

City Council, 1st District

Biographical Info:

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Questions:

Q: The city has embarked on an ambitious two-year project to overhaul our local zoning code. What changes would you like to see? What parts of the existing code should be retained?

Greg Knox: I believe Knoxville is ready for a zoning overhaul. Mixed-use developments are much more common now and these zones need to be defined with more clarity instead of constantly patching the codes like we have been doing. I would like to see residential zones that allow for both short-term and long-term rentals. Currently we have a big misconception about rental properties in our residential areas and this needs to be clarified.

Rebecca Parr: I would like to see a restructuring of our codes to reflect the changing times our city is experiencing. I would like to see more opportunity for multiple use spaces become available for inclusive housing and development that serve all of our people greater access to amenities and healthier lifestyle. The multiple use spaces can be used for affordable housing, homegrown business, community gardens, and overall integration within existing areas of our city. I would like to see the zoning a better reflection of equitable distribution for business and housing with an emphasis on preserving our wild spaces while still staying focused on the welfare of the people and our neighborhoods. I think there should be very thoughtful planning and decision making in the future layout for infrastructure possibilities and how those will effect the overall plan for our cities in regards to existing communities.

Stephanie Welch: Community preferences have changed since Knoxville's zoning ordinance was adopted nearly 60 years ago. The current ordinance has been heavily amended and favors a suburban, separated development pattern. Complex variance

requests and interpretation of the outdated code is often needed to meet growing demand for walkable and mixed-use development. The new code must provide simple, clear land use standards to promote efficiency of public resources, continued private sector investment, and improved clarity for property owners and neighborhoods. The ordinance must also retain the character of existing neighborhoods and business districts that we value while promoting more diverse development, including mixed uses and connections to support multiple transportation modes. I serve on the 20-member advisory committee for Recode Knoxville, and I'm pleased by the many opportunities for our community to have a voice in the process as the final product will shape Knoxville for years to come.

Andrew Wilson: In the new code I would like to see greater protection of property rights and more freedom granted to landowners to use their property as they wish as long as their use does not negatively impact neighboring properties. I like the idea of an integrated community that allows for more connectivity between commercial and residential areas.

Q: What do you think the vision and objectives of the present council and administration have been? How would you like to build upon or change that direction?

Greg Knox: I believe the present council has done a great job in ensuring that Knoxville has a bright future ahead. Ending the James White Parkway development that would have taken 15+ years and cut through the Urban Wilderness, kick-starting the Recode Knoxville effort, protecting our hill tops from development, applying technologies such as LED lighting that will make our government more efficient, and by enabling the people of Knoxville to pursue their dreams in business, recreation, and beyond by being open to new ideas. Knoxvilleans, not the council, are the stars who make this city what it is. The council must ensure that the people have a clear and accessible path to continue pursuing their dreams and pushing this great city forward.

I want Knoxville to continue to pursue ways to make our government more efficient for the tax payers and make Knoxville a city that is cutting edge.

My campaign slogan is "Keep moving Knoxville forward" for a reason, and that's what I intend to do.

Rebecca Parr: The vision for the city has been downtown development and greater use of our outdoor spaces. This development has spread to areas outside of the downtown. I feel that our planning and strategies for sprawl and improvements has not taken into full account the impact on existing communities and families and has caused a decline in affordable housing. My concern is that we need to include everyone in the decision making and that a fairer distribution of money, if not a greater portion of spending, should have the needs and focus on people before parks, expansion, and continued development. We also need to have a greater focus on what is taking place in our neighborhoods and with our families regarding the opioid epidemic. This issue is effecting the lives and well being for all of our futures . Intervention and decriminalization of addiction, and long term solutions for recovery should be a primary focus for everyone.

Stephanie Welch: In an era marked by political divisiveness, it's notable that our city leaders have worked well together on shared priorities. New council members must build on this respect and professionalism, which has helped move us forward as an economically vibrant, environmentally sustainable city with strong neighborhoods radiating from a thriving downtown. I have had the opportunity to support this momentum and establish

positive relationships by serving on city-appointed committees and engaging in community processes, and I support current priorities such as the Urban Wilderness, corridor redevelopment, and strong city services. Knoxville's success has also created new priorities. As demand for urban living grows, there is a growing need for diverse housing options for residents of different ages and income levels. Although the city doesn't directly manage schools, engaging with schools is also a priority as education directly affects prosperity, crime, safety and the health of our community.

Andrew Wilson: I believe the present council and administration have been ambitious, quite a few large scale developments in our city. However, I do not feel that some of these developments were in the best interest of the communities in which they were built. I am more of the mindset that developments within a community should be vetted by that community to make sure it is something they would support. I believe that smaller developments can better serve individual communities. I also have concerns over the spending in the budget, I feel that with such a large debt that the city currently has, we should be more responsible and reduce spending and not take out more loans for city projects.

Q: Please provide examples of how you have served the community in the past five years and how you think those efforts have prepared you to serve on city council.

Greg Knox: I have been involved in the local acting and music communities for the past 10 years. From volunteers in community theatre to artists who work on their craft that give so much character to this city, there are a lot of talented and caring people in Knoxville who contribute to the city in so many ways that go unnoticed and without a plaque or certificate on the wall. Not to mention people like my father who run a firewood ministry that helps those who are unable to pay to have unsafe trees and branches removed from their property, and then give the firewood from those trees to people who are in need of heat in the winter. Watching these people do the things they love out of the kindness of their hearts is truly inspiring and I want to bring that same dedication and love for the City to the council.

