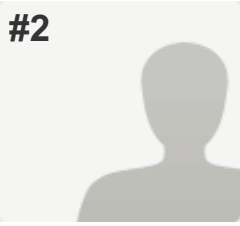


#2



COMPLETE

Collector: survey collector (Email)
Started: Saturday, March 14, 2015 1:37:27 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 14, 2015 3:38:04 PM
Time Spent: 02:00:36
First Name: Travis
Last Name: Leiker
Email:

Custom Data: City Council
IP Address: 50.152.30.244

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Q1: What is your name please?	Travis Leiker
Q2: Which Counsel district do you hope to represent?	District 10
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:

I have long believed that government and the political process are the most fundamental tools by which a community can facilitate change. As I visit with citizens throughout the 10th district, I have discovered that many of the residents feel just the opposite—disconnected, disenchanting, and not heard. They note their frustrations with council and cite two specific areas that cause the most consternation. First, they feel that Council is essentially a "rubber stamp" for the mayor's office. Certainly, my goal is not to govern by agitation. However, I believe two of the fundamental responsibilities of a city council person is to 1) ask the tough questions and 2) always work to build consensus. Failure to do so only causes friction in our community. When has saying "yes" to everything been appropriate? Second, my neighbors are frustrated by the so called "courtesy yes votes". That is, if District 11's council member supports an initiative in her/his district... I should simply go along to get along. Again, this is not how government should work. Having a thoughtful dialogue and thorough analysis is essential to arriving at the best decision. I am running, in part, to change this dynamic and allow citizens to feel reconnected with their elected representatives. As the 10th district's next city councilperson, I commit myself to always being in the community, willing to have a conversation with my constituents, and forge a lasting bond between the residents and their government. I will have an open door policy and will work to create consensus and find common ground before policies are approved...rather than after the fact.

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:

Neighbor schools are CRITICAL and ESSENTIAL to the overall health and vitality of our neighborhoods. In fact, they are the building blocks of communities. High quality, neighborhood schools enhance our community and provide for academic AND extra-curricular after school programs. It is essential to have schools within walking/biking distance of our homes and neighborhood facilities also. We must also consider single-parent families and low income communities. In either case, mobility and transportation may be difficult to achieve because of transit barriers, scheduling conflicts, and a host of other challenges. Neighborhood schools are what sets Denver apart from a more suburban lifestyle. Let us not lose this charm, character, and quality of life.

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:

The recent debates over Hentzell Park and Denver City Park Loop underscore the misguided, poorly conceived thought processes around how we think about/view our parks and open spaces. In the case of the land swap associated with Hentzell Park, the solution is simple. The land was an open space and it should have been preserved as a park. Period. We must preserve, protect, and defend our wonderful green spaces. As far as Denver City Park Loop is concerned, I think former City Councilwoman Susan Barnes-Gelt put it best when she wrote in a Denver Post guest column (12.21.13)... "It's time to implement one of the strongest recommendations... designate City Park a Denver Historic District. Doing so would mean every project, demolition or alteration within the park's perimeter requires public notification and expert design review." We should always treat our parks as the historic treasures that they are.

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:

In an urban setting, our parks and open spaces are already very limited. Failure to change this policy will only limit these spaces further. As a committed/dedicated conservationist, I will always fight to preserve our parks and open spaces.

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:

As density increases, we must be sure to increase and add to open space, parkland, and trees. I am opposed to lot line construction and in favor of the creation of community space. "Pocket parks" and the preservation of our existing trees in the inner city are among my goals.

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:

A festival site will enhance our community and create another added bonus to having festivities in our marvelous city.

INC 2015 Candidate Survey

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

Yes,

Comment:

I think recreation sporting activities in our parks and open spaces makes Denver an attractive, dynamic city-- a place for neighborhoods, local communities, and residents to gather. But, creating playing fields outside of the parks system may add to our city's ability to attract additional sporting events, tournaments, etc. thereby creating additional revenue sources for Denver.

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:

City Leadership has been quite care careless in this regard-- and with our other natural resources, trees, and water. This is unacceptable. A 100 year old tree is not replaceable and is an asset that belongs not only to us but to our posterity. As with climate change, we cannot continue to ignore science and recommendations from the experts.

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:

Data and science should support our decision making processes around recycled water.

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:

Board and commission composition cannot be conducted in a way that supports one's own policy agenda. We must have diverse thoughts, perspectives and backgrounds at the decision making table. It makes sense for INC to have a representative who can advocate specifically for the neighborhood organizations and report back to INC on progress.

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?

Yes,

Comment:

There is no point in having rules that are not enforced and inconsistent enforcement can lead to widespread issues.

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:

Yes. TABOR has restricted municipalities' ability to collect revenues for these and other public infrastructure needs. But, I think Denver residents would support a dedicated funding stream for parks and open spaces. As a city council representative, I would play a lead role in supporting such a measure as well as securing private/philanthropic dollars to support investments in our parks and parkway systems.

PAGE 11: Discretionary Projects

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

Yes,

Comment:

As Denver elected leaders begin assembling funding proposals and investments in public infrastructure, public works projects must be considered.

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:

Once again, we must look to best practices and critical data sets as we make decisions around smarter street design. If a city with more than 8 million people can do this... surely Denver can take a lead role as well.

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:

Yes, our sidewalks have been neglected for years and continue to hinder mobility throughout the city. We must make repairing, installing, and adjusting our sidewalks a top priority. I noticed in reading the Congress Park neighborhood plan from 1995 that they requested a sidewalk along the south side of the Park. There is a bus stop there. It is now 2015 and there is still not a sidewalk on the south side of the park and the curb cuts to the alley and street are not accessible. This is not acceptable

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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:

It is important to provide enough transit options that people are able to get by without cars or without one (or more) cars per person, but we are not to that point yet. At the same time, development is being approved as though there were enough transit options. We need to review each development individually looking at many data sets, such as ease of access to transit and timing of transit. Access to grocery stores and other neighborhood amenities is also an important factor on whether people will use their cars on a daily basis. Parking requirements should reflect the actually current situation, not a misguided dream for the future.

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 think the 2010 Zoning Code has only benefited some neighborhoods and hurt others. For example, Congress Park has benefited some -- largely due to their strong neighborhood association and plan. However, I think Cherry Creek has suffered a bit given the incredible amounts of development that failed to take into account parking, accessibility, and other important features.

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

N/A

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 make sure my office notifies RNO's in my district about vacancies on these boards, serve as advocate for their participation, and work tirelessly to ensure their participation in city governance.

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 a great process and program, but there have been so many exceptions made to it, and so much growth since it's implementation that it does need to be revisited. With the anticipated influx of new residents in Denver, we need to revisit Blueprint Denver sooner rather than later. Failure to do so will likely result in poor planning, inadequate decisions, and misguided policy recommendations. Mailers to citizens and other public announcements of meetings are critical to let citizens know the meetings are taking place. Neighborhood organizations should be involved and presentations made at their meetings.

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.

Building consensus while protecting Denver's environment, history, and charm.

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 current hours of operation and serving alcohol seem to be appropriate.

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:

The AirBNB and VRBO concepts are the new wave in travel accommodations. Balancing community interests and the interests of property owners is key. I support these as a great way for people to get to know our neighborhoods. They need to be taxed like other lodging, inspected and must meet certain safety standards (like carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, etc.). If they become nuisance "party houses", as I understand has been the case in the past, they can be dealt with under current nuisance laws. The draft ordinance language I have seen seems to meet these expectations.