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1. What are the top three issues facing your Ward?

The three top issues facing Ward 5 today are crime, the under-development of transit infrastructure and lack of democracy.

2. What are the top three issues facing the city as a whole, if different from above?

The three top issues facing Calgary as a whole are nearly the same as those that face Ward 5. We are faced with crime, a serious housing crisis, and lack of democracy.

3. **Urban Sprawl and Housing**

- a. Do you support the concept of extending Transit-Oriented Development throughout the city, including in established neighbourhoods generally and in your ward? What is your stance on the proposed development at Dalhousie Station (in Varsity)?

I believe that Transit-Oriented Development is an excellent idea and I was very excited to read what ~~was~~ being proposed for Dalhousie Station. This is an idea that we can take and begin to implement in other parts of the city as well. The areas around Rundle and Whitehorn Station have a lot of unused space around them which could easily be developed to benefit people visiting from other parts of the city as well as benefiting the residents of Ward 5.

- b. Are we facing a housing crisis in Calgary? If so, what should be done about it? If you are an incumbent, what have you specifically done about this?

There is no denying that we are facing a housing crisis in this city. The rest of the province is suffering from a similar problem and, unless we begin acting now

on a local level, we will be facing some severe economic troubles. The city's economy can only continue to grow if we are bringing people into the province and keeping them here. Otherwise, the boom just goes to waste if people emigrate here from other provinces only to move to Saskatchewan or Manitoba because they can't find a home. On top of all this, our government has a moral obligation to alleviate the suffering of those the government is meant to protect and defend. Our current government has failed to do all within its power to fulfill its moral obligations. I have a much stronger sense of duty to my community. The housing crisis must be stopped now. The suffering must be stopped now. I have a strategy in place to do this and I look forward to implementing it.

- c. Do you support legalization of secondary suites in all existing neighbourhoods, subject only to reasonable safety concerns? Why or why not?

I fully support the legalization of secondary suites in Calgary. However, I feel the term "legalization" here is not quite an accurate depiction of the current situation or what legislation on secondary suites would be aimed at. Secondary suites are already legal. There is nothing criminal about renting out a basement suite unless the landlord-tenant relationship is done under the table and without government regulation. So what we would be looking at on the issue of secondary suites would be re-regulating them rather than "legalizing" them. Strong safety standards would be imposed to ensure that no one living in the home with a secondary suite is at risk of preventable accidents. So to make secondary suites more available to everyone, we'll have to look at improving safety regulations for them, look into offering tax incentives for home owners to set up such a suite and try cutting down on irrelevant red tape. This is a top priority of mine.

- d. Do you believe that urban sprawl is a problem for the city? If you believe it is a problem, what will you do to address it? (If you are an incumbent, what have you already specifically done?) If you don't see it as a problem, please explain why.

Urban sprawl is a major problem for Calgary. It's often been said that Calgary occupies the same amount of geographic space as New York City but has a fraction of the population of that American metropolis. We also have a fraction of the population density of Longueuil, Québec or Mississauga, Ontario. Both of those cities are considered by some to be suburbs of Montréal and Toronto rather than cities in their own right. Having a city purely made up of suburbs is simply not healthy or conducive to a strong sense of cohesion and community. We in Calgary need to learn to implement Smart Growth policies. We need Calgary to build up, not build out. Transit-Oriented Development will help mitigate this problem but the City also needs to be more careful with development projects and should attempt to consolidate within the space we already have.

4. Transportation

- a. Has the City been doing a good job of addressing transportation needs? What, if anything, would you do differently?

The City has done a reasonably good job of addressing transportation needs. But this is the average performance when one takes the city overall into consideration. When one looks at specific areas of Calgary, one can see glaring inequalities in how transportation needs are satisfied. It almost seems like there is an unofficial policy of "The Northwest first". Whenever transit is to be expanded or developed further, it always seems to take place in the Northwest before any other area of the city is considered. Our municipal government needs to start addressing the needs of the Northeast and other areas of the city with much more consideration. There's more to Calgary than the Northwest!

- b. How often do you use public transit? Bus, C-train, or both?

I'm a frequent user of public transit but there's been times when I've been forced to drive somewhere in the Northwest, adding to the traffic. It's unfortunate but when you need to get to the University in a hurry from up in the Northeast, it can be tough to take a bus and two trains with a tight schedule. If transit were expanded in the Northeast, I'd definitely use it to get anywhere in the city. But, at this time, it's just not well-developed enough to be on time for appointments and cut down on traffic.

- c. Does our current transit system meet the needs of the city? If not, how specifically would you improve it?

The current transit system just does not adequately meet the needs of people living in this city. The Northwest is well-connected within itself but there is more to Calgary than just the Northwest. People from the Northeast are forced to sit through long bus and train rides to reach anywhere else in Calgary. I remember riding the trains for an hour to get to University. During the winter, it gets very difficult to wait for your train connections at downtown platforms. So, in order to improve our current transit system, we have to start considering parts of the city which have been neglected in the past.

