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Ward E 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).

We should be looking at ways to create more affordable housing, and surplus school sites are an option to find space for creating family-friendly affordable developments; however, comprehensive community consultation needs to be a part of the planning process so that neighbours are informed and aware of the development and so that common concerns about affordable housing (safety, community character, green spaces) can be addressed.

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

Including affordable housing in all communities creates diversity and brings families to mature neighbourhoods with established schools. From the trustee perspective, this will allow us to make better use of our existing infrastructure by making it easier for young families to live near existing schools.

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.

No answer.

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

Cornerstones is a great way to both support people in need of affordable housing and find solutions to revitalize mature neighbourhoods by encouraging citizens' participation in finding solutions for housing and homelessness challenges.

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.

We need to be working together as a school board and city council to ensure that we are providing for people's needs and responding to communities' input.

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.

We're doing good work, but there's always more we can do.

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.

I would like to see broader consultations. While developers and community leagues should have a role in the conversation, I would like to see more efforts to increase participation of neighbourhood residents who may not be as engaged with their community leagues (which may have the added benefit of getting more people interested in neighbourhood issues and increasing community league participation longer term). Schools must also be engaged in the conversation, including both parents/staff at local schools and discussions at the board level, as well as other community groups and organizations such as service providers.

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

No answer.