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Q1

Candidate Name

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Q2

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Q3

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Ward/Constituency

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Q4

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

The city has various roles in economic development, the first and foremost is MAKING SASKATOON MORE BUSINESS FRIENDLY. That means easing regulations that slow business growth and development. That in turn, allows the city to ATTRACT MORE BUSINESSES here. Many times people think of the mayor when attracting business, but Ward 3 has a great area called the South West Development Area that has many acres still to fill. If elected, I will be a huge cheerleader who will work hard to attract business to the city. I am also of the belief that if we shut down capital spending completely because of the economic hardship created by Covid, we will witness rising costs down the road, and not be able to take advantage of the many jobs that can be created NOW - when they are most needed.

Q5

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

While we all say SHOP LOCAL, the city needs a strong policy to BUY LOCAL. While I am not a protectionist, these are different times, and our first priority has to be our local businesses. There are amazingly smart people working in Saskatoon-based businesses (consultants, contractors, construction etc.) let's use them instead of going out of town. But it is our smaller businesses that are hurting the most. I will push for city council to explore ways to ease their pain. Not necessarily through a property tax decrease (would a 5 or 10 per cent decrease ease that much pain?) but through other efforts to get our citizens to support these businesses. The City Of Saskatoon has to become its own best cheerleader. One final thought on surviving the pandemic; a mandatory mask bylaw will take us to the end of the pandemic quicker, allowing for a faster economic recovery.

Q6

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

I do not support defunding police. But of course, I do support attacking the core issues that lead to criminal behavior such as poverty, mental health and addictions.

One hope lies with the Interagency Response to Downtown Safety and Well-Being....the Sawēyihotān pilot project that was announced in September. The Saskatoon Tribal Council is taking the lead in this pilot project with the aim of getting vulnerable people off the streets and into housing. Tribal Council Chief Mark Arcand does not favour shelters. Instead, he favours finding real housing, using other agencies for support of course.

I am a huge advocate of the Housing First initiatives that are in place in numerous cities now. I believe you can't help someone with their addictions or mental health problems and then just throw them back out on to the streets. All of that effort is wasted if they have to worry about where they will sleep and stay warm tonight. If the Sawēyihotān pilot project is a success, (and of course I hope it will be) I will push for more funding to make this program long term.

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I also believe that with a WILLING COMMUNITY, we can begin to take back the streets from the criminals with a decades-old idea. Back in the 1980's I served on the board of NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH in Saskatoon. It was very interesting to see how such a program would be born in a neighbourhood – and how long it would last until it would fizzle out.

The call for a Neighbourhood Watch program always followed a spree of property crimes. With the help of SPS, a volunteer Neighbourhood Watch co-coordinator, patrol groups, and phoning trees would be established.

The patrols would walk around the neighbourhood and report any suspicious activity to police who would react fast. That's important of course, but just as important, was the visible sign of people taking their community back!

I remember these patrols were great times! You get to meet new neighbours on a healthy walk. Knowing your neighbours is knowing your community – those who share our schools, our parks, our local businesses.

Neighbourhood Watch not only lowers crime.

IT GATHERS COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

Now here's the thing. After a while, a Neighbourhood Watch program in a particular neighbourhood will lose its volunteers and eventually shut down. That's not a bad thing. It just means that crime has dropped significantly – the job is done – for now.

IF ELECTED I PROMISE TO SPEARHEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH PROGRAMS WHERE THERE IS A NEED FOR ONE IN WARD 3.

It will mean many volunteers and many volunteer hours, but if we have a WILLING COMMUNITY, we can take back our streets, get to know our neighbours better and save some money at property tax time.

Q7

What are your priorities for major capital projects in Saskatoon?

