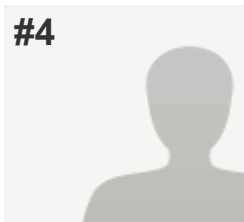


#4



**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** survey collector (Email)

**Started:** Friday, March 13, 2015 12:44:53 PM

**Last Modified:** Sunday, March 15, 2015 9:55:45 PM

**Time Spent:** Over a day

**First Name:** Jolon

**Last Name:** Clark

**Email:**

**Custom Data:** City Council

**IP Address:** 24.9.146.211

PAGE 1

**Q1: What is your name please?**

Jolon Clark

**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.**

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:

If elected, I will be elected by the people. They are my constituents, my bosses, and I will work hard to make sure that they are always included in the process, that their voices are heard, and that we are building a city where the quality of life for each citizens is improved with each decision that we make. I will be a strong independent voice on City Council, and my goal in every decision I make will always be to make Denver the best city it can be. I grew up in Denver, and now I am raising my own kids in Denver. My parents still live in the same house they bought in Denver for \$10,500 in 1969. I will work tirelessly for the people of Denver to ensure that it remains a great a city to grow up in, a great city to raise a family in, and a great city for citizens like my parents to retire in.

**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 was born and raised in Denver. I attended Denver Public Schools from kindergarten through 12th grade when I graduated from South High School. Today, I have two kids of my own. My son is in second grade, and my daughter is in first grade. They both attend McKinley-Thatcher Elementary, our neighborhood school, and I am the PTA president at the school. I think that building strong schools in every neighborhood is extremely important for the viability and strength of our neighborhoods. Public schools are a critical piece of our communities, and we have to get involved and work together to ensure that they are safe places where every child can succeed and reach their full potential.

**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 INC PARC Committee has done amazing work with Scott Gilmore to make huge strides in designating parks in Denver. Parks are one of our greatest resources, and as our city continues to grow, we have to preserve and protect them. Since I was 17 years old, I have worked for a nonprofit organization called The Greenway Foundation (TGF). Through my work at the Foundation, I have been part of planning efforts for new and enhanced parks, trails, and open space along the South Platte River and its tributaries, and I have taken thousands of children on field trips to the riverside parks to learn about Denver, our river, and the importance of these parks in our city. I was involved in the master planning efforts that TGF undertook starting in 2008 in collaboration with the city and the neighborhoods and RNOs surrounding the river. That planning effort has led to over 30 million dollars worth of investment in our riverside parks in Denver that is either recently completed, under construction, or will be under construction before the end of 2015. If elected, I will work closely with Scott Gilmore and the INC PARC committee to designate as much park land as we possibly can. I will also work to find opportunities to grow our park system, invest in much needed improvements to our Mountain Park system, and advocate for a dedicated revenue stream for parks in Denver.

**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 would have to learn more about the specific policy change before committing to this. As a general rule, I would be an advocate for open space in our parks, but I think that each situation is unique and has a unique set of circumstances. There may be times when I would support allocating more space for recreation centers and other vital institutions within 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:

Denver needs as much park and open space land within the city as possible. People are increasingly disconnected from nature, and having safe access to quality parks and open space right in the city is critical to the health and development of our children and our communities. I spearheaded the effort to create an outdoor learning park designed for kids and families right in the urban core of Denver along I-25 and the South Platte River. This park will be "Base Camp" for kids to learn about the environment, how to identify plants and animals, have opportunities for creative play with natural objects, have a fire pit for cooking S'Mores, and the ability to do programmed overnight camping for small groups of children. Creating wild and natural spaces in the density of our urban landscape is essential for the quality of life, peace of mind, and health and wellbeing of every citizen.

## 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:

As our city continues to grow and get denser, we need to find the space for all park users within our boundaries. I would be supportive of any and all expansions to our park and recreation resources.

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

Yes,

Comment:

I am supportive of any and all additions to our parks and recreation system.

## 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:

Safety in our neighborhoods and in our parks is a primary concern for me. I believe that transparency and collaboration always make the process and result better. We need to examine any and all potentially dangerous or unsafe conditions within our parks and strive to create spaces that are safe, protected, and add to the quality of life in our great city.

**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:

As I mentioned above, safety is paramount, and I would work diligently to eliminate any dangers in our parks to ensure that they are safe for the flora, fauna, and people who use them.

#### 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 that all stakeholders should have a seat at the table, and that collaboration and discussion makes the end result that much stronger. The citizens of Denver need avenues for input and a place for their voice to be heard.