Rebecca Parr: 2013-Current; Marble City Opera Board
2013-Current; Head Start Policy Council, Chairperson.
2013-Current; Community Action Committee Board Member
2017 Class; Community Action Leadership
2017; CEO's for Cities Conference Greenville SC
2017; Tennessee Action Committee Conference, Chattanooga TN

Stephanie Welch: I have been actively involved for many years to help make Knoxville a great place to live, work, play and learn. Within the past five years, I've served on the Knoxville-Knox County Food Policy Council, chaired Knoxville's Better Building Board, and served as a Chancellor's Associate at the University of Tennessee. I currently serve on boards for Ijams Nature Center, Leadership Knoxville and the YMCA. I also serve as a 17-year veteran and Officer in the United States Army Reserve. Through my current work at the nonprofit Great Schools Partnership, I oversee several programs that bring resources to public schools and families to support student success, and I have helped expand Knoxville's community schools initiative to 15 sites. I am committed to this service because I love Knoxville, and feel that my experience, leadership skills and the positive

relationships I've formed over years of active engagement in our community will be an asset to the First District and the city as a whole.

Andrew Wilson: As a consulting forester contracted to the utility, I often was in contact with various members of our communities. Often, our conversations extended beyond the trees as the utility and the city are linked. I would be asked about other issues within the city as well and I gave information on what department to contact and my opinion on how to approach the issue when necessary. Outside of that I have volunteered within a variety of events and programs geared towards helping our communities as well as doing a few random odd jobs for free to help people out. I believe my experience has given me a chance to see what people in our communities are dealing with day to day and has provided them with a chance to speak to someone about what they want to see in the future for Knoxville. I am proud to be their chosen voice in this position.

City Council, 2nd District

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Questions:

Q: The city has embarked on an ambitious two-year project to overhaul our local zoning code. What changes would you like to see? What parts of the existing code should be retained?

Brandon Bruce: I'm excited about the opportunity to bring our local zoning code into the 21st century to match up with how we live, work, and play in Knoxville today.

The three major pillars of the Recode Knoxville initiative are to INVEST, PROTECT, and CONNECT.

Invest

The goal is to create more flexible standards in order to spur investment in aging industrial sites and commercial areas so that they can thrive. That's good for all of us. Nobody wins

when a building or site is underutilized. We want to bring every location throughout Knoxville up to its best and highest use.

Protect

Knoxville is a great city to live because we have great neighborhoods. The goal of Recode Knoxville is to protect neighborhoods and preserve the history and character that makes our community special.

Connect

A focus of the rezoning effort will be to connect our corridors and neighborhoods so that we can access key amenities – schools, parks, markets, stores, greenways, and rivers. I'm a big believer in connectivity.

Wayne Christensen: The overhaul of our local zoning code should result in a code that's simple, understandable, and enforceable. Much has changed since the 1950's since the last update. For example, efforts to create the first Bearden Mixed Use Plan resulted in an overly complicated and unworkable multi-page document. The revised plan was a one-page easily understandable one. This experience points the way for the overhaul to resemble the revised Bearden Mixed Use Plan. The updated zoning code should focus on mixed use housing for two large parcels of land in Bearden, Western Plaza and the Homberg Dr. area. There are folks in the neighborhoods around Bearden who are looking to move into smaller housing units after living for decades in large residences, for instance. It's important the process include considerable community support and the analysis of experts to surface the issues that the new zoning code should address, whether they result in mandating sidewalks or building on narrower-than-normal lots.

Andrew Roberto: The basic structure of our code was drafted in the 1960s and its 44 zones are confusing and outdated. By modernizing our zoning code, we can foster growth by building in simplicity, clarity of use, and the stability necessary to encourage investment and strengthen our neighborhoods. Specifically, I want to address mixed-use as an option in higher density areas and use this update to encourage positive development and more walkable and bike friendly spaces. By modernizing our code with interpretability and enforceability in mind we can encourage positive investment. Residential zones including R1 and R1E need to be retained to protect the overall integrity of our neighborhoods. Our homes are typically our single biggest investment and we must preserve the stability these zones offer. The character of our historic neighborhoods designated with an H1 historic overlay and NC1 neighborhood conservation districts must also be preserved to protect the unique and historic nature of Knoxville.

David Williams: Good relationships between neighborhoods, businesses, and developers are vital to successfully modify codes that streamline the approval process, build better lines of communication, and eliminate redundancy. The many positive experiences of cooperation between chartered neighborhood groups (who hold public meetings), businesses, and developers should be the guide to writing rules that are clear, understandable, consistent in application, and respectful of neighborhood integrity. Taking into account the characteristics of each neighborhood should guide the adopting of code rules. 'One size fits all' must be avoided. All must contribute for each brings a certain prospective. Since no one can predict the future the workings of the mentioned groups take on even more importance as we face businesses and development opportunities in which we can only dream.

Q: What do you think the vision and objectives of the present council and administration have been? How would you like to build upon or change that direction?

Brandon Bruce: The present City Council and administration shared their vision and objectives in the 2017-18 budget which everybody can access online at http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/government/city_departments_offices/finance/budget/

The Mayor said, "This is the State of our City in 2017: enlivened, energized, connected to its past and excited about its future."

Highlights that jump out for me are \$500,000 for The Change Center which my wife and I are supporting; \$1.5m for greenway corridors and bicycle infrastructure which I strongly support, and important capital investments in lights, streetscapes, and parking.

