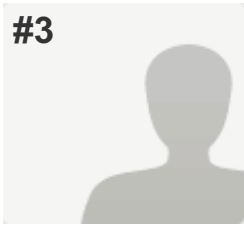


#3



COMPLETE

Collector: survey collector (Email)
Started: Sunday, March 15, 2015 9:03:53 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, March 15, 2015 11:38:34 AM
Time Spent: 02:34:41
First Name: Halisi
Last Name: Vinson
Email:

Custom Data: City Council
IP Address: 67.164.176.95

PAGE 1

Q1: What is your name please?	Halisi Vinson
Q2: Which Counsel district do you hope to represent?	District 4
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?	<p>Yes,</p> <p>Comment: I am the only viable candidate in District 4 who did not come out in favor of the "land swap". As a residence of Hampden Heights and a member of the RNO Board, I am directly impacted by this issue. Not only do I have the support of many of the members of the Friends of Denver Parks, I also have the support of John Case. However, the bigger issue is transparency and accountability of the process. I say this because we will find ourselves in a similar situation if we do not make sure that the process is inline with our City Charter. Moreover, as a representative my first responsibility is to represent my neighbors and to the best of my ability execute their vision for our community.</p>
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INC 2015 Candidate Survey

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:

Strong public neighborhood schools where the majority of parents feel good about sending their kids to those schools lead to stronger, safer communities.

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:

Parks and open spaces are one of our city's assets; and once they are gone, they're gone.

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:

However, we are a district that does not have a recreation center that is accessible for 80% of the district. Consequently, our tax dollars are going towards one-cards that our kids cannot take advantage of. Interestingly, the areas where there is the most need for this type of program does not have a recreation center. I am working with Gayle Rodgers team to bring a rec. center to the far southeast part of the district. There is in accessible open space behind the Kennedy Golf course that is being considered. I am in favor of taking it to the ballot.

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

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:

In other cities most of the ball fields are totally separate from parks. It would be good to have a festival site as long as it is a park during the 6 months when there will be no festivals.

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

Yes,

Comment: see answer 9

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:

It does not make sense to use any process that damages our investment. Do we currently have evidence that this is occurring - that we have killed trees?!?

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

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:

I am the parks and rec representative on my RNO board, so I receive a lot of complaints regarding parks and their use and abuse. we need more money to enforce park rules and to ensure the safety of park users.

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,

Comment:

People in my district feel taxed to death. It always seems like we're playing catch up instead of planning ahead for the maintenance of our city's infrastructure and assets. My first inclination is to scour the budget for waste and look at where the marijuana money is going.

PAGE 11: Discretionary Projects

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

No,

Comment:

I said no because maybe wasn't an option. As the district that is probably farthest from the city center, my neighbors often feel forgotten. We have sidewalks that are not maintained and there is a struggle as to who is supposed to maintain them. We have virtually no walkable communities, and I haven't seen a plan to change that situation. So before I can give an unequivocal yes, I need to see the detailed budget and assess if we're getting the best bang for our buck.

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:

As long as it includes provisions to address the unique issues of our newer neighborhoods that were built 100% around the automobile. I took a walk from our new retirement community that is supposed to be a transit-oriented development. It is located on the north side of Hampden Avenue. The nearest light-rail station is 2 blocks south of Hampden. RTD Director Claudia Folska and I took a walk from the retirement community to the Southmoor light rail station. I was blind-folded. We could not make it across Hampden Avenue before the light changed. There was no safe direct route. I say this to say we have a lot of work to do in the more suburban areas of our city to eliminate traffic and make public transportation, walking and biking a viable option.

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: See previous answer. ;D

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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?

No,

Comment:

I would like for Denver to HIRE someone who has experience in doing robust parking studies as part of their responsibilities, since this is going to be an ongoing issue as we move towards a multi-modal city. The hire should not be an appointee. As a leading 21st century city we should have thought leaders in the area of planning and development and should settle for nothing less. The studies that are necessary should consider having enough space in the area to put an individual's car, within the context of the demographics, travel patterns, and access to reliable public transportation. Additionally, for new developments we need to consider what ratio will be adequate today, but will not result in an abundance of empty spots after we enhance our public transportation system. With the sprawl that has occurred in most western cities we will probably never have the public transportation dependency as dense eastern towns. However, we still must address the last mile issue if we are going to move us towards a more sustainable multi-modal model.

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:

I am talking to a property owner who owns 4 lots on the edge of a neighborhood. His property backs to a strip mall. He would like to build a small multi-family building but the zoning does not allow for the multi-family transitional housing that is usually found between commercial properties and single family homes. We have other areas where houses are purchased, leveled, and two houses are replacing them. Obviously, neighbors are not happy about that.

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

At the very least we need to look at the ratio of square footage per lot size. Additionally, to help with affordable housing we need to allow full in-law suites to be built on all single family lots. We can discuss whether it would need to be built on top of a garage or extending the footprint.

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:

Many of the boards rules state that members of the community hold X amount of seats. I would not only work with RNO's but also other community organizations to recruit average citizens to 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:

Our district has not had a master plan since the origination of Blueprint Denver. Just as I facilitated strategic planning sessions with one of our largest RNOs; I will hold townhall-style brainstorming sessions to get community input. Communities can change dramatically in 10 years; so these documents should be updated regularly to account for the changes in the community.

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.

Smart growth anticipates changes in the demographics and incorporates the character of the community.

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?

No,

Comment:

This is another instance where a simple yes or no oversimplifies the challenge. Before we extend "happy hour" to 4 am and before we decide to create "entertainment districts"; we have to get a hold on some other challenges around recreational marijuana. We should be concentrating on building a great city where people want to live and that will bring in tourism. Extending the hours of alcohol consumption is not necessarily the answer to DUIs. And creating entertainment districts has not had the desired effect in other cities.

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.

No,

Comment:

Though I do not believe in protectionism - that is creating laws to protect an industry at the detriment of a budding industry; I also do not think that it is a good idea to have hotels in the middle of a single-family home neighborhood. Right now parents don't feel like they can let their kids play in the front yard. I'm in the process of creating a model to build community so we can get back to a sense of shared interests where neighbors look out for each other. If we have a house(s) that has different visitors every other day, then neighbors will find it difficult to monitor their streets. While I believe that mixed-use development in general is a good idea; it doesn't work in an area that is nearly 100% single family homes.