**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:

The park rangers in our parks system do a great job of educating park users about the park rules and regulations and enforcing the rules when needed. The ranger program is undersized and underfunded. I would be a strong advocate for more funds being directed to the Parks and Recreation department across the board including increases to the funding for the ranger program.

#### 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:

I would explore and support any viable option for increasing the funding for parks maintenance, park improvement, park acquisition, and park expansion. As I have already stated, parks are a critical part of our communities, they contribute so much to our quality of life, and we should strive to create the best public park system in the world.

#### PAGE 11: Discretionary Projects

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

Yes,

Comment:

Transportation infrastructure is increasingly important as our city continues to grow. We have to invest in this infrastructure to ensure that our neighborhoods are safe and that every person in Denver is able to navigate the city safely.

#### 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:

Safety in our city is my first priority. I would work to eliminate traffic related fatalities and injuries wherever and whenever possible.

#### 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 strive for Denver to be a truly walkable city, and addressing our city sidewalks is critical to creating walkable neighborhoods and communities. I look forward to seeing what the Pedestrian Advisory Committee recommends and to getting to work implementing policies that increase the safety and walkability of our city.

**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:

Parking is a critical issue as high density development is considered in our neighborhoods. I do think that the parking effects should be studied and a part of the process for development, but I do not know enough about this particular proposal to use outside consultants to know if it is the answer. I would explore all options for how we address parking related to development to ensure that the impact on the neighborhoods is minimized and that the neighborhood has a voice in the process. I would love to learn more about the proposal to engage consultants in this process to see if it is a viable option for making sure that we are building smart and protecting our historic neighborhoods.

**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:

I think that Blueprint Denver provided a great road map for Denver Zoning. Many RNOs and individuals in Denver neighborhoods spent countless unpaid hours working on identifying appropriate areas of stability and areas of change in our city. These efforts were often door to door to reach out to citizens, and I think that Blueprint Denver is a powerful tool for managing growth and change in our city. I think that overall the 2010 Denver Zoning Code did a good job of implementing zoning changes that reflect the vision that was created for our city.

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

I would lean heavily on the RNOs in my district to help identify areas where we may have missed the mark with the 2010 Zoning Code.

**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:

Residents should always have representation on city boards, commissions, advisory committees, collaborative groups and task forces within the city.

**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 was adopted in 2002 and based on growth and change assumptions from the Comprehensive Plan 2000. In Blueprint Denver it states, "Areas of Stability include the vast majority of Denver and are primarily the fairly stable residential neighborhoods where minimal change is expected during the next 20 years." We need to review this document as we approach 2020 to ensure that the guiding assumptions that were made about where Denver was headed in 2000 were accurate and true. As we do that, it is possible that some revisions and updates may be necessary, but I believe that the bulk of Blueprint Denver is still valid and will remain intact. Neighborhood participation in this process is critical. I will work to make sure that citizens and RNOs are included at every step in the process and that neighborhood input be gathered on any recommended revisions or updates.

**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.**

Protect neighborhoods, density where density belongs, invest in infrastructure and 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?**

No,

Comment:

I have not seen any proposals for entertainment districts in Denver that have been put together, and in talking with the Baker Broadway Merchants, I know that they are not currently interested in an entertainment district (nor are the adjacent RNOs) on Broadway in my District. Although my answer is no, I would review any proposal for an entertainment district, and may support it if there was strong support from the surrounding neighborhoods.



**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:

Right now, an estimated 1,000 short term rentals are operating in Denver illegally. Enforcement has proven to be highly complicated and the city does not currently have the resources to do it. I have not seen a draft ordinance that I would support for legalization yet, but I do think that the dialogue that is happening right now on the subject is starting to identify areas of compromise that may lead to a viable ordinance that I would support (which is why I marked yes). I attended multiple INC meetings on the subject, and I think that it is critical that we 1) preserve the feel of our neighborhoods while promoting strong communities, 2) are able to effectively shut down short term rentals that are creating unsafe, unsightly, and unacceptable conditions in our neighborhoods, 3) create an even playing field so that short term rentals are not at a competitive advantage over Bed and Breakfast and other forms of lodging businesses, 4) institute safety requirements (like smoke and CO detectors) that ensure that all visitors to Denver are safe, and 5) create a revenue stream for the city to properly enforce the rules through the licensing process. If we can accomplish all of this then I would be supportive of permitting them in a controlled and regulated fashion.