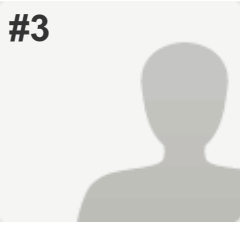


#3



**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** survey collector (Email)

**Started:**

**Last Modified:**

**Time Spent:**

**First Name:** Rafael

**Last Name:** Espinoza

**Email:**

**Custom Data:** City Council

**IP Address:** 71.196.234.9

PAGE 1

<b>Q1: What is your name please?</b>	Rafael Espinoza
<b>Q2: Which Counsel district do you hope to represent?</b>	District 1
<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>	

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<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>	Yes,  Comment: These assets should not be at the Mayor or his office. Disposal of public assets should be readily and robustly scrutinized, and the possible loss of assets should be defended by all members of council. Failure to do so is to fail an essential role of being on City Council.
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**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 believe in not only preserving public neighborhood schools, but establishing schools in communities that have the existing infrastructure, community resources, and the desire of parents to be involved. City Council needs to help plan neighborhood public schools in advance of known growth through dialogue between the City and Denver Public Schools that should be going on with regularity. As a Councilperson whose observed the growth in North Denver, it is clear given the zoning and the rate that construction permits are being issued, that Denver public schools needs to be proactive in establishing strong community neighborhood schools as a means to support a healthy stable 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:

At this moment I am not in a position to know every parcel that is legally available for designation, however, I do recognize the need to maximize protecting available open space as park area. Therefore, if there are any parcels that are up legally available for designation that haven't been and are desired or utilized as public open, I wholeheartedly support a concerted effort to complete the designation process on those parcels.

**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 am well aware of the current administration's actions around Hentzel Park and City Park. Attempts to dispose or modify these public assets are concerning, especially at a time of considerable growth and subsequent uptick in utilization of the available park space. I would work and advocate to protect open space within designated 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:

I would support the acquisition of additional park land and open space within the center of the City of Denver, provided that it is both available land and there is a need for access to additional open-space in that part of Denver. Any decision to acquire would take into consideration both the existing context, and the underlying zoning.

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:

An obvious new location for a festival park escapes me at this moment, however, if the opportunity is there and it makes economic sense, I could get behind such an endeavor. I am aware similar places exist within other cities, quite successfully. However, the region and City have facilities capable of hosting large festivals, such as Dick's Sporting Goods Park, Coors Field, Mile High Stadium (inside stadium only). Similarly, the region also has well lit playing fields with on-site restrooms and parking. Nonetheless, permitted events expected to increased noise, traffic, and have the potential for public safety issues should be minimized within neighborhood parks. Parks should be allowed serve limited team activities and general play unless these amenities are being used beyond their capacity and showing signs of overuse and distress.

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

Yes,

Comment:

More importantly, I would explore opportunities for additional parks with playing fields for Denver citizens.

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:

Denver Water is a trusted provider of potable drinking water for the citizens and residents in Denver, and has a proven track record of delivering consistently safe water. The recycled water program is one I support. If certain plant physiology are susceptible to the current recycled water chemistry, that is new to me. The utilization of recycled water is generally geared to areas that are already susceptible to high levels of pollutants and salts. If there is a specific concern about the actual impact of salt modifying the chemistry of plants that are in direct contact with humans, I would like to know more.

**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:

I rely heavily on facts and scientifically supported information. If the recycled water currently in use poses a risk to either plant or animal life, then I would support research and steps to eliminate those risks.

**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 would advocate and support such a representative. INC has a strong history and proven track record in public involvement on neighborhood issues. I would expect nothing less than one INC-affiliated representative on any advisory board that the Mayor forms particularly on matters concerning special events and utilization of parks.

INC 2015 Candidate Survey

**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?**

No,

Comment:

I would like to see how Park funds are currently being used and then determine whether additional funds are needed. That said, whatever funds are being utilized to enforce park rules I believe that those efforts should be weighted to the following periods: afternoons and evenings and particularly weekends and holidays when the impact of negative utilization of parks are disproportionately higher.

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 support a tax levied specifically for parks. If we can tax ourselves in the 100s of millions to build private ballparks such as Coors Field and Mile High Stadium then we can do this for common good parks as well.

PAGE 11: Discretionary Projects

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

No,

Comment:

Public Works is the second largest budget in our City, therefore, before providing an increase for discretionary projects, I would like to see them do better job with the funds that they have to try and capture these discretionary projects while improving the results on the ongoing work that needs to be done.

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 would support targeting the elimination of traffic injuries for the City of Denver through a program like Vision Zero. I would not necessarily expect a shelf ready version of this program from the aforementioned cities, however, I am wholeheartedly behind efforts to devise a set of recommendations like Vision Zero, that are specific to the needs and conditions of our City.

**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 absolutely would support the City of Denver pursuing and implementing best practices from other cities regarding sidewalk installation and maintenance which would naturally increase the walk-ability of our neighborhoods. Placing the burden of maintenance solely on individual homeowners for maintenance and policing the sidewalk condition have resulted in a failing sidewalk infrastructure. So, not only would I pursue best practices, but I would find funding so that these best practices could be swiftly and continuously implemented.

**PAGE 15**

**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 would require developers to engage consultants to study the effects of parking on neighborhoods on all high-rise buildings contemplated as a condition of the development. Furthermore I would require that both traffic and parking studies be performed on any rezoning from a lower density zone district to a higher density zone district where congestion is already a problem, or susceptible to being a problem.

**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 don't blame the zoning code for the maximum build-out by developers, particularly in my district, I would say that the character and the zoning codes' distorted definition of context has resulted in some pretty destabilizing developments. Therefore I do not believe that all neighborhoods have benefited from the 2010 Zoning Code. Some neighborhoods, such as Curtis Park, have benefited to some degree because they were proactive and utilized Conservation and Design Overlays to mitigate development impacts going forward.

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

I believe that the built-in reductions in parking requirements need to be addressed in a manner that preserves availability of parking in the right-of-way for both residents and businesses. Additionally, I would like to see either the elimination or a redefinition of the "garden court" form such that the form would not allow garden courts to be 15 foot wide canyons that are 35 to 40 feet deep. Since a rewrite of the 2010 code is unrealistic, I will champion overlay districts and other tools provided by the 2010 Zoning Code to add a level of refinement that is lacking in the 2010 rewrite.

**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 ask specifically INC to do outreach and prepare a slate of INC-approved candidates from which those who appoint city boards shall select from.

**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:

If the updating process involves equal or greater outreach of the same character that shaped Blueprint Denver, and the Community Planning Department commits to following up with legislative rezoning in areas that are up-zoned in confirmed Areas of Stability with new zone districts compatible with the existing fabric.

**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.**

Place-making by promoting civic space, using durable materials and listening.

INC 2015 Candidate Survey

**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:

Entertainment districts aren't necessary, but if I had to pick an area, it would be Blake, from 17th to 20th Street, or similar area that can handle crowds with few if any residential units.

**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:

Yes. It has been going on, and will continue, therefor it must be defined. I support it as a way to avoid drab commercial hotels invading neighborhoods with popular embedded business districts, and to extend unique tourism opportunities to those same areas. The legislation must address these items: They must be primary residences only. A substantial fee for a 3-year permit must be paid. Special rules need to be defined to discourage "pot tourism" meaning that a confirmed complaint about visiting pot users would count as a "demerit." Three demerits, in the life of a short-term rental would result in a substantial fine and loss of operating permit. Additionally, using a property as short term rental after a permit has been revoked should result in a more substantial and escalating fine.