- d. Are you in favour of the current strategic plan for transit? Why or why not? If not, what changes would you make?

The current LRT plan is very well structured but it misses out on one very important aspect of public transit- buses. Very little thought seems to have been given over to considering the possible roles BRT buses and bus lanes could play in connecting the Northeast with the rest of Calgary. The City must invest more in buses for the current strategic plan to fully satisfy the transportation needs of all Calgarians.

- e. The City's current plan does not envision direct C-Train service to either the airport or Mount Royal College. Would you favour amending the plan to reach these two destinations (both within close distance of planned lines)? Why or why not?

Mount Royal College just can't be neglected. A lot of students from the Northeast attend there and are forced to clog the roads with traffic as they make the commute across the city. Additionally, the airport cannot be neglected. I know from first hand experience that many cities in Europe, America and other parts of Canada which have a similar population to Calgary also happen to have train service that links to the airport. There seems to be no reason why we should not have trains to bring tourists into the city when Munich or Montréal do. Calgarians don't deserve any less than people from those two cities or any other city. But, at the same time, we have to consider the feasibility and costs of building such transport infrastructure. Public transit in Calgary already suffers from a labour shortage. Bus drivers are routinely expected to work over-time in this city. So before we deal with the transportation problem in the city, we have to work out the basics first- how to we keep workers here once they're in Calgary. Once we have enough transit workers who are being properly looked after, then we can start making plans to expand the transit system to reach Mount Royal College and the airport.

- f. Are there other areas of the city that are underserved by transit? How would you address this?

Every part of this city is deserving of transit. One of the things necessary for Calgary to prosper is for a strong sense of community to exist between individuals, neighbourhoods and Wards. To shut off one part of the city from transit would be to exclude that community from the greater whole. It would not just be those excluded who would suffer. The entire city would suffer from this sort of arbitrary division. Of course, it's simply not possible nor is it completely desirable to have a transit station in every neighbourhood. But we can make up for a lack of train service between certain areas through expanding bus service to those areas.

No, I don't think there are any areas in Calgary which are undeserved by transit. Every area equally deserves to be connected with the rest of the city. Now it's our job to make that happen.

5. Vibrant and sustainable communities

- a. What will you do to address homelessness and urban poverty in the city? (If you are an incumbent, what have you already specifically done?) If you don't see this as a problem, please explain why.

It's undeniable that homelessness is a huge issue in Calgary. It affects every single one of us. Some have been affected more directly than others but we are all affected in some way. To address this issue, we need to become aggressive

in tackling not just the symptoms but also the roots of deeper problems in our city, province and country that have led to the crisis we are now facing.

We need to ban developer donations to political campaigns so that our elected representatives in Council have the best interests of Calgarians in mind rather than the best interests of their campaign donors.

We need to re-regulate secondary suites. In other words, we need to cut down on the red tape and the drawn out length of the approval process for secondary suites. But, at the same time, we need to guarantee the safety of every one in a home with a secondary suite. This can be done through good policy and rational thinking on behalf of Council, rather than earnest hand wringing about how to balance big developer interests with pressure from the activist community.

We need to pressure the provincial government to take action. The province could play a significant role in coordinating and funding efforts to combat homelessness and urban poverty. But the province has stood by and done little to nothing to address the problem. Council has to stand up for those it is meant to represent. Council has to challenge the provincial government and demand funding for affordable housing and low-income housing development. A Ministry of Housing run by the province would also help contribute to coordinating efforts to deal with the issue.

Rent caps need to be imposed so that tenants only have to pay what is reasonable on the housing market as opposed to being effectively forced out of their homes and onto the streets so their apartment can be developed into condominium suites.

We need to work with the Drop-In Center, rather than against it. It is true- we cannot warehouse people. But to suggest that the Drop-In Center does nothing more than offer a spot on the floor to sleep for a night is to grossly misrepresent the role that the Drop-In Center plays in combating urban poverty in Calgary. By cooperating on rehabilitation programs, we can strike at the roots of deeper social problems that lie beneath the homelessness crisis.

There are just so many ways we can try to deal with homelessness and urban poverty in Calgary. And it is just so frustrating to see Council acting on very few of them. We need people in Council who care about Calgarians- people who can take action and enact what I've mentioned above and so much more.

b. What is your stance on arts funding? Do you support the recent recommendations of the Calgary Arts Development Authority?