We have tremendous momentum as a city. I think the role of the new members of City Council will be to build on that momentum by 1) making prudent financial investments in the services and amenities that mean the most to our community, and 2) seizing opportunities to grow companies and jobs in Knoxville in order to ensure a strong and sustainable economic base today and into the future.

Wayne Christensen: "Mayor Rogero is dedicated to promoting a vibrant local economy, strong neighborhoods, a high quality of life, a thriving downtown and a greener Knoxville. She believes Knoxville's strength comes from the diversity of its people and the beauty of its natural resources," according to the City's web site. She and the Council have focused on building infrastructure to set the stage for a growing, vibrant economy. The Cumberland streetscape is an excellent example of how a city investment can stimulate economic development. Also, the PILOTs and TIFs used downtown to jumpstart development of long-vacant lots or hard-to-redevelop buildings or to keep Regal Entertainment Group in Knoxville have all been wise investments. Importantly, neighborhoods have been stabilized and others protected, both of which should be continued. And, should I be elected, my primary goal would be to continue the significant growth of the past five years without sacrificing any quality of life here in our City.

Andrew Roberto: The success we have seen has come from balancing the interests of economic growth while protecting our neighborhoods and quality of life. Over the past 15 years we have seen 51 properties with a beginning assessed value of \$50 million transform through private investment to a projected assessed value of a half a billion dollars. Without the city writing a check, this accomplishment continues to drive positive investment today. We need to continue to build upon this progress by utilizing our zoning update and bringing the focus to higher density zones and along our corridors to encourage positive private investment. This is imperative as we can anticipate that our fixed costs will rise at 3 percent annually over the next decade, while our largest source of revenue grows at only about 1 percent. My focus is on growing the economy to meet that gap by leveraging our unique position with regional economic partners like Oak Ridge National Lab, UT, and TVA to continue to grow our economy.

David Williams: Neighbors I have talked to around the city never heard of any vision or objectives by government in which communities could take part in or show the style and grace of Knoxville citizens which not only attract visitors but new residents. The people set the vision. Events like the Dogwood Arts Festival brings God's trees and flowers to the forefront with the various crafts on display and the coming together of locals and those out of town. That's a vision. Think of the fine scholars of various ages who display their academic skills. That is a vision. Think of all the talented athletes. That is a vision. There are

doctors and scientists here working to find cures for illnesses. That is a vision. Neighborhood histories are being showcased. That is a vision. The people make the vision living their daily lives. Does government not see this?

Q: Please provide examples of how you have served the community in the past five years and how you think those efforts have prepared you to serve on city council.

Brandon Bruce: In the past 5 years, I've started and built Cirrus Insight, the fastest-growing company in Tennessee. I've had the great fortune to hire 38 amazing colleagues here in Knoxville. We make productivity software for sales teams at companies around the world. I was honored as Knoxville's Young Entrepreneur of the Year in 2016 by the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce.

I serve on the board of directors of Junior Achievement of East Tennessee which teaches entrepreneurship and financial literacy, The Muse children's science museum located in Chilhowee Park, Dogwood Arts which promotes and celebrates the art, culture and natural beauty of our region, and the Knoxville Entrepreneur Center which is the front door for starting and growing companies in Knoxville. My wife and I support dozens more great organizations.

I'm a member of the recent Leadership Knoxville Class of 2017 which was formative in my decision to run for City Council in order to hopefully expand my service to the community.

Wayne Christensen: I have been serving the community for the past 20 years as executive director of Knox Youth Sports at Lakeshore Park. Some 2,000 children ages 3-14 came through the program each year. The position required supervising a large budget, staff, facilities, and hundreds of volunteers in numerous sports year round. Perhaps most important of all, I had to work with countless parents, as coaches or customers, all with differing ideas about youth sports, which surely is not unlike working with various constituencies in the 2nd District and across the City. The position also required setting a vision for the organization, working with a board of directors, and raising considerable funds each year, all of which is also not unlike working with neighborhood organizations, often with differing ideas, in our various communities.

Andrew Roberto: As a Knoxville native, through my experiences in community service, public service, and as a small business owner; I have a unique perspective to bring to city council. I am deeply invested in Knoxville, I'm raising my two daughters here and my experience demonstrates my ability to work with others in building a consensus around an issue and implementing a plan for ultimate success. Over the past 5 years, I have served our community as a Knox County Election Commissioner (2015-2017); member of The Salvation Army's advisory board since 2012 and have served as chairman since 2015; Executive Committee member of the 2014 Knoxville Medal of Honor Convention; member of Sertoma Center Board since 2016, member of Tennessee Veterans Business Association where I founded INVEST a business plan competition for local veterans from 2012-2015; Celebrate Recovery North (2014-2016) volunteer and meal sponsor; Epilepsy Foundation volunteer and bike helmet sponsor at local public schools.

David Williams: As president of my neighborhood association, I have helped bring new businesses into Pond Gap that have enhanced the historic make up of the community. Neighborhood markets and restaurants have a long history in our neighborhood. Mixed use was quite common with groceries or a bakery or shoe repair in front and owners' families

living in back. I helped my neighbors to build support for new businesses then went before whatever group or commission to document that support. Then our community patronized the businesses. Stock Burgers, El Charro, and Renegade Yoga added to our community setting. Dead End BBQ displayed some historic photos of the neighborhood. A street was renamed to honor an elder citizen of the community. Banners and displays were erected to show features of historic importance in Pond Gap-first airport,Ringling Bros. circus, a paper mill (that is how Papermill Rd. got its' name). Now the Pond Gap/Mann St. Civil Rights Plaza is being planned.I can bring people together.

