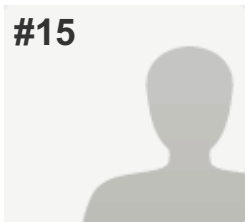


#15



COMPLETE

Collector: survey collector (Email)

Started: Saturday, March 14, 2015 8:05:30 AM

Last Modified: Saturday, March 14, 2015 10:01:35 AM

Time Spent: 01:56:05

First Name: Kayvan

Last Name: Khalatbari

Email:

Custom Data: City Council

IP Address: 97.124.228.214

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Q1: What is your name please?

Kayvan Khalatbari

Q2: Which Counsel district do you hope to represent?

At Large

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:

Of course! I think many of the actions of our current Mayor and City Council the past four years have been appalling. It isn't just deals like this that have me ticked off. They've given developers a free pass to build only poorly constructed, rent-only units without the consideration for low-mid-income housing or housing that can be purchased for people to put down roots in this city and build a family in our central core. They've completely ignored the homeless problem, and in fact worked to make it illegal. This is a public health issue, not a crime. On top of all these bad and special interest driven decisions, they've voted themselves the maximum raise allowed and done everything in their power to keep that decision out of the hands of the voters. It's borderline criminal. I've already pledged half of my Council salary to the Harm Reduction Action Center and will be donating the second half to other groups here soon. If the City Council doesn't want to tackle these important social problems, I'll do everything in my power to do so on my own. I am a community-driven Denver citizen who owns seven local businesses that employ 100 people (more business experience than all current council members combined), sits on the Board of the Colorado Youth Symphony Orchestra, has been a mentor for Denver Kids for eight years, has started a community integration group called the Green Team that participates in urban gardening, free bicycle and wheelchair repair, trash cleanup, homeless outreach, food/coat/clothing/hygiene product drives, college scholarship for disadvantaged youth and more...I am active in my community and understand what needs to be done to build one. These folks don't and have proven they are incredibly out of touch.

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:

Very much so. As someone who mentors and is guardian for three kids in the public school system in central Denver, I understand the importance these institutions play, even though they aren't operating as well as they could and should be. Lack of funding, our inability to take care of teachers and an outdated curriculum are all doing our children a disservice, but I believe the alternative is much worse. We can't pawn this problem off on private interests and turn our children into a commodity. What ability I will have to change the course of these schools, I don't know, but I will do what I can to protect them. I also intend on pushing for entrepreneurial and artistic/creative opportunities for our children after school, which can be done by engaging with existing entities and organizations and without digging into the city's budget. I believe we can create these alliances and only have one outstanding hurdle to getting our disadvantaged to these opportunities and that is transportation. I have several initiatives in mind to tackle this as well, all outside the city budget. Lastly, I'd like to see public school teachers provided with a break on property taxes to keep them in our core neighborhoods where they work to remain engaged and/or help subsidize that housing to keep them active and aware of the communities they are working in.

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:

Very much so. Every community needs green spaces, period. We've seen how the city has championed for these types of areas in our outlying and more affluent neighborhoods (Wash Park, City Park, Sloan's Lake), so why on earth wouldn't we want to preserve those spaces for everyone else? This is a pretty black and white issue to me and the interests of greedy developers are irrelevant in this discussion, which is something the current council is having an issue getting their heads around. You have a champion in me.

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:

As this city gets larger and more dense, these open green space areas will be even more vital so I support this 100%.

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, to fall in line with every response I have given thus far in support of these initiatives, yes, yes, yes. Transportation is a major issue for our underserved communities and if we push all of these spaces out to the edge of town, whether they exist or not, a large part of our population won't have access to them and that is unacceptable.

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:

Very much so. As someone who does like to go to the park on the weekends to relax and unwind, it can be anything but relaxing when the entirety of a park is consumed by drunk adults playing organized sports or a festival that is blaring music. While I think the consideration for some of these to exist in the city core is wonderful and necessary, I believe Denver has take it too far and this issue needs to be reigned in a bit. Most people that attend these festivals are well-to-do or at least have the financial capacity to make it to the outer rings of our city and have every opportunity to get to the mountains any time they would like, so let them drive. We shouldn't be taking away these vital spaces from our city core citizens who don't have the luxury of that mobility.

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

Yes,

Comment:

While I don't understand what this entails from a financial perspective and where this money is coming from, on the surface I support the idea if it gets them out of our open green spaces. I look forward to discussing this with all stakeholders and seeing what kind of solution can be developed.

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:

Without a doubt, yes. As someone who has taken on water conservation and recycling in the cannabis industry in conjunction with folks from the University of Maryland, the C&C of Denver Department of Environmental Health and Denver Water, I am gaining a real understanding of water quality issues as they relate to recycling and reuse and I know this can be a massive problem if we don't tackle it now.

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: We'd be foolish not to.

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:

While I need to understand INC a little better, the intent of the group seems to be very much in line with the benefit of our citizens and I believe you folks would be a great advocate and voice on that Board. I look forward to discussing this with you folks more.

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:

In a manner, but possibly in a unique way that is a little . I am a firm believer in the need for more peace officers over militarized police officers, who are trained to mediate and engage with and build communities instead of being viewed as a external threat to safety as our police force has become. Not only a threat, but an expensive one as we've spent over \$13 million the last ten years in lawsuits regarding our police and sheriff's departments. I believe peace officers will add more bodies/eyes to the streets at no additional cost to the city and allow for these folks to engage in more issues like this to ensure our rules are being followed and that they are relayed in a responsible, collaborative way. If no one can get behind that idea, I'd certainly support Denver Parks and Recreation having access to additional funds for this enforcement.

