeholders.

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:

RNO's are important stakeholders in zoning decisions and I would be supportive of neighborhood representation on task forces, boards, etc. I would like to clarify, however, that some RNO's as a matter of bylaw, do not engage in "taking a stand" on issues. I would not want members of those neighborhoods be overlooked for representation on committees if their bylaws prohibit it. The inclusion of RNO members will take a lot of assistance from INC and its member organizations. I am eager to partner with INC on recommending good neighborhood candidates to these groups.

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:

I believe that we do need to update Blueprint Denver and need to include all the stakeholders in the process. The CPD should develop a wide-reaching communications plan that includes the INC, RNO's and other community organizations and leaders. Most important is widespread communication in a timely fashion providing multiple opportunities for input both in person (at reasonable meeting times) and electronically.

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.

True smart growth requires vision, advance planning, and stakeholder involvement.

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 be open to evaluating if there are appropriate uses for an entertainment district, but that would need to come with neighborhood and citizen involvement in the approval process and consideration of law enforcement and first responder needs. I believe that the parameters for location and hours of operation should be set on a case-by-case basis.

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've been hearing a lot from both sides of the short term rental issue. Much of the opposition comes from residents who have had a bad experience with a short term rental in their neighborhood that was not remedied by the city in a timely fashion. On the other hand, we know that these rentals are happening everyday and many homeowners use short term rentals to supplement their income. Councilwoman Susman has recently released a framework approach to short term rentals and continues to solicit comments on the issue. The framework proposes making short term rentals legal if the property is someone's residence (eliminating investment property as short term rentals) and suggests exploring taxation and other "light" regulation. The missing piece in the proposal relates to enforcement. My impression is that Neighborhood Inspection Services(NIS) does not currently have the capacity to address complaints regarding these properties. I'm concerned we would do a disservice to our constituents by passing a law – and thereby creating an expectation - that we cannot adequately enforce. If the enforcement issue were adequately addressed, I would consider supporting short term rentals in some, but not all, zone districts.