City Council, 3rd District

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Questions:

Q: The city has embarked on an ambitious two-year project to overhaul our local zoning code. What changes would you like to see? What parts of the existing code should be retained?

James Edward Corcoran: Many people in the current administration have made a big deal about the zoning code going 50 years without being re-done. However, real estate property law traditionally changes very slowly due to the need for predictability. In short, when someone buys a house, their biggest single investment, they want to know that the neighborhood they buy into is the same type of neighborhood they will live in. However, our established low-density neighborhoods in District 3 should be left alone. We could increase density in some blighted areas near the city core, but the suburban areas outside of downtown should remain traditional residential areas.

I would like to reduce unnecessary restrictions that interfere with business owners deciding what to do with their own property, like excessive parking requirements and limits on on-site advertising in commercial corridors. We could expand to mixed uses in commercial corridors.

De'Ossie Deon Dingus Sr.: - no response -

Jody Mullins: The revision of the City of Knoxville Zoning Ordinances (codes), which have been in place since World War II. The incoming City Council members will have a chance to shape the future of Knoxville. My plan is to make the codes easier for everyone to understand, encourage commercial and industrial growth, and protect the individual rights of private property owners. The main thing I want to keep from the existing codes would be the existing protection for historical properties. I believe that the first option should be rehabbing a property, especially a historical property, before it is torn down and replaced. History can be preserved while making room for new developments and redevelopments. The upcoming proposal of the Metropolitan Planning Commission to include a provision for sidewalks in any new development, as long as it isn't cost prohibitive, should also be retained in the new codes framework. Knoxville needs to be a more walk able city, as that is what the citizens want.

Seema Singh Perez: The current Knoxville zoning codes are not necessarily flawed but they are outdated. The new zoning codes look to address changes in our economy, transportation concerns, sustainability and how people want to live their lives .Knoxville had a population which had moved from central areas to the suburbs and zoning had responded to those needs. We have seen that trend reverse.

Many are content with their neighborhood as is and new coding should not change that. New code should address unique needs in specific neighborhoods verses a blanket approach to code.

There is a growing number of people that want to live in communities that are walkable to work and entertainment. New code with mixed use development will make that possible. Our economy is changing, small local businesses are using space in innovative ways that new zoning code needs to encourage and foster.

Q: What do you think the vision and objectives of the present council and administration have been? How would you like to build upon or change that direction?

James Edward Corcoran: The present City government has been focused on revitalizing downtown, by subsidizing high dollar housing at the city's center. These TIFs and PILOTS served a necessary purpose, but now we need to let downtown carry it's own weight. Our corridors along Western Ave., Broadway, Chapman Highway, and Magnolia Avenue have suffered while we focused on downtown. I also believe that the City has unfortunately been in denial about the seriousness of the drug and gang problems in the city. Our leadership ignored the pill mills that got us into this mess. Also, our budget has outpaced our revenue increases, which is a trend that should make the city worried about another tax increase.

I believe we need to get out of the way of our developers and stop "robbing Peter to pay Paul" by encouraging downtown development at the expense of the rest of the city. We also need to make our sidewalks and greenways safe, by increasing our law enforcement spending before increasing our greenway budget.

De'Ossie Deon Dingus Sr.: - no response -

Jody Mullins: The current administration and council have focused on a progressive growth of commercial and industrial developments for Knoxville. They have done wonderful things for downtown and the South Knoxville waterfront areas, while also expanding the greenway areas of Knoxville. I would like to see more encouragement of growth outside of those two areas. There are tools available to encourage commercial,

residential and industrial growth across the city as a whole, not just two specific areas. I would like to see these tools utilized in other areas of the city. The Western Avenue, Clinton Highway and Middlebrook Pike areas are in need of revitalization, and I would like to see these areas get their fair share.

Seema Singh Perez: I have seen the Mayor and the present City Council make a concerted effort to work together respectfully. There are differing points of view and those should continue to be reviewed and discussed without contention. The city has been making strides towards a more green city, ie the Urban Wilderness and 50+ miles of greenways. Downtown has been developed into a area for festivals. businesses and residences,

I support the positive work that the city council and Mayor Rogero have accomplished. I would want to build on all those approaches. I want to continue the standard of living for those who are doing well but also serve the needs of those struggling; those who require jobs with livable wages and workforce housing so that our children and neighbors will be able to afford to stay in Knoxville with a decent quality of life.

Q: Please provide examples of how you have served the community in the past five years and how you think those efforts have prepared you to serve on city council.

James Edward Corcoran: An overwhelming majority of my law practice has been providing legal services to poor families and children in foster care. I have been on the front lines fighting drug addiction, as it has made me painfully aware of our inadequate response to the drug problem. I have represented children involved in the worst that Knoxville has to offer, but I have also seen how the best of us can respond to improve those kids' lives. I have spent my career representing the literal "Little Guy" and I believe that has prepared me to represent the people of Knoxville, rather than special interest groups.

I also serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals for the County, which gives me the perspective to see how our existing zoning regulations can cause hardship on people wanting to create businesses and homes in Knox County. It's necessary experience for evaluating the upcoming zoning changes.