Normally, I would be fully supportive of the recommendations made by the Calgary Arts Development Authority and of more municipal funding for the arts. Unfortunately, the timing is bad. At the moment, we are facing a serious crisis in regards to homelessness and urban poverty. We need to address these issues first. Housing just has to come first. Once every one has their basic needs and rights addressed in Calgary, we can shift the focus of municipal funding from affordable housing and social programs to much more progressive ideas like arts funding. The city has a limited budget and I couldn't vote with a clear conscience to put money towards the arts while knowing that there are people in my city sleeping in the cold.

- c. What is your stance on the city's curbside recycling plan? Would you extend the plan to include recycling of organics and plastics? Why or why not?

The city's curbside recycling plan was long over-due and I am extremely pleased that it was finally implemented. Now that we have this foundation to build from, the City should work to expand the plan to include the recycling of plastics. Organics might be a trickier issue as there are health concerns that come along with many methods of organic recycling. I believe strongly in environmental stewardship but we also have to promote the health of Calgarians.

We should also try to encourage public places like shopping malls to expand their recycling. I don't know how many times I've been shopping at a mall, finish a soft drink and have to carry the bottle around on my person until I get home because there just isn't any recycling. This shouldn't happen so the City needs to remind private businesses like shopping malls that they have a big part to play in protecting our environment too.

- d. What other environmental initiatives, if any, would you favour?

This is a pretty general question so I will have to keep my answers very general also. Montréal has public recycling boxes next to every trash can. I've only really ever seen public recycling boxes by trash cans here when I'm in some shopping malls and the University of Calgary. This has to change.

We should also introduce door-to-door recycling, reduce light pollution and energy usage, expand public transit and push the province to invest further in alternative sustainable energy sources.

- e. What will you do to address crime and safety issues in Calgary? (If you are an incumbent, what have you already specifically done?) If you don't see this as a problem, please explain why.

It's been very disappointing to see youth crime on the rise in Calgary. It's been even more upsetting to hear that corporations in Calgary have been advising employees new to the city to "beware the core". They have good reason to be concerned for the safety and welfare of their employees. Now we have to make things change on the ground so that this no longer is an issue that embarrasses us. Therefore, I am putting forward a three-pronged plan to deal with crime and safety issues in our city. The prongs of this plan are social justice, vigilance and community involvement. Social justice can be achieved through a very ambitious series of policies to deal with the issues of homelessness and urban poverty. Vigilance can be achieved through increased policing but also increased sensitivity from the police force. Community involvement can most easily be accomplished through expanding community programs and promoting public awareness of issues that affect their neighbourhoods and the city as a whole.

6. Taxes and Revenues

- a. Does the current system of funding municipal government largely through property taxes work well? If not, what changes would you recommend?

The system works well but it might be hurting people more than it should be. If we were to scale back property taxes somewhat and introduce taxes on motor vehicle registration and home transfers, we could minimize the financial impact municipal taxes have on Calgarians.

- b. Is there enough money in the system currently to fund your priorities? If now, how will you fund them?

There is enough money in the system currently to fund my priorities. I believe that there are ways of minimizing the costs of programs while still guaranteeing Calgarians the maximum quality of services from those programs. The province should also be assisting municipal governments like our own and once the provincial government is fulfilling its obligations, there will be little trouble in finding the requisite funds for making this city realize its true potential.

7. Political reform.

- a. Does the current system of campaign financing work well? If not, what changes would you favour?

We need to restrict developer donations to campaigns. Someone on Council should be voting on housing issues according to their morals, not according to who helped them out the most during the campaign to office. We also need to move up Nomination Day. By only accepting nominations one month before the election, the current system is strongly biased in favour of incumbents. An incumbent has the legitimacy of office for raising campaign funds for years before the next election. A candidate challenging the incumbent, meanwhile, has only a month of legitimacy.

By accepting nominations not long after an election, the playing field would be levelled out significantly.

- b. In the absence of rules around disbursement of campaign surpluses, what will you do with any leftover funds?

I will donate my campaign surpluses to institutions in Calgary which work to deal with social problems like homelessness.

- c. Are there any other structural reforms you would favour?

My four pillars of policy represent my four priorities. They are Justice, Democracy, Health and Infrastructure. While I have detailed several policies from

these pillars in prior questions, there are many more policies under these pillars which would make Calgary a better place for everyone.

In regards to political structural reforms, I would support creating a Question Period in Council where private citizens or activist groups could pose questions to their elected representatives to find out what is being done to address issues dear to them.

I would also support a “Yes or No” vote to acclimation. If the people of a Ward vote against acclimating their Alderman, then this would constitute a municipal version of a by-election and would extend the vote for that Ward so that new candidates could step forward.

I would also support a rotating chair for Council. Basically, chairing the meetings would begin with the Mayor and rotate through all of the Aldermen. This would allow an equal voice for everyone on Council and encourage a diversity of views and strategies for tackling problems in Calgary.

8. **FOR INCUMBENTS ONLY:** What are your three major accomplishments this term? Of what are you most proud?