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 need to understand this issue better, but I think we have a lot of money on the table from cannabis revenue that should be put to better use than plugging holes in the general budget deficit that are there because of mismanagement and unnecessary waste. Heck, we're talking about taking in so much we need to give it back. Between this money and what I intend on developing with a hemp-based local economy, which will be less controversial and 10-100x larger than social or medical use cannabis in terms of revenue dollars generated, we should certainly look at other options before a property tax levy, but I'm in support of finding creative ways to make that happen. That's the benefit the city gets with me as a candidate. I think outside the box and won't accept the status quo as the only option simply because it's the easiest and most understood. We're a quickly growing and evolving city and need to start acting like it.

PAGE 11: Discretionary Projects

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

Yes,

Comment:

Yes. All change on a large scale starts at a local level, at least in my personal experiences with regard to business, community building, politics and philanthropy.

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:

My understanding is that this started in Sweden and has been effective not only in America but around the world...why wouldn't we consider adopting a solution that has been successful over and over in cities larger than our own? Seems like a slam dunk to me. That being said I do need to better understand the overall impact it would have on Denver specifically and what would need to be changed to achieve the success we have seen elsewhere. I look forward to engaging all stakeholders in that discussion.

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:

100%, yes. Again, if we're seeing success with these options in other cities and they assist in our ability as a city to be more local and neighborhood and community based (which a walking neighborhood achieves), what do we have to lose by pursuing them? Some of our sidewalks are also a huge hurdle for our disabled population, which is unfortunate.

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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:

As someone who owns a home in the Santa Fe Arts District and businesses on South Broadway, in Capitol Hill and on South Pearl, I fully understand the issues we are facing with regard to parking and how they are going to get worse as this city dramatically expands in population in density. We need to tackle this now and believe we need the perspective of folks who have dealt with these issues in other growing cities. While I don't fully understand all the parking study processes in place, I think we need to look at this on an larger area-level and consider the overall framework in our city, but provide some serious consideration for our individual neighborhoods and locations that are driving a ton of traffic from outlying suburbs to our city core. The neighborhoods that I mentioned above are growing at a rapid rate and are getting more and more people visiting every day without any consideration for parking or public transportation options to get people to them.

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 don't think any decision ever has benefited ALL neighborhoods. I can't say I understand this issue well enough to speak much on it except to say that we've seen too much growth in many neighborhoods because of service business density (bars and restaurants). This is especially prevalent in an area like South Broadway. Where are the local markets and other necessary services for people to remain local and continue building neighborhoods that encourage walking and discourage driving and the need for large amounts of parking? This current City Council and our Mayor are all about money, money, money and have created this traffic and housing problem that exists today. No foresight and that's why we've been driven to maintain as a automobile society. We can be better planners than just piling dense service businesses in all of our local and colorful neighborhoods.

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

More consideration for small businesses and local markets to serve smaller neighborhoods. We can't just keep piling restaurants and bars on top of each other and expect our quality of life to be maintained. It's unsustainable. There also needs to be a massive consideration for the preservation of low-mid-income housing and not just the perpetual burst of high-income housing that is creating a housing crisis in Denver.

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:

How can we incorporate the needs of our neighborhoods if we don't let them participate in the discussions to find a solution? How do we ensure these appointments are made? Mandate it.

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:

Nothing currently in place should be considered a solution for the future as we are growing and evolving too quickly for that to be the case. New technologies, successful projects in other cities and other considerations are coming online every day that need to be considered and our planning should reflect that. Again, I think all real and effective change starts at a local/micro level so it would seem necessary to start the discussion in our neighborhoods to isolate issues and proposed solutions and then work it up the ladder, keeping those local stakeholders as a part of the conversation and decision-making, all while keeping them educated on the process and realities of the situation as it grows into a city plan. Taking input and not considering it or following through on that education with neighborhoods on the guts of a plan is unacceptable. Less closed door meetings, more transparency in government and everything on the table. These people are working for us, not the other way around.

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.

Affordable housing, neighborhood economies, transparency in government, screw special interests.

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 don't whether I can say yes or no to this at this time. I understand the thought that it may reduce the concentration of drunk people on the roads right after 2pm, but I don't know that promoting people getting drunk late into the night does society any good. Let's focus on extending cannabis sales hours to 10pm first and go from there. Since cannabis legalization we've seen a reduction in traffic fatalities, domestic violence and teen use. It's safer than alcohol, which kills 1 in 7 working age Coloradans and we're treating it unfairly, not only on a social level, but in the sense that we force these cannabis stores to close at least three hours sooner in Denver than most municipalities around us. That doesn't just make people drive outside the city to purchase it, it keeps the cannabis black market strong, steals millions in revenue from the C&C of Denver thousands of wage hours each and every day (150-200 dispensaries in Denver, three hours a day, 5-10 employees in each shop).

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 think so. I understand the perceived dangers of these, but we need to provide some sort of temporary housing for people to maintain their lives and geography when times get rough. Homelessness is a problem because we don't provide any temporary or bridge solution for housing and that needs to be fixed. Our local government has failed us on this issue. I don't know that I have an answer for the funding question as this time as I don't fully understand the economics of the current situation, but at least I will admit that and not provide you with some BS answer.