

RESPONSES TO CARROLLTON AREA NETWORK CANDIDATE SURVEY

BY

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE

1. What steps will you take to lower gun & violent crime in our City?
 1. I believe restorative justice, mediation, growing the economy, workforce training, job placement, drug rehabilitation, affordable housing, mental health, youth recreation and community policing can effectively reduce our crime rate to one that is more manageable with a smaller police force. I will work with the council to organize a pilot program for a Sustainable New Orleans that provides resources to people in need. I will also, seek funding for Cease Fire, the Peacekeepers, and some other restorative justice providers who have been effective in reducing gun violence.
2. What will you do to reduce the number of people incarcerated in our City & to improve success of re-entry for prisoners returning home upon release?
 1. I will introduce policy to stop jailing people for failure to pay fines and other non-violent crimes in which restorative justice, mediation, diversion programs, and other methods could be used to make victims whole through non-punitive measures. I'll seek to "ban the box" on employment applications. I will also work to create more incentives for businesses who hire ex-offenders.
3. Do you support the current policy on bail for City offenses? (yes/no)
 1. No, the system is too inequitable
4. What is your position on the role of New Orleans police in enforcement of Federal immigration law?
 1. I believe the NOPD should only do what the Law states is required of them, nothing more or less.

HOUSING, LAND-USE, ZONING, PRESERVATION, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY / DEVELOPMENT, ETC.

(Housing costs are rising dramatically for both renters and homeowners. New Orleans Data Center recently reported that renters need to earn \$19 per hour to be able to rent in New Orleans.)

1. In our District A neighborhoods, an increasing number of long-term residents of all income levels can no longer afford to live here. Why do you think this is happening and would you do to reverse this trend?
 1. Those who benefit from rising housing costs also benefit from removing residents and businesses from properties that can be replaced by short term flip projects or long term investment opportunities. These same people benefit from rising rents. I believe that we can improve neighborhoods by retaining long term homeowners, giving them access to resources for renovation and property maintenance.
2. What will you do to support accessibility and wide distribution of affordable housing across neighborhoods?
 1. I will support policy that insures all 72 historic neighborhoods across the city share the responsibility of providing affordable housing. Prioritizing blighted property, I will seek to partner with NORA, HANO, for profit and non-profit developers, and community owned land trusts to purchase properties, renovate or build anew, and maintain affordability in target areas, indefinitely.
 2. We also need to adopt the most recent Residential Building Code and work toward annual energy usage disclosure in leasing agreements and real estate listings in the MLS.
3. Do you support current policies related to Short Term Rentals? What changes will you make if any, and how would you ensure enforcement of these regulations?
 1. Yes, I believe that the current policies for Short Term Rentals are a good first try and will watch and listen to see how effective we are at enforcing the policies and whether there are more efficient ways to achieve the same or better results. One change that needs to be made either way is that all inspection departments need cross training on interdepartmental standards and unification of reporting technology.
4. Carrollton is under partial HDLC control to review requests for demolition. What enforcement mechanism will you employ to prevent 1) deterioration of historic structures and 2) demolition through negligence?
 1. I will support interdepartmental cross training for city inspectors and unification and updating of inspection technology to help the departments become more efficient and create more transparency for all stakeholders.
 2. I will also seek to create more resources for homeless, first time homebuyers, and affordable housing providers.
5. District A residents are receiving tax bills that are sometimes 50% higher than the previous year. How will you lessen the impact of increased valuation of homes and make it easier for residents to pay their tax bill?
 1. I will work to reduce waste in the city budget, streamlining the community development process and focusing on growing the economy and number of high paying jobs. This will allow us to slow the inflation of property taxes.

Infrastructure, Green Space, Parks, Recreation, Public Services, etc.