De'Ossie Deon Dingus Sr.: - no response -

Jody Mullins: I served on the original Neighborhood Advisory Committee, which was responsible for the City of Knoxville Office of Neighborhoods being created under then Mayor Bill Haslam. I currently serve as a member of the Knoxville City Golf Course Advisory Committee as an appointee of Brenda Palmer. I have served as a Neighborhood Watch Block Co-captain in one of the largest Neighborhood watches in Knoxville for over 10 years, helping strengthen this organization. This experience taught me the importance of having a strong relationship with KPD and the Sheriff's Department. I serve as the Knox County Angel Tree Coordinator for the Oak Ridge National Laboratory which has allowed me to deliver hundreds of gifts for kids in need. I spent days volunteering in support of the Sevier County Humane Society in response to the Gatlinburg wildfires. It is these experiences that inspired me to run for council and which qualify me to do so.

Seema Singh Perez: For five years I have been involved in variety of social justice work. I think in order for a city council to be most effective for all its constituents, it needs citizens from a variety of disciplines and experiences such as business, lawyers and real estate agents etc.

We need members that have had experience in the political realm and have served the city for years on various advisory boards.

I feel we have no shortage of these types. An aspect that often gets forgotten is a person that is well versed in social justice work, someone who can see certain advantages or disadvantages that a decision may have to underrepresented constituencies.

City Council, 4th District

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Questions:

Q: The city has embarked on an ambitious two-year project to overhaul our local zoning code. What changes would you like to see? What parts of the existing code should be retained?

Dan Davis: As far as changes I would like to see, I believe that those decisions must be left up to the residents, and not in the form of "stakeholder meetings". We must do better at reaching out to the average citizen, not just those politically astute enough to follow the rezoning process. Most of the people that rezoning would affect don't even know that it's going on. Given that it is such an ambitious project, it should be incumbent on the administration to do a better job at reaching out to the average citizen.

The parts of the existing code which should be retained? I am in no way opposed to looking at the codes, but once again, the people I talk to, by and large, like their neighborhoods the way they already are. That is, after all, why they moved there in the first place. Believe it or

not, some people prefer to spend the public money hiring more police officers instead of building more sidewalks and bike lanes. Not to mention, there is that pesky issue of property rights.

Jack Knoxville: I would like to see more connectivity to the flow of these neighborhoods instead of such distinct lines segregating our neighbors. We have great greenways that should also be connected. There are a great deal of run down areas that could be revitalized with the right changes to our zoning. At this time, I think we need to focus on growth and development, while still being able to preserve the charm of historical Knoxville.

Amelia (Amy) Parker: In speaking with residents around the 4th district, some were excited by opportunities the changing code presented while others were concerned. We must ensure throughout this process that the needs and wants of local neighborhood residents, assessed through meaningful public input, guide this process. This is an opportunity to impact how Knoxville develops over the next 30+ years. When considering incentives, we should prioritize investors and entrepreneurs who invest in our goals such as local job creation, walkability, and reducing carbon emissions. It is an opportunity for us to encourage future developments that will help to eliminate food and health deserts that require whole neighborhoods to travel across town for basic necessities. It is an opportunity to develop code that supports affordable housing expansion; and code that helps facilitate the provision of amenities throughout the city with access by foot, bike, public transit, and less often by car. A healthier Knoxville.

Lauren Rider: Working on zoning with businesses and neighborhoods for the last 12 years, I've seen a "One Size Does Not Fit All" problem with current land use rules that mandates a live here, drive to work, and shop in between pattern. For 50 years we've relied on zoning by variance to force the code to work. The overhaul should add flexibility, remove outdated language, and allow for more walkable neighborhoods, connections to commercial centers, and live/work/play options. Many neighbors want to stay in their suburban, residential neighborhoods but want pedestrian-friendly access to shopping districts with a pharmacy, grocery store, sandwich shop, etc.; our current code does not easily allow for such uses. New projects often are not initiated or are abandoned because they can't fit the code, and older buildings can't be made to fit current regulations. Redevelopment should take advantage of our existing infrastructure and building stock. Zoning can foster smart growth rather than act as a hurdle.

Harry Tindell: I support simplification of the current code while adding flexibility to the new code. The concept of multi-use zoning in our commercial corridors is worth pursuing. Any changes should enhance the status of our many diverse and unique residential neighborhoods and business districts.

Q: What do you think the vision and objectives of the present council and administration have been? How would you like to build upon or change that direction?

Dan Davis: The vision and objective of the current administration has been to attempt to turn Knoxville into "San Francisco East", and it has been the policy of the current council to rubber stamp the administration's proposals. In the budget just passed by the city, we are spending 17.5 million dollars on retrofitting all of our streetlights from traditional to LED technology, despite mountains of evidence of the detrimental effect these lights have on

residents, animals and driver safety, all for the sake of being "green". But let me give a better example.

Last night, during my shift as an Emergency Telecommunicator at Knox County E-911, I took a lot of drug overdose calls. I say "a lot", because it's honestly too many to remember. In addition to the drug epidemic, Knoxville has had, as of June 23rd, 10 homicides since May 15th. The current administration, however, has seen fit to reduce KPD funding by 7%, while spending 3.76 million dollars on sidewalks. That is, plainly speaking, immoral.

Jack Knoxville: I think that they council is moving in the right direction so far. I would like to increase on focus to creating alternative forms of energy into our planning.

