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Candidate - Mayor
Littleton Business Chamber Candidate Forum 2021

1) What do you believe are the strengths and weaknesses of the downtown Littleton area? Give us three positive and three negative responses with a short explanation.

Strengths:

Historic Character - Main St is a one-of-a-kind asset that no other Denver-area community has.

Light Rail - This allows people from around the metro area to visit easily and allows residents to commute to jobs elsewhere - if they wish!

Potential - Between Alamo and Prince, I see a great potential for further economic growth downtown.

Weaknesses:

Lack of a DDA/BID - Downtown currently lacks the organizational structure to best support projects, public or private, that could add to the vitality, activity, vibrancy, diversity, and attractiveness downtown.

Current traffic pattern - With the Littleton Blvd corridor being one of only three east-west corridors through the city the one-way traffic can create issues during rush-hour and times when Main St is closed for events.

Parking - We need to do a better job of communicating where parking options exist.

2) What is your priority for development in the city and why?

- a) New residential homes
- b) New commercial business
- c) Revitalizing and utilizing current spaces

All are important. First is revitalizing current spaces. Utilizing existing buildings is inherently more sustainable and cost-effective when compared to demolition and rebuilding. We have great potential for some of our current shopping centers, but they need some revitalization. Second is to seek new commercial businesses. Currently, there isn't any place in Littleton where you can buy a new television or sports equipment. We need to make land use choices that diversify our business base. Adding commercial businesses will also shore up potential revenue shortfalls. Finally, I think new residential homes are important; as outlined in the Comprehensive Plan. We need to build approximately 6500 more homes in the next 10-15 years. I see a synergy of all three of these priorities with the focus on mixed use development in our corridors.

3) The Littleton Business Chamber (LBC) advocated for a \$.50 tax increase to be placed on the ballot in November, City Council voted for a \$.75. increase. LBC has requested that the City Council sunset the \$.75 tax increase down to \$.50, after the city has met its capital improvement requirements. Are you for or against sunsetting \$.25 of the tax increase? Explain why or why not.

This is an interesting idea which I would very much like to research more. I do not know enough about the projected revenues and costs to determine if and/or when such capital improvement requirements would be met. I would like to hear more on this possibility from the finance director and the city manager.

4) Other than the proposed sales tax increase, what three steps would you take to get the City in a more stable financial position?

The city's General Fund is in a fairly stable financial situation as well as the special revenue funds, the enterprise funds, and the internal service funds. The lone fund with major issues is the capital projects fund and the sales tax increase will solve that issue. As far as keeping the city in a financially stable situation I would first rely on the financial advice of our finance director and her exceptional team. Second, I would continue to take a conservative approach to spending and seek efficiencies and improvements in providing city services. Finally, I will continue to push to maximize how far our dollars go by seeking grants - not just for public works projects, but for every city department.

5) Why do you feel you are the best choice for City Council? Why should someone vote for you?

There are a multitude of reasons why I am the best choice, but I would like to focus on two. First, I have the most and the best experience. I've served on the City Council. I know the dynamics of council, I know how to work with city staff productively. I've also served as a Chair of a city board. I am the only candidate to have set agendas and run public meetings. I also have the added experience of working for a State Board for the past 12 years. This added perspective of being a staff member to a Governor-appointed board is invaluable to working effectively with Littleton city staff. One of my opponents has never voted in a municipal election and the other has not only sat silent in important council study sessions, but also walked out of a study session discussion during the comprehensive plan process. Second, I am the most proactive, forward-looking, and innovative mayoral candidate. Serving my community as Mayor is a task that requires a commitment to the past, present, and future of Littleton. When I was on council, I created the Next Generation Advisory Committee. In 2020, when I was not on Council, I was the one who came up with the idea to use the LIFT funds for the business COVID relief funding at the start of the pandemic. Councilmember Fey wanted to use those funds in other ways and callously questioned supporting businesses that could go out of business due to being closed because of COVID restrictions. So, I would say that I am the most experienced and the most business friendly candidate running for mayor.

6) What is your plan to involve businesses outside the “football” in your decision-making process?

While downtown Littleton is often the focus, I think we need to listen to and promote other business areas of Littleton. From Aspen Grove, to Belleview Blvd, Littleton Blvd, Broadway and the businesses in South Park, we as a community need to understand there is more to business in Littleton than just Main St. So I ask all the business owners in Littleton to please reach out to me. I value your feedback and will listen earnestly to your concerns when making decisions that affect you.

7) How do you plan to get input regarding business in Littleton other than through City staff?

I would reach out to the Littleton Business Chamber, individual businesses, and the broader business community. I have dedicated my career to serving the business community. For the past twelve years, I have worked to support, promote, and market small, family-owned agricultural businesses in Colorado. I know that supporting small businesses takes effort, determination, and above all else, good communication. So, I ask all the business owners in

Littleton to please reach out to me. I value your feedback and will honestly listen to your concerns when making decisions that affect you.

8) What would be your plan to handle the increasing issue with the homeless disrupting businesses and how would you expect the police department to handle these problems?

I think the best approach to dealing with the increase in homelessness in Littleton is to get the homeless the help they need. This means mental health, housing, and jobs. We need more housing options and job opportunities. As far as the police department is concerned, I’ve met with them and discussed this issue with them. Their goal with this issue is to have mental health professionals and other service providers respond to issues with our homeless residents and we need to expand our co-responder program. We all want our business community to be able to operate smoothly and without needless disruptions.