Infrastructure

1. Given the city's recognition of climate change & recent flooding events, what steps will you take to prioritize resilience and sustainability in the city's infrastructure?
 1. I will call for a 100 year plan for our city's infrastructure, allowing international engineering specialists and other municipalities to participate in the planning process rather than selecting one company. To insure transparency, I will call for an RFQ for local engineers, landscape architects, project managers, anthropologists, neighborhood leaders, parents and construction professionals who want to participate in the building of our new infrastructure to attend planning meetings.
 2. In example, one focus will be to ensure that the participating contractors are hiring chronically unemployed and underemployed citizens and keeping them busy with the required maintenance. Once we have selected the technology most appropriate to sustain our infrastructure, we will focus on providing the training opportunities to local businesses through tuition reimbursement of employees who show promise.
2. Given that moving towards making New Orleans a "green" city may impact Entergy's profits, what can the city's regulatory powers do to assure renewable sustainable energy use is optimized and rates controlled now and in the future?
 1. Firstly, promote energy efficiency. Increase building standards by first updating the Residential Energy Code and moving toward building standards that produce higher performing buildings. I believe Entergy should be required to provide on-bill financing for residential, commercial and industrial energy efficiency improvements. We can ensure those savings with certified energy raters who can provide computer generated predictions of what energy and financial savings the improvements will yield and act as a third party verify that the improvements are installed according to international best practices.
 2. With better performing buildings, New Orleans will have a lower energy footprint and will be in a better position to pay for utility grade renewable energy technology.
 3. Community owned renewable energy cooperatives can help make sustainable energy more accessible. We should provide funding to support all initiatives that achieve even the slightest positive return as these improvements are permanent solutions to energy scarcity and will heavily high returns in the future.
3. What reforms in S&WB governance will you advocate to assure accountability to the city and execute citizen oversight?
 1. Under my leadership, we will set high performance standards for Sewerage and Water Board and require S&WB's leadership to develop a sustainable strategy to meet or exceed those standards. We will ensure that the leadership of the S&WB is comprised of people who deeply understand advanced technology and will lead the effort to train local contractors to implement and maintain the best performing water system for a Sustainable New Orleans.
 2. During the planning process, all citizens will be invited to view and participate in working groups to ensure community education and buy-in. Neighborhood Associations and community-based businesses will have opportunities to participate in planning, implementation, and even long term public education and maintenance.

3. We will work hard to ensure that State and Federal officials see our work as a model for sustainable development and that our scientists and engineers are credited for leading an international re-investment in communities and infrastructure.

Parks

1. What steps would you take to ensure public oversight in parks, particularly those which are governed as a public private partnership, such as Audubon and City Parks?
 1. My platform includes making resources available to neighborhood associations for more sustainable engagement of residents. With their help, and the implementation of surveys accessible by smart devices, we will determine whether residents are receiving the services they need from their parks and recreation centers. When residents' needs are not met, our council should be responsible to citizens for assisting in filling those needs, no matter what our partnership(s) look like.
2. Would you support the expansion of the Lafitte Greenway to include an additional 1/2 mile across City Park Avenue to Canal Boulevard? (yes/no)
 1. Yes

Public Services

1. What will you do to ensure adequate capacity and accessibility for Mental Health and substance abuse care in the city?
 1. Our traumatized, chronically depressed, and mentally ill citizens have all of the human needs that non-affected citizens have. Food, water, clothing, and shelter are some of those needs, as are belonging and achievement that leads to self actualization. We need to grow the resources and opportunities available for this population and others who are disproportionately affected by poverty and isolation.
 2. I see substance abuse as an epidemic that needs to be contained and eliminated. Professionals say that this can only happen when dependency on the drug is replaced with healthy behavior. Having neighbors, friends and family who have recovered from drug abuse, I believe that free community events and opportunities for self improvement are the best replacements for dependency on unhealthy habits. I hope to increase the number of opportunities for community engagement and self improvement in each neighborhood.

Budget, Taxation, City Finances, Ethics and Good Government / Patronage

1. What do you think should be done to improve and increase citizen participation in government decision making processes?
 1. The City Council and City Planning Commission use neighborhood associations as vessels to engage citizens but do little to ensure that all citizens are truly represented by the associations they work with. I'm proposing that we use technology—such as links on smart devices to solicit resident responses on proposed policy and budget decisions before our council votes—to compliment our community participation plan and participatory budgeting process. I believe that the Office of Neighborhood engagement can provide assistance to organizations to increase community involvement.

2. How would you insure that our many commissions fairly represent all the residents and fairly manage the public interest and our public dollars?
 1. My proposed smart technology for educating and engaging citizens will produce a transparent record of where residents stand on issues facing our city. When commissions are not responsive to the needs of citizens, the proof will be in the data, providing all the evidence we need to make changes in policy, funding, and leadership when required.
3. When is it appropriate for the City Council to override decisions made by CPC, HDLC and other city department recommendations.
 1. When CPC, HDLC, and other departments recommendations do not address resident concerns, or do not accomplish all that the Council envisions for a more Sustainable New Orleans, City Council has the right to override their decision. Under my leadership, this will be a rarity, as I will ensure that all citizens have a way to propose solutions without having to appear at meetings they may not be able to attend.