Amelia (Amy) Parker: The objectives of the current council and administration have largely been focused on redevelopment efforts in downtown and along the four corridors leading into the city as well as making Knoxville a greener, biker-friendly, more energy-efficient, and walkable city. I would like to build upon the city's efforts to reduce Knoxville's carbon emissions by improving access to public transit in the city to increase the number of users but also to reduce the commute times of residents who already rely on the bus. To stop gentrification, however, we must change course on the city's efforts to expand out from the city and instead direct those dollars toward economic centers in each corner of the city that strengthen neighborhoods from the inside out, rather than from the outside in. Such development can lead to gentrification and in fact, in many ways already has. Ultimately, the future direction of the administration and next council must be guided by the meaningful input of our residents.

Lauren Rider: Downtown is an economic hub due to infrastructure improvements that spurred private investment. Land repurposing added properties to the tax rolls, creating city revenue and jobs. Our economy is built of smaller businesses and we can foster small business startups by tackling blight/abandoned properties. I will build upon a strong city center to address business corridor and neighborhood needs and will: Foster corridor revitalization by tackling barriers that stall redevelopment; Budget to spur economic development, provide quality city services, and generate additional property tax from new development that creates jobs and increases housing options; Address traffic concerns that impact quality of life through modernized traffic signals, improving public transit, and linking existing greenways and bike lanes; Consider housing needs for all income levels, especially lower- middle-income, as housing is essential to the city's stability and ability to attract and keep businesses.

Harry Tindell: The current city government works in two main areas, neighborhood services and community enhancement. The annual city budget and the zoning code are the two primary vehicles by which these priorities are established. With term limits, we will install a new government over the coming months. I believe that the new members of the city government should work to complete the existing agenda and work with the community to create a new agenda for the future. That agenda would include smart growth, development, and redevelopment, that results in sustainable growth, strong and safe neighborhoods, recreational choices, affordable housing options, business opportunities, jobs, and stable taxes.

Q: Please provide examples of how you have served the community in the past five years and how you think those efforts have prepared you to serve on city council.

Dan Davis: As an Emergency Telecommunicator at Knox County E-911, I have spent nearly a decade serving the citizens of Knoxville and Knox County. Over that time, in addition to gaining a deep understanding of crime trends throughout the city, I have helped people through issues ranging from a barking dog to that indescribable moment when you discover that your loved one has passed. Through those interactions, I have developed a unique and sorely needed perspective concerning the issues which the average Knoxville is facing day to day. I understand better than any other candidate from district 4 what is going on in this city. Knoxville is my city. I was born and raised here. I love this town and I have a deep and abiding interest in the safety and well-being of my fellow Knoxvilleians.

Jack Knoxville: For the last few years, I have volunteered with various organizations around town. In 2016, I launched an organization of my own called the Trans Empowerment Project. The mission behind the Trans Empowerment Project is to bridge the gap between the Trans Community and our allies. Our main focus is on education and empowerment. Our first event was a clothing swap held at the Birdhouse, in December of 2016 and provided free clothing to over 100 people in the community. Since that time, we have held informative and educational workshops, panel discussions, another clothing swap, and sponsored several youth events.

As a human, my own mission is to foster relationships and connect people and resources. It's what I do, and what comes natural for me. I believe in helping those around me to succeed and get better; together.

Amelia (Amy) Parker: Over the past 5 years, engagement in my community has helped prepare me to serve on city council. I've served as the treasurer of the Birdhouse Community Center in 4th and Gill. I have also been involved in the work to end disparities in our public schools through my work with Stop School Pushout, Black Lives Matter Knoxville, the Knox County Discipline Committee, and the Cultural Competency RFP Committee. As executive director of SOCM, I helped bring a people-powered radio station to the Knoxville community, WOZO radio 103.9 FM, housed at the Birdhouse and I was also involved in early efforts to promote a city-wide weatherization initiative to address high utility bills & reduce carbon emissions. After SOCM, I became director of Peace Brigades International-USA, through which I've partnered with local groups to bring human rights advocates for dialogue, training, and skill sharing. I helped form the City Council Movement to both be and support people-centered leadership in Knoxville.

Lauren Rider: The best prepared council member is one who has been engaged in the community and is an active listener. I've been a dedicated advocate in the community for the past 12 years and have used that time to interact with and learn city government. I represent my community at City Council, County Commission, MPC, BZA, and BBB meetings. I have engaged in efforts over the past 18 months to rewrite the zoning code and have attended all council meetings, workshops, and public input sessions on mixed-use zoning, Recode Knoxville, and Parking Ordinance revisions. I contributed to revitalization by organizing neighbors and returning blighted and vacant properties to the tax rolls. My involvement over the past 5 years includes: Broadway Corridor Task Force co-chair and founding member; City of Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory Council member; First Creek Greenway improvement leader; CoK Public Property Naming Committee member; Old North Knoxville neighborhood president and board member.

Harry Tindell: I will bring a life-time of service and experience to the community and our state as a member of the Knoxville City Council. I am the only candidate in any district with experience in elected government. With a new majority being elected to city council, my experience, knowledge and relationships will enable me to hit the ground running and to continue the improvements that make Knoxville such an attractive place to live, work and visit.

City Council, 6th District

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Questions:

Q: The city has embarked on an ambitious two-year project to overhaul our local zoning code. What changes would you like to see? What parts of the existing code should be retained?

Joyce Brown: I would like to get the clearer version of what to expect, more importantly how it will honestly effect the resident and business owners .

