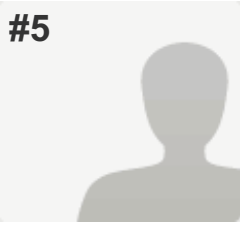


#5



**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** survey collector (Email)  
**Started:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 4:43:14 PM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, March 16, 2015 7:58:42 AM  
**Time Spent:** Over a week  
**First Name:** Kevin  
**Last Name:** Flynn  
**Email:**

**Custom Data:** City Council  
**IP Address:** 174.239.98.90

PAGE 1

<b>Q1: What is your name please?</b>	Kevin Flynn
<b>Q2: Which Counsel district do you hope to represent?</b>	District 2
<b>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.</b>	kevin@flynnforcouncil.com

PAGE 3

<b>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?</b>	<p>Yes,</p> <p>Comment:                  A council member must also consider what is the best course of action for the city in addition to the district the member represents. I believe in finding balance and the best path forward. Your question is premised on an either/or proposition, and given that choice my answer is yes. The key point at Hentzell Park was that the open space in question had not officially been designated as city parkland and therefore was not under the requirement for a public vote to approve a sale. At the time this happened, I called for an immediate inventory of all city-owned open space in order to determine what is and is not officially designated as parkland, so that this situation would not occur again.</p>
--	---

**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:

At a recent DPS Great Schools forum, we were asked what makes great schools. My immediate response was "great neighborhoods." So this relationship goes both ways. Neighborhoods can be strengthened when the children on the block attend school together, and the school can be great when the families in the neighborhood are standing in support of it. This is difficult when the economy is suffering and people move frequently. It comes down to building stable and diverse housing inventory.

**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:

As I noted in my response on the Hentzell Park issue, I have called for this process, which is ongoing and necessary. I do need clarification on what is the definition of "legally available for designation." It is possible that there is open space that should not be officially designated. For instance, in my district, there is a large Denver Water pipeline going through an easement that is adjacent to a designated park. Because of its use by Denver Water, it could not be sold and built upon, and Denver Water should be responsible for its maintenance rather than Denver Parks and Recreation. But this is a necessary discussion. The city needs to build more certainty into residents' expectations.

**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:

I have to qualify this response to add that there are limits. The Natural History Museum in City Park is a treasured institution, just like the Metropolitan Museum of Art is in New York's Central Park. Historically and by tradition, there are parks in cities worldwide that host cultural institutions such as zoos and recreation centers. They can co-exist. But I do agree and would advocate for a robust policy discussion to strengthen open-space protection in 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:

Yes yes yes yes and yes. My district in southwest Denver has some very nice parks, including some that are mostly natural such as Bear Valley Park. But a look at the map shows that southwest Denver is underserved for open space. Much of the area that was annexed into the city in the late 1940s from Arapahoe County already had undergone some development with little thought to setting open space aside in the post-war housing boom. Your premise is spot-on, that Denver should search for opportunities for more open space and parkland in the urban grid. I wholeheartedly support such an effort.

**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:

This is an excellent suggestion that I would support. I would be willing to participate in an effort to identify sites, because I believe it would be quite contentious with concerns over traffic and noise.

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

Yes,

Comment: No brainer.

**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:

Accurate information is essential to have an informed citizenry. Thank you for suggesting this.

INC 2015 Candidate Survey

**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: Of course.

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 in bringing people together to fully represent all stakeholders.

**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

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 already have advocated reinstating the mill levy that originally funded the Mountain Parks system from its inception into the 1950s, when it was eliminated and funded through the general fund. I would consider this as well for the city parks. HOWEVER, my position is that if a mill levy for parks were to be put to voters, it would have to be offset from the general fund. I do not support a back-door tax windfall for the general fund that would otherwise result from parks being pulled out and set up with a dedicated mill levy. The mill levy dedication would need to be a straight-across transfer offset by reduction in the general fund.

PAGE 11: Discretionary Projects

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

Yes,

Comment:

For example, one of my initiatives in District 2, listed on my website, is to allocate funding to small projects that would reduce speeding on neighborhood streets. As a chronicler of infrastructure while I was a journalist, I came to understand that simply posting a lower speed limit sign doesn't reduce speeding when the roadway invites higher speeds through the way it's built. Projects such as pedestrian and bike bulbs at intersections that narrow the roadway's throat naturally slow drivers. Small projects can make a big difference.

