

D O W N T O W N V E N T U R A PARTNERS

2009 VENTURA CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you for your interest in our city council candidate forum. The issues and topics below are of great importance to downtown's residents, property and business owners. We appreciate you supplying thoughtful answers to these questions. **Please return your completed questionnaire via e-mail by noon on September 3** to Rob Edwards. Your answers will be posted on our website for our stakeholders to review. Our candidate forum will be held on the evening of September 8th; further details and a formal invitation will follow.*

And thank you for your willingness to serve our city!

Please respond below each question. Be as specific as possible.

1. Aggressive panhandling and vagrancy have profoundly detrimental affects on downtown Ventura's economic vitality, safety and quality of life. What specific steps will you propose to ensure laws regarding these behaviors are enforced, and how would you fund it?

By what is suggested by question #6 and answer thereto.

2. Will you support the city's continued participation in the downtown Property-based Business Improvement District? Why or why not?

No. I feel the city is already providing support through their many programs and the amount of financial support expected due to the city's holdings would be better spent on an additional position or fill a slot left open due to funding short falls in the police department.

3. Are you in favor of building other parking structures in downtown? And if so, where would you suggest they be located and how would you fund?

No

4. What's your position on the enforcement of laws prohibiting drug dealing in our downtown? And how would you fund enhanced enforcement?

I feel that the laws are adequate and with additional law enforcement personnel they should work.

5. What is your position on the "sleeping in cars" pilot program?

I feel that as long as the places are designated and the agencies monitoring them are adequately staffed, it may make a bad situation better.

6. Would you support the funding of police foot and bike patrols in downtown and on the promenade? And if so, how would you fund them?

Yes as long as other areas in town get similar patrols and are funded by the general fund.

7. What specific actions would you propose to encourage new residential development as well as the relocation of new businesses to downtown?

I feel that any new residential development is unnecessary and that businesses can relocate into existing areas (there are many empty shop spaces downtown). Perhaps there should be some sort of rent control so businesses can afford to stay.

8. Do you think large-scale events previously fully funded by the City, such as ArtWalk and the holiday street fair, should be restored? And if so, how would you fund them?

These should be funded by those involved, put on as fund raisers, not by the taxpayers.

9. With the state raiding municipal coffers, how will it impact downtown operations that are currently funded by redevelopment agency? What will you do to fund those operations once our local funding is depleted?

Allow them to remain undone until the monies are once again available.

10. Would you support the City or the County purchasing the Fairgrounds from the state? And if so, how could it be done?

No since that can't be done at this time if I understand the

circumstances correctly.

11. Are you in favor of limiting “big box” stores (like Wal-Mart, IKEA, etc) throughout the city, per the ballot measure?

Yes to Wal-Mart; I don’t consider IKEA a “big box” store in the same sense as a Super Wal-Mart.

12. What specific actions would you recommend to streamline the planning process?

Make things less ambiguous so that they are not subject to inspector’s interpretation thus possibly avoiding changes due to one inspectors view versus another.

*** Completing this questionnaire is a prerequisite for an invitation to participate in our September 8th community forum.**

Downtown Ventura Partners

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