

Harold Williams Two Responses to Candidate Forum Questions

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Land Use:

- 1) *The residential population in Portland will continue to increase in the coming years. How can the city expand its residential population while ensuring that there are housing opportunities for all income levels?*

How would you?

- 2) *The need to encourage increased employment and business vitality in the city will be critical to supporting Portland's expanding population. How do you propose to support business development in the city without sacrificing neighborhood livability and critical residential amenities such as open space?*

We must build a bridge between the neighborhood & business association with city council so that we can stay on top of these issues.

Transportation:

- 1) *Increased congestion in the city will affect the local economy and public health as well as contribute to global warming. How will you ensure that the people and goods will be able to move smoothly in and out of the city? How will you pay for these improvements?*

I am not able to do it by myself; we have to work together. The question is how would you?

- 2) *Pedestrian and bicycle safety are chief concerns for Northeast neighbors. What initiatives do you plan to undertake to ensure that residents can safely walk and bike to work, shop and play? How will you pay for these improvements?*

We have to be responsible for ourselves, and do whatever we as individuals need to do to be safe, and then pass those skills sets to our children, neighbors, families, and friends.

Public Safety:

- 1) *We have seen a significant spike in gang activity and youth violence, however the East precinct continues to be understaffed and funding for gang and youth intervention programs are also very low compared to historic levels. How do you plan on addressing issues of gang and youth violence in Northeast Portland? What increase in funding for the East precinct and intervention programs do you have planned?*

We need to engage with our young people and not be afraid them. Many of us as adult have an-us against them attitude when dealing with our young people. But how can we approach this issue that way when these are our babies?

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- 2) *Graffiti and vandalism continue to cost local businesses thousands and thousands of dollars. What initiatives do you have planned for supporting graffiti abatement, investigation of vandalism, and the prosecution of vandals in the city?*

Getting to know your neighbor would be a good start (block party, neighborhood fair, neighborhood watch programs, etc.) I have no additional plan in regards to prosecution of vandals; other than the one's in place already.

Neighborhood Associations:

What role will Neighborhood Associations play in your policy development and policy making decisions? What specific initiatives do you have planned to ensure that neighborhood concerns are not ignored by council?

My question is why have neighborhood association allowed city council to make policy development and policy making decision without referring to you first. Let's bridge that gap between city council and the neighborhood association. We all are in it together.