**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:

I have to qualify this either/or premise again by cautioning that all measures need to be fairly evaluated for the specific circumstances of each proposal. But otherwise, my response to the previous question on small projects illustrates that I already am thinking of these new measures.

**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:

This is one of my key messages in my campaign. On our canvassing, we met a man whose son served in Iraq and gets around by way of a motorized wheelchair. But the family home is on a street that has NO SIDEWALK going toward the bus stop on Federal Boulevard. There is no curb, gutter or drainage, and in winter snow, this military veteran must try to maneuver his chair over chunks of snow and ice and gravel. It is an insult to say to his father that he should move from the house where he raised his family. In other areas of Mar Lee, Brentwood and north Harvey Park, the sidewalk width is totally inadequate for a wheelchair to pass. These shortcomings can't be fixed overnight, but we have to begin to address them.

**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 support combining area parking surveys and site-specific surveys to get a more complete picture of potential effects of development. The city must do a good job of anticipating growth and development in order to follow the 2000 Comprehensive Plan and Blueprint Denver.

**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:

The update to the zoning code was a huge change from the code under which Denver developed from the time of Mayor Nicholson in the mid-1950s, and its basis is entirely different from a traditional zoning code. As such, I believe it is much too early to judge whether it's working well or needs changes. With its emphasis on adding density near mobility investments such as RTD's FasTracks rail stations, many of which are yet to open, we cannot say where the benefits of the new zoning code will land. My district in southwest Denver was largely unaffected by the zoning code update. Based as it is on Blueprint Denver, in which Council District 2 was almost entirely classified as an Area of Stability, the update actually will help us preserve our character and livability. However, in other parts of the city, there are conflicts with residents when development proposals seem to them to be out of character with their neighborhoods. I am an advocate for early and authentic discussions with residents to respect and incorporate their concerns into development proposals. I believe in bringing all parties to the table. I often have said on the campaign trail that when I made mistakes in my stories at the Rocky Mountain News, the cause almost always was that I had not spoken to enough people. We may not get consensus from all, but we need to hear from everyone.

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

I don't advocate any changes until we see more results. It's been in place four and a half years, and during a struggling economy, so I don't believe we have a good set of data on which to propose changes.

INC 2015 Candidate Survey

**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 would look at the authority that establishes each group to see if it requires neighborhood representation and, if not, move to add that requirement.

**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.**

No,

Comment:

Blueprint Denver is 12 years old and while that alone might merit consideration of revision, I need to have more explanation as to why such a recommendation was made. In my opinion, Blueprint Denver has done well by District 2. If an update is undertaken, I would advocate neighborhood participation as a natural extension of my campaign promise to "bring people together."

**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.**

Diverse, livable and workable neighborhoods integrated with mobility and vitality.

**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:

Areas of downtown would be good candidates for such a district. Neighborhood organizations in any proposed area must be participants in developing such a proposal. I would leave it up to the affected neighborhood interests to propose the time ranges for me to consider.

**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:

This is an emerging market propelled by an interactive digital platform that, in my opinion, will continue to grow. At this stage, I am not ready to say I would support legalizing short-term rentals in residential neighborhoods until the city confronts the fact that many residential districts were established so as to exclude for-profit commercial businesses in their midst. Regardless of illegality, however, a quick look at Airbnb listings for Denver will show you that the city soon will have to find the most effective way to integrate the new paradigm into our fabric. Short-term rentals must be subjected to regulations that safeguard the public interest. They should be taxed and regulated like any hotel accommodation. There is a legitimate public interest in this, and Airbnb is agreeable to this. There must be liability insurance coverage in a certain amount. The city must protect its residential areas to prevent them from becoming commercialized. There are zone districts where hotels or bed and breakfast businesses are not permitted. This must be respected. There should be limits on the number of nights a residential property can be short-term rented, and only owner-occupied units should be included, to prevent this from becoming a business with multiple locations.