I support the new library. In my view it is a done deal, and a much needed facility in Saskatoon. The library board was completely up front throughout the process. The cost per average household will increase to \$22.47 over the course of six years. The economic benefit of construction will of course be 132 million dollars. The board maintains that the economic benefit once it opens is slated to be 15 million dollars GDP annually. I question two sources of income that the library board states in its budget. . The first - saying that \$4.6 million will come from the sale of the current central library site. I'm sure it was appraised at that, but in reality the selling price will only be what the buyer pays. And Secondly - \$15 million coming from donations from the community. Once it's accomplished I will believe it. But that notwithstanding, I support the library.

I also support its location on 25th Street, although it broke my heart when city council decided not to attach the library to any new arena and convention facility downtown.

That arena is probably still ten years away. I look forward to all of the debates that will take place between now and then, but if we are going to build a new arena, it needs to be downtown. We can decide to be a bland city with a 9am-5pm downtown (and all of the problems that brings), or be an exciting city with a vibrant downtown. We will all benefit from a downtown that is always open, exciting and welcoming, drawing not only people from Saskatoon, but also tourism and convention dollars. Now the challenge that I am ready to accept, is ensuring the arena's effect on property taxes is minimal or non-existent.

That brings us to the Bus Rapid Transit System. If that arena is going to be downtown, there better be a transit system that can handle the many thousands of people who will congregate there without feeling the need to drive. Many people have said to me we cannot have an arena downtown because there won't be enough parking. But Edmonton is showing us that's not true.

The BRT is the natural evolution of a city. If we don't take advantage of the BRT now, the city will continue to spend more money thanks to low ridership. I'm disappointed that unsubstantiated claims about its cost have been circulating throughout this campaign.

Q8

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

Yes,

Please elaborate::

My water bills this summer ranged from \$410 to \$428. That was the most expensive garden produce I had ever grown. If it was only the water I was paying for it would have been much less. But with all the additional charges, it has become prohibitive to even water your garden! Somehow I missed the point in my life when water became more expensive than electricity and natural gas combined. No more "hidden fees", and let's work harder - MUCH HARDER - to bring the cost of water down. This of course, is only one example of where the city must do better for its citizens. I have also talked to so many seniors who are concerned about spending and property tax increases. Many of these seniors in Ward 3 want to live in their homes as long as possible, but their income never goes up, while their taxes do. While everybody is concerned about rising property taxes, nobody is more affected by them, than seniors. As a result, I promise to investigate the feasibility of a cap on property taxes for seniors at age 75 with an annual fixed-income of less than \$40,000. In other words, what you are paying for property tax at age 75, will be what you pay until the house is sold. This will give seniors a better chance to stay in their own homes, knowing that their property tax will not change, regardless of decisions made by City Council.

Q9

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

Once elected, I will be able to learn more about where we can take advantage of curbing costs. It's much too easy to say from the sidelines that such-and-such department needs to be slashed. I am not going to be flippant and tell you that I am going to hold property taxes at zero. But I have heard at the front door how important it is to hold taxes down and pledge to make every effort to achieve that, starting with doing away with two-year budgets and getting back to yearly budgets.

Q10

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

Yes,

Please elaborate::

BUT - ONLY if necessary. I have seen in the past where freezes such as this, have created more costs due to overtime etc. We have to be smart and ask the right questions.

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 have been watching with interest, infrastructure money being spent on repairing sidewalks in various parts of Ward 3. We need to make sure those jobs are going to Saskatoon-based companies, hiring local workers. I also believe the City will know better than the other levels of government where the funding will have the greatest positive effect, so I don't necessarily believe it should be spent where specified.

Q12

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

No,

Please elaborate::

Just to add to my previous points about the library, we cannot have new governments come in and undo what previous governments have passed. Otherwise, we will just keep going around in circles, and that's going to make it extremely difficult to attract business to Saskatoon.

Q13

What is your #1 priority on your election platform?

Crime And Safety. Saskatoon has one of the highest rates of crime in the country. If we want to attract more businesses to the city, we need a WILLING COMMUNITY - - not just police officers - to fight crime.