John A. Butler: I would like to see a local zoning code that is user-friendly to the average citizen and helps maintain the integrity and distinctiveness of neighborhoods. The local zoning code should maintain the protection of property owners of being displaced or inappropriately losing property value.

Maurice L. Clark Sr.: Good codes are the foundation upon which great communities are built. When you are talk about rezoning, it's important that all affected stakeholders in a community understand how rezoning works and have a voice. i would like to hear the communities input on the changes they think are necessary. However, i would like to see codes with less red tape and when implementing new codes, the changes i would be most concerned with are making sure we're always putting safety first in any type of development. And since I've been in public transportation for 8 1/2 yrs., I can see a need for more outdoor activities that encourage pedestrian activity and transit accessibility.

Michael Covington: I would like for the process to be more transparent. The survey that's being conducted is too narrowly defined and prompts responses that suit the agenda that'll yield a result which disenfranchises residents and excludes the quantitative input from the development companies responsible for Knoxville's present growth trajectory. In other words, folks not native to Knoxville should not be working in concert with a Chicago Consulting firm to remake Knoxville in an image not reflective of the will of the people. Retention of existing aspects of the zoning code should reflect the type of growth that will enable District 6 to be rejuvenated similar to the remaking of downtown. That too will also

require the input of the development community that we'll be relying on to take a lead role in restoring the area East of Downtown to its previous prominence. The Devil is in the detail. We need to make sure we're not left with the same challenges we started with as it relates to District 6 needs.

Charles Frazier: The changes I would like to see is a seven or eight point overview sheet that a citizen can have access to at the codes office or the Metropolitan Planning Commission to outline the districts of the city and the important elements of code requirements for both residential and commercial properties.

There should be a strong line for residential zones and any proposed business in a residential zone should be required to be reviewed by The Metropolitan Planning Commission giving the citizens of communities an opportunity to review a proposal business in a residential area.

David Gillette: Knoxville has really become a very diverse city. It's been 50 years since the city looked at zoning, it's going to be close to 18 months before rezone Knoxville is complete. Some parts of our city need clear guidelines and requirements that provide the stability needed to attract investment. We can encourage investment in our City's corridors and neighborhoods while protecting the characteristics that define these areas and provide for a sense of place in the community. This is also an opportunity exists to extend this resurgence to the corridors leading to downtown and to adjacent neighborhoods. There is also an opportunity to connect these areas with the city's natural amenities – the river, parks, and other green spaces.

Zimbabwe U. Matavou: An overhauled zoning code for the city of Knoxville, in accommodating the need for "mixed use" by the advocates of development along the commercial corridors and uptown, must protect neighborhoods and the low and moderate income residents who have historically lived in them. The new code must allow construction of homes on small lots that are prevalent in older communities and restrict "mixed use" to commercial islands of those neighborhoods.

Gwen McKenzie: I would like to see emphasis on sustainable solutions to assist any residents in historical zoning code areas who may be in jeopardy of being displaced.

Jennifer Montgomery: The current zoning code is over fifty years old and based on development patterns that are more applicable to automobile transportation. The new zoning code will hopefully promote mixed-use development, compatible commercial and residential development together. This kind of zoning is much more suitable to older neighborhoods and districts with infrastructure that is historically based on public transportation and walking and riding alternative modes to automobiles. Much of the Sixth district is composed of older neighborhoods. I am especially interested in opportunities with light manufacturing work in the context of residential and other commercial development. The new zoning should be adaptable to different historic and future neighborhood and district styles as well.

Damon Rawls: The coding system should be improved to update policies more aligned with modern use. There are limited provisions in the Zoning Codes at present that address issues related to entities such as mixed-use development. Hence, an examination and re-review of our current policies is needed with an assessment and update of the policies to address current development issues.

As we move forward with updating rezoning policies, I hope we consider the beauty of our existing structures and preserve the unique historical value some areas of our

community offer. I hope we approach updating of our structures to meet the new standards in a way that prioritizes historic perseverance and building enhancements.

Kennie Riffey: I have read the zoning laws and understand the reasons for a review and update. This review is not about identifying one or two existing zoning codes that should be retained. The goal of this zoning code update is to define a series of zoning types that can be applied to create a city of areas that fit together and flow efficiently. An extensive and encompassing process has been set into motion to hear what works and what is needed from the consultants, residents, and business owners. Residents must be aware that zoning laws can have far reaching implications for a community. A zoning change can be used to push long-time residents from their homes or open up an area that would allow a developer to change the face of a neighborhood. I want to see zoning codes that promote a balance of progress with preservation of lifestyle and history in neighborhoods, while encouraging commercial development that blends well with the community.

Shawnee Rios: I agree that it is time to evaluate our current codes. I would like to see more opportunity for multi-use properties, e.g., locally owned businesses with apartments or lofts attached. I would like to see our low income residents protected from gentrification and being subjected to higher property costs, rent, and taxes. We need to maintain the low density residential guidelines as much as possible. In general, I think we need more transparent information in order to properly evaluate the proposed overhaul and provide an opinion.

Brandy Slaybaugh: I am most hopeful that the zoning changes could address our need for more affordable housing and allow different neighborhoods to adopt different codes most in keeping with their sense of place.

We need creative ways in which to address these issues which aren't available under current code. One example, the tiny house movement, is currently unavailable for infill housing. I know many people that want to be involved and want to build small homes on infill lots. These lots are inexpensive and could potentially hold 2 homes. This is not a brand new concept- standard city lots currently exist with 2 shotgun houses on them, built prior to our current ordinances being put into place.

