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Ward 6 Candidate

**QUESTION 1: The City of Edmonton should take more action to make municipal land available for low-income affordable housing development (eg. surplus school land).**

Not in all cases - sometimes the best use of the surplus land is the creation of additional green space for community use. There is discernible social value in having space in communities; especially new communities where houses are constructed on smaller lots closer together.

**QUESTION 2: There is not enough subsidized housing in some neighbourhoods, and the City must ensure a better distribution in all neighbourhoods throughout Edmonton.**

The current three-year moratorium on social housing needs to be extended to enable communities currently shouldering the load to recover and to allow those responsible for administering non-market housing initiatives to construct new models that will foster a decentralization of this form of housing throughout the entire city.

**QUESTION 3: The City should seek to use zoning flexibility (on issues such as required parking spaces) to support the development of more affordable housing initiatives.**

There is no guarantee the properties will remain affordable housing units in perpetuity - those developments need to be constructed under the same set of rules as market-based housing - otherwise the communities suffer the spill of parking onto streets.

**QUESTION 4: The City should commit funding to extend the Cornerstones Affordable Housing program.**

We need to revisit how non-market housing is developed going forward

**QUESTION 5: The City should create a comprehensive plan to address the need for thousands of units of affordable housing in a comprehensive and coordinated way that includes attention to schools, public transportation, and community services.**

No answer.

**QUESTION 6: The City is doing a good job to end chronic homelessness through the current 10 Year Plan and the work of the Edmonton Homeless Commission.**

There is too much two-way dialogue between agencies and administration - communities are often left out of any decision making process until the deal is done - when they are expected to rubber stamp the finished product. Failure to do so paints the community as NIMBY when there often are legitimate concerns being expressed.

**QUESTION 7: The City must be more active in advocating with the provincial and federal governments for more funding and better policies on affordable housing.**

No answer.

**QUESTION 8: The City must develop better ways to gather views of all residents about housing issues and not depend so significantly on input from community leagues and developers.**

No answer.

**QUESTION 9: Finally, you may provide any additional comments about any other aspects of housing and homelessness.**

Not enough attention is being given to the views and values being expressed by communities already shouldering the load. More work has to be done in changing mindsets as a first step in changing the long held perception that homelessness is a "downtown problem" when, in fact, homelessness is a "City of Edmonton" problem. I believe diluting the concentration of poverty is an important and imperative first step to arriving at a long-term solution to the homelessness issue in Edmonton.