



Candidate Name:        \_\_\_ Dale Hodges \_\_\_

Ward:                        \_\_\_ One \_\_\_

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Contact name/number:    540 0532 \_\_\_

1. What are the top three issues facing your Ward?
  - a. Improving the overall transportation system, including transit service.
  - b. Addressing the lack of regional recreational facilities in the northwest area of the city.
  - c. New development and re-development of sites within both the established and new community areas.
  
2. What are the top three issues facing the city as a whole, if different from above?
  - a. I think that on a city-wide basis, the primary issues are somewhat different. One primary concern is the rate of new development and general growth of the city.
  - b. Improving the transportation system including transit services.
  - c. The incidence of criminal activity and gang related activity in the city is of general public concern in the city.
  
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 have expressed an opinion on T.O.D. development on several occasions over the past two years. At the present time, there is no land use application before the Planning Department for the Varsity portion of the Dalhousie Station area. However, it is expected that a land use application for the site will be submitted in the near future. Under the present Municipal Government Act it is the evidence submitted at the future public hearing which will be the determining factor for any Council decision. A Council member cannot publicly state an opinion before a public hearing.

- 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?

We are facing an affordable housing crisis in Calgary. The City of Calgary is endeavouring to co-operate with other levels of government (both provincial and federal) and private sector development companies as well as a number of non-profit housing agencies to encourage the construction of affordable housing.

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

I do not support the legalization of secondary suites in all existing neighbourhoods. However, where an illegal secondary suite is located on a residential lot designated as R-2, and the lot has at least a 50 ft width, then the proper development and building permits should be applied for and obtained to ensure compliance with all current planning and safety rules.

- 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 development in Calgary is within the jurisdiction of the City of Calgary and more specifically within the control of City Council. Over the past five years, if not longer, the City Planning Dept. has been recommending higher residential density in the new suburban areas. We have seen the average residential

density increase in units per acre (u.p.a.) from 5 u.p.a. to 7-8 u.p.a., and more recently 8 u.p.a. has become more prevalent. In addition, new development in the growth areas only proceeds after a Community Plan has been approved at a public hearing of Council. Like it or not, the major land development companies are satisfying a demand for the single family house in the suburban areas of Calgary. However, at the same time, significant high density residential development is being approved in the inner city areas of the Beltline, Victoria Park and the west end of Downtown.

#### 4. Transportation

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

Over the past seven years and particularly since the Fuel Tax Agreement with the Province has been in place, a number of recent transportation infrastructure projects have been constructed e.g. the extension of the LRT line from 53 St to Nose Hill Dr. N.W. I believe the City has been doing a good job of addressing transportation needs, given the capital budget constraints and Council debt financing policies.

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

I most often use public transit in the downtown core i.e. The C-train, at least once a week.

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

The current transit system carries approx. 260,000 passengers each work day. The system was not designed for this level of ridership and requires additional C-train cars, extensions to existing station platforms to accommodate 4-car trains and the purchase of additional new buses.

The new Provincial funding agreement will allow the City of Calgary to both extend existing LRT lines and build new lines e.g. the new proposed west LRT line.

- 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 strategic plan for transit intends to provide both C-train service to the downtown core as well as bus service to the peripheral areas of the city. I have supported the current plan but the ultimate transit service as contemplated will require a larger amount of funding than provided under the new agreement with the Province. Therefore a review of the plan will be required within the next two years.

- 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?

I believe that it is only a matter two things i.e. public demand expressed in terms of projected transit ridership, and available funding sources, to provide the reasons to extend direct C-train service to the International Airport. C-train service to Mount Royal College would need to depend on the same two criteria noted above i.e. projected ridership and adequate capital funding.

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

Certainly some areas of the city are underserved by transit primarily because of either projected ridership being below the threshold level for transit service and/or simply because of lack of available buses. As a result transit service will not be available until the minimum ridership and funds are available.

## **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.

These are important issues. However, under the current Municipal Government Act and other provincial legislation both issues fall within the jurisdiction of the Province of Alberta. Never the less, the City of Calgary has taken steps and will be taking further steps to provide new buildings to accommodate the homeless e.g. the recent purchase of both land and a building in S.E. Calgary.

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

I am active supporter of the arts believing that the one of the ways a city expresses itself is through its culture. I voted for the Report produced by the Calgary Arts Development Authority regarding a new City of Calgary Arts policy which was recently adopted by Council.

- 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?

I did not support the new curbside recycling plan which is scheduled to begin in 2009 for two reasons:

- the City of Calgary does operate a recycling program, mainly in the form of depots located in various parts of the city
- the projected capital and operating costs of the new program are far too expensive

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

Public education as the private sector and households are also responsible for reducing, reusing and recycling. Everyone should be responsible for reducing water and other natural resource consumption.

- 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.

Firstly adequate funding should be provided for the operating budget of the Calgary Police Service and additional police resources will need to be provided for community policing. However, part of the answer depends upon helping organisations such as Block Watch and Neighbourhood Watch so that everyone becomes part of crime prevention.

## **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 current system of funding the operating budgets of municipal government primarily by means of property taxes, business taxes and

user fees has obvious limitations. A better system or formula for funding would be to establish a new revenue sharing agreement with the Province of Alberta such as has recently been done with Municipal Sustainability Initiative Agreement.

- b. Is there enough money in the system currently to fund your priorities? If not, how will you fund them?

The new Sustainability Initiative Agreement will fund some new infrastructure projects such as transportation and recreation projects. However, the on-going operation costs of these new facilities will continue to be a significant challenge given the impact on the City's operating budgets. Continued negotiation with the Province will be required.

## **7. Political reform.**

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

At the present time there is a bylaw in place for campaign contributions. It requires public reporting once every three years. Certainly improvements can be made to the bylaw e.g. limiting the number of fund raising events in any given three year period or limiting the amount of individual contributions to any one candidate.

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

Use these towards future municipal election campaigns.

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

See (a) above.

8. **FOR INCUMBENTS ONLY:** What are your three major accomplishments this term? Of what are you most proud?
1. The rebuilding and widening of Crowchild Tr N.W. including the addition of two major grade-separated interchanges at Sarcee Tr./Silver Springs Gate and at Nose Hill Dr./Crowchild Tr. N.W.
  2. The extension of the N.W. LRT line from 53 Street to Nose Hill Drive N.W.
  3. The beginning of, and on-going implementation of the Bowmont Park Management Plan