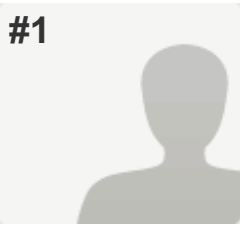


#1



COMPLETE

Collector: survey collector (Email)

Started: Thursday, March 12, 2015 4:42:24 AM

Last Modified: Thursday, March 12, 2015 4:54:14 AM

Time Spent: 00:11:50

First Name: Luchia Ann

Last Name: Brown

Email:

Custom Data: City Council

IP Address: 97.122.105.85

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Q1: What is your name please?

Luchia Brown

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.

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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:

City Council members should advocate for their constituents who they represent, and they are bound to do so. City Council members should not be a rubber stamp to the Mayor's office or private businesses. As a long time neighborhood activist, I have gone head to head with a former Mayor when a development was thrust upon the community.

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:

Every child should have access to a good school nearby, and this is something DPS is trying very hard to achieve. Oftentimes, it's the residents themselves who take on improving the school within their own neighborhoods, which is what has happened in my neighborhood (Baker) with DCIS at Fairmount. I am involved with Denver Public Schools as a member of the Bond Oversight Committee, which ensures that our taxpayer dollars are spent appropriately and as promised.

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:

I would support designation of undesignated areas only with the input and support of the community in which it resides. Community input is the crux of my campaign and there would need to be involvement from an early stage of any designation.

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 not advocate for a blanket policy change to protect one interest group unless it had broad support. Recreation centers can be vital to the health of a community. As the mother of two boys who continues to use our neighborhood recreation regularly, I believe a neighborhood recreation center is nearly as important as a neighborhood school. Each situation must be looked at individually to determine the cost/benefit of protecting the open space.

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:

I would love to see more parkland within Denver's urban core. There isn't a whole lot of room, but many parts of the South Platte River are being turned into parkland, and perhaps areas along Cherry Creek could also be redeveloped into parks.

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:

The National Western Complex redevelopment seems like the ideal site for a festival, but of course the surrounding neighborhoods would need to be included in the discussion...and early on.

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

Yes,

Comment:

Again, as the mother of two very active boys, I would love to see more playing fields and other amenities like skate parks and pools.

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:

Yes. My husband, Adrian Brown, is a groundwater engineer and would be happy to participate on this panel and has already spoken with some of the parties involved.

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 must protect our trees and other vegetation. The cost of not doing so would be too high.

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:

The City should always have an INC representative on any of its advisory boards. Neighborhoods must always be a part of the conversation.

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:

Yes, but I would like those fund to come directly from park users in the way of special usage fees for private sports leagues and special events.

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:

Our parks, which are vast and used by people beyond our urban areas, must be preserved for future generations.

PAGE 11: Discretionary Projects

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

Yes,

Comment:

I would like to see an increase in funding for most areas in which the City deals. However, unless we increase taxes, an increase in funding for Public Works would only come at the expense of other programs.

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 needs to catch up (and surpass) these other cities when it comes to traffic safety. With our community minded citizenry, we should be leading the charge in public safety.

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:

There are parts of my district (District 7) that have no sidewalks, much less curbing or gutters. I would also like to see sidewalks that were built in the mid-century right up against the street changed to the safer sidewalks that are wider and have a buffer between the street and the pedestrian.

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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 a matter of course, the City should always analyze all the impacts of bringing such a high-density structure into a neighborhood. We (Baker) have just gone through a comprehensive parking study along the Broadway corridor; not for a high rise but for the dramatic increase in business patronage. For any given area, there should be a count of available public and private spaces with an analysis on where any parking can be added. For the new structure, how and where the tenants move in and out of the structure with their cars must be examined. If private parking available to the tenants is not adequate to the projected need, then perhaps the development either needs to be scaled back, or the developer must provide more private parking.

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:

If a neighborhood is fortunate enough to already have a small area plan, then it would be better off under the new zoning code than neighborhoods that do not have a small area plan. However, only a few neighborhoods have a plan. For example, my own neighborhood, Baker, put together a plan in 2003 (of which I participated), so it's clear what kind of development would be permitted in certain areas. However, the Lowry and Clermont neighborhoods do not have a small area plan, so it's not clear what is or is not permissible to build, which has led to the current contentious state of affairs that area is experiencing.

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

More clarity and direction in the zoning code would be helpful, something I know on which the City is working.

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:

As the neighborhood candidate in my district, I would always encourage the participation of RNOs to various City boards, commissions, advisory committees, etc, I would make sure that the public is aware of all the various groups and be vocal when neighborhood organization are not at the table. To the extent that the media takes an interest in local politics, I would make sure they were aware when the City tries to block neighborhood involvement.

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:

While some of the areas of change have stabilized since Blueprint's inception, and some of the existing conditions could be updated, there are still parts of the plan that have not been implemented. Blueprint is a living document, but there is fear amongst neighborhood activists that "updated" means changing things that were agreed to in its present form. I would encourage the original stakeholders to come back to the table to protect the interests of their neighborhoods. Any newcomers to the process should be brought up to speed on what's already in Blueprint Denver before going forward.

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 means livability and sustainability for existing neighborhoods.

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:

The Entertainment District law that was passed at the state level had two areas in mind: Glendale and Larimar Square. However, the way the law was written could allow it in other areas such as (germane to my district) the Broadway corridor between 6th and Alameda Avenues. The businesses along Broadway, in no uncertain terms, do not want an Entertainment District. There should be no entertainment districts allowed where drunken and loud behavior prevents the quiet enjoyment of our homes.

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:

There is overwhelming support for short-term rentals in neighborhoods provided that they are owner occupied or primary residence only. These owner occupied residences would be happy to be taxed and regulated, as they should be, to help not only defray the cost of inspections, but to support Denver's tourism.