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Toronto Mayoral Candidate

The following answers were provided by the candidate in response to [a letter sent by the Toronto Society of Architects on May 16, 2023](#) outlining four questions related to issues of the built environment.

Answers have been copied and pasted into this page for clarity and ease of access, but all answers are verbatim and no changes or edits have been made.

Q1: Housing is a fundamental human right, and yet an increasing number of residents across the Greater Toronto Area are struggling to pay rent or find an affordable place to live. What policies and actions do you believe need to be implemented to address this crisis?

As MAYOR I would prioritize the following:

Supporting, housing crisis, growth and development:

- Appropriate staffing in key economic generating positions such as Building Zoning examiners, and Engineers, and City Planners.
- Reintroduce the "Fast Track" building permit review and issuance service and introduce same day building permit issuance for interior alterations and additions under 50sq.m and within 5 days for up to 4 unit residential dwelling, and mixed use buildings.
- A 10 day permit issuance for Commercial interior renovations.
- Eliminate the need of an up-to-date survey for Committee of Adjustment applications unless required by Toronto Buildings.
- Provide flexibility for private tree removals under and over 30cm in diameter and replaced at a 5 to 1 ratio, without the need to post signage or appeals.
- Before building inspectors sign off on projects, all building records will be updated to encompass any changes during construction and ensure an updated archive with the revisions from same Architect and or Engineers.
- For expediency, permit Architects and Engineers to sign off and close permits.
- Extend last alcohol call to 4am to support the night economy.
- Manage City expenditures and maintain a fair tax-base.

Q2: The design, construction and operation of our built environment accounts for nearly 40% of energy related carbon emissions, contributing to the ongoing climate crisis affecting us today. What do you believe needs to be prioritised to reduce carbon emissions within the built environment?

Keeping the City moving:

- All potholes repairs and minor roads/bridges repairs to be done overnight and avoid road closure, congestion and grid lock during rush times.
- Extend the parking grace period from 10 minutes to 11 minutes.
- Eliminate speed camera boxes.
- A city initiated building program to tackle homelessness by providing city homes and with a program to partner with local organizations to teach new skills and reintegrate people into the workforce
- Utilizing city, railway, and pedestrian bridges for signage to generate revenue to be used for street improvements where funds can be used to help the homelessness program.
- Extend the subway lines extensions east and west with more connections to move people around the City more efficiently and faster.
- Reduce the lane widths on the Gardiner and DVP (in certain areas) and one side shoulder to create 1 extra lane to alleviate traffic time during rush periods.
- Improve policing training and community liaison, with emphasis on crisis counselling and reducing violent interactions, to save lives and keep families together.
- Increase the number of fire stations and hire more fire fighters and paramedics as first responders.

Q3: In towns and cities, so much of life happens in the shared public spaces—in our parks, libraries and streets. How can we ensure these civic spaces achieve design excellence in their initial conception and construction, and that they are properly maintained so they may continue to serve future generations?

Environmental Stewardship

- Build a floating bridge to connect the City to the islands that links the waterfront parks system that is environmentally sustainable.
- Better manage wildlife to ensure Citizens can enjoy revalorizes green spaces.
- Start beach expansion along the Woodbine area, expand the Woodbine East boat dock and provide more City owned docking opportunities.

- Encourage new community clubs, parks, activities, public pool, and restaurants along lakeshore west, to encourage walking and waterfront enjoyment
- Build a "Toronto Eye" on the waterfront as a City attraction and destination.
- Create more green space on roofs and through grants to encourage greening of industrial parking spaces to reduce run-off into the storm water sewers.
- Propose submerged water turbine for the Toronto island Electric supply.

Q4: Toronto's modern architectural heritage is at risk, with both the redevelopment of Ontario Place and the potential demolition of the Ontario Science Centre jeopardizing some of the most important architectural landmarks in the country. Other modern buildings, including city-owned properties, have been left to decay with inadequate maintenance. What measures will you take as Mayor to protect, preserve and revitalize our city's 20th century built legacy?