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**Q1**

Candidate Name

Aron Cory

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**Q2**

Email Address (for follow-up only)

Arontcory@gmail.com

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**Q3**

**Ward 1**

Ward/Constituency

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**Q4**

What do you envision the City's role to be in economic development?

The city should have clear and simple rules for businesses which would allow for innovation and competition. There should be transparency in awarding contracts and confidence that contracts will not be broken. Finally the city should encourage a strong local economy as well as promoting Saskatoon abroad.

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**Q5**

How can the City help businesses survive through the COVID-19 pandemic?

Having a clear, long term plan on COVID19 would allow businesses to plan. Establishing a strategy (with the province) on measures that will be put in place or relinquished depending on clear metrics. For example, if Saskatoon sees a consistent increase of cases with x number of patients hospital we can expect x restrictions. If we see cases stay below x number we can lift x restrictions. This would allow businesses to plan ahead and make preparations, this would also give the public a goal to work towards and keep people more invested.

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**Q6**

Crime and safety are key election issues. What is your plan to address these concerns, including your position on defunding the police?

Bolstering groups that provide social services in the city would be the most cost effective way forward. Getting people out of cycles of addiction, poverty, homelessness and crime will bring people forward into a productive lifestyle and free our police to do the work they are best at, fighting crime. I am not a proponent of defund the police but I believe we will have a larger return on investment by attacking the root causes of crime. By allowing our police to offload mental health check or nuisance calls we will get them out of situations where they are set up to fail. We will get them back to the work they are trained for and we will allow them to take pride in a job well done.

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**Q7**

What are your priorities for major capital projects in Saskatoon?

I believe the Library should go ahead as we have committed to this project and if we back out now we signal to other partners that we cannot be trusted to sign contracts a year before an election and/or any project that last more than 4 years is questionable.

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**Q8**

Do you share the concerns many residents and businesses have regarding increased taxes and user fees?

**Yes,**

Please elaborate::

The lack of transparency is a major issue. We are unable to determine where our tax money is being spent and why service fees keep climbing. We need better reporting on spending and more accountability for those holding the purse strings.

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**Q9**

What steps would you recommend the City take to curb or mitigate rising operational costs?

The city should implement a model similar to Kelowna BC. Each department should strive to balance budgets either by reducing costs or increasing service charges but with an increase in service. Rules on proper reporting should be implemented. Reports should lay out clear goals, timelines, budgets and results. Any report coming from city hall including "Darren Hill's End of Summer Update" should follow this format or something similar. This would stop wasteful spending and increase transparency and accountability.

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**Q10**

If necessary, would you support any initiatives City Administration may take to freeze or even reduce staffing levels?

**No,**

Please elaborate::

At this time I would not. Increasing the number of unemployed is counter productive at this time. People need some stability through this crisis. Furthermore, our lack of transparency is crippling our abilities to make these decisions properly. Without proper metrics and transparent documentation we have no way to analyze and determine the effectiveness of our actions. Decisions need to be made using data and analytics, not ideology.

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**Q11**

How do you believe that the City should spend COVID-19 relief money provided by the provincial or federal government? Do you believe that relief money should be spent in the area for which it is specified (e.g. infrastructure, etc.)?

The city is in desperate need of infrastructure investment in Ward 1. By investing now during this pause in growth we will be prepared for better times and be poised for growth. When our economy does come roaring back we will not be restrained by poor infrastructure. Other relief funds should be allocated to economic drives like low interest businesses and homeowner loans that can be used to renovate or improve energy efficiency. This will help kick start our economy, provide jobs, reduce crime (the best social program is a job), increase home values, increase tax revenue for the city, reduce utility costs for home owners and businesses and possibly stimulate more innovation.

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**Q12**

Do you believe the decision regarding the Main Library funding/debt should be revisited?

**No,**

Please elaborate::

To revisit this decision will indicate that we are untrustworthy partners. It will show we are unable to sign contracts a year before an election or contracts that last more than 4 years. We will lose credibility and miss out on future projects of this caliber.

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**Q13**

What is your #1 priority on your election platform?

Increasing transparency and accountability to help reduce the cost of government and strengthen our democracy.

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