

C100 Mayoral Candidates Forum Questions

February 25, 2014

1. The District has no fewer than 130 distinct neighborhoods. Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners represent our neighborhoods at the most local level and provide important advocacy for neighborhoods. The Office of Planning has proposed zoning code revisions to restrict ANC representation of residents by ending special exceptions and other types of reviews for everything from apartments in garages to major reductions in the parking requirements for new development. Do you support limiting ANC's authority in this way? And why?

2. Residents are expressing concern about the lack of zoning proposals to address problems like pop-ups and conversions of single family homes to flats and condos in predominately single family neighborhoods. They are also concerned about the breadth of proposals to weaken parking requirements and add density and commercial uses in residential areas. Many residents, including ANCs, are calling for delays in the Zoning Commission's decision on these proposals in order to refocus the process on correcting only what needs to be changed. Will you, as a mayoral candidate, write to the Zoning Commission requesting delay until after the general election? Yes or no? And if you write to the Zoning Commission will you make your letter public?

3. Do you support changes to the Height Act? Yes or no?

4. The District has one of the most respected historic preservation laws in the country, and many of our most desirable and growing neighborhoods are just one of the byproducts of this. Yet, the budget for the Historic Preservation Review Board is inadequate to fully implement the law. As a result funds, like fine collections, are being diverted from program to administration. Will you support funding levels that will facilitate the implementation of the historic preservation law and programs?

5. For years residents have called for separating the Office of Planning from the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development and giving more autonomy to the Historic Preservation Office from both OP and the Deputy Mayor so that these agencies are not controlled by an economic development agenda. Do you support this separation? Yes or no.

6. Do you think traffic congestion is caused by too many DC cars, too many workers and visitors driving into DC, or something else? How will you address congestion issues?

7. Streetcars will begin service on H Street/Benning Rd. in the near future, but there is still no plan for financing, governing, or managing the system. The location of the first maintenance

facility met with strenuous objections from the Kingman Park community that an undesirable industrial use was being built in their residential neighborhood. Yet more than \$400 million of public funds have been committed to finance the first phase of the streetcar program. Residents are concerned that we don't have a plan for fundamental aspects of a program involving the long term commitment of huge public funding? What will you do as Mayor to ensure fiscal and civic accountability?

8. The lack of affordable housing has been cited as the number one issue in the District for several years. What specific proposals do you have to maintain and create more affordable housing?

9. Currently, downtown is exempt from the inclusionary zoning program that requires housing projects of more than 10 units to set aside a percentage of units for moderate and low income persons. The Office of Planning has proposed expanding the downtown boundaries three-fold and to permit heights up to the Height Act limit in exchange for housing, without any requirements for affordable housing. The question is in two parts: One, should downtown be exempted from inclusionary zoning? Two, do you support the Office of Planning's proposal to triple the area defined as downtown and to encourage the production of more housing in that area without imposing any affordable housing requirements in exchange for increased height and density?

10. If you're elected Mayor, you will have the power to set a civic agenda. In your concluding statement, please identify what you believe our single most important priority for the next four years should be and how you would use your office to focus our collective energies on that challenge?