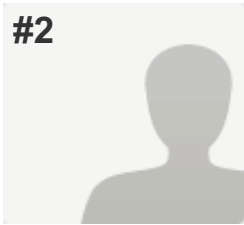


#2



COMPLETE

Collector: Email Invitation 1 (Email)

Started: Thursday, March 26, 2015 10:07:00 AM

Last Modified: Thursday, March 26, 2015 10:45:55 AM

Time Spent: 00:38:55

First Name: Jake

Last Name: Viano

Email: jakeviano@gmail.com

IP Address: 71.212.224.171

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Q1: What is your name please?

Jake Viano

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:

Absolutely I believe that Councilmembers need to represent their constituents rather than special interests. The latter is nothing short of fascism. I have stated many times publicly that one of my top reasons in running for office is that Denver is fraught with under and misrepresentation. Many of my calls to various City Councilmembers have gone unreturned over the years. I have already pledged, if elected, to ensure that trend does not continue under my watch in 7. Please note that I am not referring to Councilmember Nevitt.

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:

The quality of education we receive as children and beyond forms the very fabric of our nation. It is the responsibility of each and every one of us, especially those in public office, to ensure that we foster the best possible education for our children. Anything less would be shameful. Having schools dispersed throughout small neighborhoods forms lifelong bonds between the children, parents and teachers alike, It is these bonds that form the basis of strong neighborhoods which in turn, form great cities. Without this foundation, we risk losing our sense of community and strength of bonds.

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:

Absolutely. I have always been an advocate for green open space. With these designation comes protection for those parcels from future development and possible real estate transactions.

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:

My answer is neither yes nor no because the question is too broadly based. I would need to need to see the details on a case by case basis. However, what I would support would be requiring a vote of the people within the affected neighborhood for a transfer to a facility such as a zoo, rec center etc. I say that because the people are the ones utilizing the facilities unlike in the previous example where the land would be transferred to private ownership for possible development. (please note that this survey requires a yes or no to be clicked in order for it to be submitted)

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, so long as the City pays fair market value for the land and not inflated prices.

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:

It's a fairly broad question with many variables but yes, I support it in concept assuming it will be well placed and executed upon.

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

Yes

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, under the premise that there is a real concern and a real threat to the trees. In other words, I would support seeking a brief consultation with horticulturists prior to assembling an independent panel for a more in depth study/evaluation.

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:

Yes to a point where it is no longer a risk. I would also look for ways to value engineer the solutions so that we can keep costs down while accomplishing the mission at hand.

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

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:

Here again, I cannot respond with a simple Yes/No answer. Because I'm not familiar with a few factors 1) the current level of funding for this 2) statistics regarding compliance with rules and 3) many other details and nuances surrounding this, to provide a simple yes or no would be dishonest. (please note that this survey requires a yes or no to be clicked in order for it to be submitted)

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:

It is up to the people. I would support placing this on a referendum for the people to decide. (please note that this survey requires a yes or no to be clicked in order for it to be submitted)

PAGE 11: Discretionary Projects

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

Yes,

Comment:

Assuming all of the above information is accurate and that there truly is a backlog of projects yet to be completed which are deemed necessary, yes I would look at it. I first would look to find "fat" in other areas of the budget where we may find some funding.

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:

Yes, but of course I would want to learn more about it first.

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

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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:

Yes I always support the consulting of experts before embarking on a new path. I cannot speak to what type of parking study process as I'm not the expert in that field.

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 believe that overall the 2010 Zoning code is a good basis to work from. I am especially fond of the addition of the allowance for accessory dwelling units. These allow individual home owners on a case by case basis to increase the density on their lot. This allows for empowerment in a decentralized manner. However, there are clearly too many large multi family buildings going in around all of Denver without the existing transportation infrastructure to support them. I believe that a fatal assumption is being made by our current leaders in that if you place a large multi family building next to the light rail, these residents will utilize the light rail for their daily commutes. This is simply not always true. Denver would be well served to not develop based on these assumptions. There are in reality many families and individuals who simply cannot commute by bike, light rail or bus. A prime example of a neighborhood not benefiting from a zoning change is Crestmore park. Although the new zoning code called for single family buildings, a large 120 unit building is in the works. So this may not be the "fault" of the new zoning code, but rather our current leaders kowtowing to the developers. Cherry Creek is yet another example of a neighborhood believed by many to be experiencing over-development. The truly frightening part of over-development is that once steps have been taken forward, there is no mechanism for reversal should the outcome be deemed undesirable. Chicago was once a desirable city and highly navigable. During the late nineties and early 21st century, they experienced this same infill and over development. Lacking foresight, the city is now gridlocked with cars idling exhaust and smog most daylight hours and in to the evenings. This is not the vision I see as serving Denver well. (please note that this survey requires a yes or no to be clicked in order for it to be submitted)

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

The changes I think that need to be made would involve clearly written ordinances that require RNOs' approvals and a majority of neighbors' votes in order to grant variances.

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

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 approved as a supplement to the Denver Comprehensive plan dated 2000. Denver is a much different city today than it was 15 years ago. So yes, I fully support an update to it. In my opinion, the stakeholders, aka neighbors and residents in the various neighborhoods, as represented by their RNO's, should hold a majority share of the votes and have a direct say in how their neighborhoods are transformed if at all. After all, what is a neighborhood but the people and structures.

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.

Balancing density with existing transportation infrastructure and not projected infrastructure.

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:
I would first want to see the statistics on crime, drunken driving and problems attributable directly to the later hours from other cities like Glendale before making a yes/no statement on this. (please note that this survey requires a yes or no to be clicked in order for it to be submitted)

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 support first placing pressure on the State Legislature to address this issue. Cities creating their own sets of rules and regulation for issues as wide spread as these only results in confusion and patchworks of regulation. If the state will not act in a timely manner, then at some point it may be prudent for Denver to address this issue. I see it being very similar to Lyft and Uber. Ultimately I am not opposed to the concept of short term rentals.