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**Q1**

Candidate Name

Paul Miazga

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**Q2**

Email Address (for follow-up only)

miazga.paul@gmail.com

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**Q3**

**Ward 5**

Ward/Constituency

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**Q4**

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

Facilitation, promotion and incentivizing.

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**Q5**

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

By putting pressure on the province to open the economy back up and letting people get on with their lives.

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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?

The key to safety downtown is in finally enacting a comprehensive policy to end homelessness, and moving the Lighthouse is akin to kicking the can down the road, as is setting up some city sub-committee to "study" the issue; we need an equitable solution now. Gangs and drugs are a problem that we need to get a handle on, and de-funding the police simply isn't an option (though all civic departments and entities must always show fiscal responsibility and face public scrutiny in this regard).

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**Q7**

What are your priorities for major capital projects in Saskatoon?

The new downtown library should only go ahead with existing funding and include a partner such as the YMCA so the result is a multi-purpose facility much like the Lawson or Lakewood Leisure Centres.

A new downtown arena idea seems rather far-fetched since Saskatoon is highly unlikely to ever get an NHL franchise, and under the current virus scare, concerts, trade shows and other such events are not even on the horizon, so why the rush to build? Parking remains a major issue, as would be public transportation to service such a facility. The City has existing north downtown plans from 2014 on which we've collectively spent millions of dollars, but suddenly these are obsolete? It simply makes no sense at this time. If we want to support minor hockey in the city, let's build rinks in various underserved parts of the city so parents don't have to drive all over Hell's half-acre to take their kids to practice. If we want a new concert venue/tradeshaw facility/convention centre, let's support the private sector in funding, building, owning and operating it without taxpayer money.

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**Q8**

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

**Yes,**

Please elaborate::

Residents simply aren't getting bang for their buck when more than twice the annual snow removal budget goes just to service the City's \$331 mln debt. Garbage pickup in the fall goes back to bi-weekly pickup before the October long weekend? That makes no sense, and neither does charging homeowners for green bins when thousands of people continue to dump their yard waste in the black bins for free. If we're trying to divert compostable waste from the landfill, why aren't we providing green bins to everyone who wants one out of existing property tax revenues? We need a price on household waste so we can trade with the RM of Corman Park and take trucks off the road that currently take garbage from the north end to the Dundonald landfill instead of a few kms north to the CP landfill, and conversely the RM could take waste from lands south of the city to the Dundonald landfill.

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**Q9**

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

We need to consider getting out of the business of Parks and Rec maintenance and out of Leisure Services going forward. We could take entire fleets off the City's books by having the private sector take over (which would help with the City's intentions behind the proposed Low Emission Community Plan), and they would be cheaper and more efficient at doing so. As for Leisure Services, we need to consider what Calgary has done in this regard, as most of such facilities there are built, owned and operated by the YMCA of Calgary (a charitable organization) with no public money involved other than perhaps the land grants (if any). We also need fleet monitoring equipment to know when and where City vehicles are at all times, plus greater oversight is needed as regards the work of civic water and sewer construction crews so that all jobs done by them are independently tested for density during backfill and compaction. At present, many such jobs don't pass the "smell test", resulting in dips/slumping in roads and higher costs associated with repaving these areas just a few years down the road.

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**Q10**

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

**Yes,**

Please elaborate::

We currently have a huge cohort of engineers and bylaw inspectors on the City payroll, many of whom fill in their time sheets and waste time at work. Reducing their numbers would be a good start.

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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.)?

I'm not entirely familiar with what has been earmarked by the province or feds in this regard. Covid relief money could go to subsidizing areas of the city or sectors of the economy hardest hit by the fallout from government emergency measures, so to my mind simply spending this et on big infrastructure projects (except to upgrade areas designated for sewer, water and other upgrades to prepare for denser infill development) should be carefully considered.

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**Q12**

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

**Yes,**

Please elaborate::

Given the changes Covid emergency response measures have created and the financial burdens many have had to bear, a re-think if the SPL's plans is not only warranted but vital; after the debacle of the Remai Modern and the huge overspend on that, the public has to have confidence in the plans that will eventually take shape. Sadly, since March, the SPL board has not mentioned the elephant in the room at any of their subsequent board meetings: how does Covid change the role of libraries and capital spending plans? To my mind, a fundamental shift has taken place and we need to scale back on this, perhaps even bring in a partner to make this a multi-purpose facility. The current plans include (among other things) online gaming rooms, which do exactly what to encourage reading and learning? A cafe is to be included, as are meeting rooms despite the fact that most meetings now and into the foreseeable future will be on Zoom or the like it will also contain a theatre, as if the Remai Modern doesn't already gave one that is underused in the extreme. Then there's the design tender for it, which closed in October and essentially ruled out any local architectural or design firm, so again millions of dollars will arbitrarily go out of province at a time when we're all being encouraged to "support local". Why not the SPL? Many are questioning the viability of libraries full stop, while others would rather see the existing downtown library upgraded. Let's get this plan right rather than rush ahead with plans that are deeply flawed given the current context.

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**Q13**

What is your #1 priority on your election platform?

Ending homelessness in the city. So many related issues, including the continued viability of any downtown plans, policing, mental health services, addictions treatment, etc., are rising on it.

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