

Darren Hill (Ward 1)

1) The City of Saskatoon provides vital public services to its citizens. What public services need to be strengthened through the injection of new financial resources? How would you propose to pay for better public services in Saskatoon?

- The level of service the citizens of Saskatoon expect can be addressed by utilizing the current structure of public services and working towards identifying efficiency and service improvements within this model.
- The public service that needs to be strengthened the most at this time is Transit. The BRT needs to move forward service levels improved, and ridership increased, and investing in staff training. With all of these happening at the same time we will end up with a world class transit system.
- Financial resources do not always need to be new injections – it could also mean reviewing the existing model. For example, I placed an extremely length enquiry four years ago on how we build and repair roads which resulted in a complete restructuring of the standards used in the roads branch resulting in operational efficiencies and significant savings on lifecycle costs.

2) What is your view of privatization of public services? Would you reverse the services that have been privatized by previous city governments?

- The majority of the citizens of Saskatoon expect their public services to be Public and I support that.
- I would have to know specifically which service(s) you are referring to before I am able to comment.

3) What could the City of Saskatoon do to improve its relationship with its employees? How can the collective bargaining rights of City of Saskatoon employees be better protected?

- Relationships are two-way streets. I believe the senior admin, with elected official representation should sit down with the employee groups and solve this together.
- It would be a disservice for both sides for me to suggest that I have the answer as that answer needs to be developed collaboratively.
- I have always advocated for fair, responsible management which seeks to engage, motivate and retain employees, I always have an open line for those who may wish to discuss grievances or ways to improve the organization
- Perhaps it is time to have a member of Council and an independent arbitrator at the bargaining table at all times

4) What can the City of Saskatoon do to provide safe and affordable housing? How can we ensure that marginalized residents have a say in community and social planning?

- Even though housing is a responsibility of the Provincial and Federal Governments, the city has an aggressive affordable housing strategy which includes a target of 500 new affordable housing units per year, one of the most aggressive targets in North America. This target has been exceeded every year in the last term.
- Enhance our partnership with the private sector to build new units cost effectively
- Expand our partnerships with the NGO's and community based groups to ensure we are meeting the needs of residents who may require affordable housing
- Ensure affordable housing is available city wide not just in core neighborhoods
- Encourage the provincial government to re-evaluate the legislation on rent increases to better manage the frequency and amount of fluctuations

- Encourage the City to adopt a community liaison position specifically for this purpose which will work with the NGO's, not for profits and community based groups

5) What role do you see for the City of Saskatoon to improve around economic development?

- The City decided many years ago to remove this branch from within City Hall and as a result SREDA was created. SREDA has strict policies and guidelines to follow and it is governed by a board of experts in the field. Removing the administrative and political influences was one of the best decisions around economic development in Saskatoon.
- There is council representation on the SREDA Board and we have also set goals and targets that dictate the level of funding for SREDA.

6) What specific initiatives would you propose to move Saskatoon to a low-carbon economy and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions?

Greenhouses Gases

- Ensure the continued implementation of the city greenhouse gas reduction implementation strategy. There are many components to this and some examples are:
 - i. An idling policy on all civic buses and civic vehicles
 - ii. Increase ridership of the city transit system by working toward a free ride zone for downtown, and implementing a bus pass system at Kelsey and the High School similar to the program now in place at the University of Saskatchewan
 - iii. Implement my recommendations for increased transit usage and creation of new generation of riders.

Energy Conservation

- Ensure new civic buildings are all built to LEED standards,
- Work toward implementing property tax reduction for 5 years for new houses which are build to LEED standards
- Liaise with provincial government to ensure continuation of all current energy conservation programs
- Work to implement new programs which make use of emerging technologies such as wind energy units currently used in Europe
- Develop an integrated public transit system strategy to ensure public transportation is a viable, efficient, green alternative to private vehicles such as integrating transit into new neighbourhoods and increasing trans user rates

Cleaner Sources of Energy

- Initiate a feasibility study on utilizing increased residential solar and wind power
- Broaden the bylaws on individual residences to enable increased use alternative energy sources or emerging energy sources such as windmills and solar panels
- Support the development of the new hydro generator which will serve 2500 households in Saskatoon as well as the windmill project at Diefenbaker park

7) What can the City of Saskatoon do to promote reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians?

- Full adoption of the Recommendations in the Truth and Reconciliation and the “94 Calls to Action”
- I moved that then new North Commuter Parkway be named in honor of the TRC and that the final name be a result of full community engagement with the TRC as the focus.
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8) If you are an existing councillor, what is one decision you have made over the past 4 years which best demonstrates your leadership and commitment to Saskatoon residents?

- My commitment/enquiries to changing the corporate culture at Transit to explore new and creative ways to increase ridership and create new generations of Transit users. I believe that we need to address Transit from all directions and that there is not one magic solution, but rather number of things that need to happen. I have focused my personal efforts on increasing ridership and creating new generations of transit users through a number of efforts. Some of which have been implemented and others are still under review. These are:
 - i. Free access to transit for field trips for all school divisions
 - ii. Free passes for elementary school students that live out of the division busing zone
 - iii. Significantly discounted high school semester bus pass
 - iv. Second semester high school bus pass good for following summer to facilitate transportation to employment
 - v. Free transit use for all Fire and Police staff commuting while in uniform to help increase sense of security
 - vi. 6 month downtown \$100-\$150 pass – create new rider base, significant environmental impact, and relieve pressures on parking congestion resulting in not having to invest as many millions in parking structures