Inclusionary zoning is another method that could address our affordable housing shortage and the issue of economic segregation and placemaking. Many cities around the nation have adopted zoning which mandates a percentage of new developments be allocated to affordable units.

Q: What do you think the vision and objectives of the present council and administration have been? How would you like to build upon or change that direction?

Joyce Brown: The lack of communication into the changes that are and will take place in our district. We must focus on how we get the ppl more involved in the successful growth of our district. Home ownership, jobs and the economic growth of district 6 will take an involved community.

John A. Butler: The Knoxville city website states that the mayor is “dedicated to promoting a vibrant local economy, strong neighborhoods, a high quality of life, a thriving downtown and a greener Knoxville.” AS the District 6 Councilperson, I will be dedicated to better citizen engagement and involvement, including more and early involvement in vision projection and planning. I will be dedicated to increased neighborhood empowerment and enrichment especially in City renewal and development initiatives and

efforts. I will be dedicated to economic development and empowerment that will result in business development, entrepreneurial success and job creation in District 6 neighborhoods and communities.

Maurice L. Clark Sr.: Their vision has been to make Knoxville more walk-able and bicycle friendly. Increase more green ways, trails and make them more accessible. Building of stronger neighborhoods and building up downtown and the South Knoxville Waterfront. And also improving our public transportation "Knoxville Area Transit" KAT. I would continue to look at ways to build up Knoxville Area Transit, by looking at how we can possibly expand services to Knox County residents. I have a desire to see seniors 65 & older ride public transportation for free.

I would increase funding for Office of Neighborhoods. Make the City of Knoxville more business friendly, and recruit more business through the Chamber aimed at District 6.

Michael Covington: The vision of the present council and administration has been ambitious and designed to leave the incoming council with several options as to how we move forward. This team has done an admirable job of positioning the city for 'smart growth'. I would like for the city to continue to move in a direction that promotes tourism and hospitality while continuing to build strong communities. This approach will allow us to put our best foot forward and highlight all that our city has to offer visitors from around the region, the state, the nation and yes, the world.

Charles Frazier: The administration has been builders of improvements in Knoxville infrastructure, i.e downtown re-development; the Cumberland Avenue 21 month project, the South Knoxville Project, the Change Center, the Magnolia Improvement, and West Knoxville.

I was 100 % in favor of the direction of improved changes of Knoxville. My goal is to make sure we have cleaner neighborhoods and safer communities. I want to work with the Knoxville Police Department to hire more minority police officers and also I want to communicate to innercity residents not to accept violence in our communities and to work with the police to eradicate violent crime.

David Gillette: I believe that the vision and objectives from Council have been to move the city forward but I would like to build upon it to bring better jobs to the families in District 6, steady jobs and reliable income and working with the constituents in having a voice on the changes and issues that their community are currently facing. Our city and district 6 has faced many issues, I would like to have an open dialogue and bring the division amongst our communities together and formulate a action plan to tackle the issues.

Zimbabwe U. Matavou: The vision and objectives of the city council and administration have been to intensify/accelerate the development of uptown Knoxville and further explode uptown into the adjacent neighborhoods - specifically Mechanicsville and East Knoxville. This direction should be changed by establishing public policy that gives clear primacy to the comprehensive development of these communities. Primacy that mirrors if not exceeds that which was given to uptown Knoxville. Within that context (1) institute an immediate cessation on TIFS and PILOT programs for uptown (2) apply TIFS and PILOTS to the neighborhoods - beginning with Five Points, Burlington and Lonsdale (3) stop using city resources and influence to replace the existing populations of neighborhoods, instead, ally with neighborhoods in efforts to resist and defeat gentrification (4) and lastly,

reconfigure the boundaries of city council District 6 so as to increase the African American population.

Gwen McKenzie: I think the current council vision has been on greenways, connectivity and economic development and growth across the city.

I would like to shift the current direction slightly to evaluate and focus on the areas across our city (specifically in the 6th District) that have been underserved in terms of economic development growth in comparison to all projects scheduled within the next 4 years.

Jennifer Montgomery: The vision and objectives of the current council and administration has been smart and sustainable growth. Much recent focus has been on downtown as commercial and residential trends have shifted, here as well as on a national level. Focus on redevelopment of the city neighborhoods and commercial districts has started to spread, from the West and North sides of town to the South and East sides. The focus has also been on changes in more suburban land-use patterns as well. I have a Master of Science in Urban Regional Planning and own a real estate company. I'd like to be part of the continued conversation and effort with regard to smart and sustainable growth. As a representative of the Sixth District. I'd like to extend redevelopment districts along the commercial corridors, like Sutherland Avenue and E. Magnolia Avenue into the Burlington District. I'd like to offer developer incentives, like we have downtown, but for affordable and workforce housing.

Damon Rawls: Over the years, the sentiment of the present Council and Administration has been to work together for a better Knoxville. They work well together in advancing projects to move the city forward. A few examples include the new parks being built and several streetscape projects. As part of the Council, I will build upon this collaborative spirit working effectively with all council members to make Knoxville a stronger city. Leveraging a platform "Stronger Six, Stronger City", I will further catalyze our momentum creating a stronger sixth district and ultimately a stronger city.

Kennie Riffey: With the current administration's vision of development, we have seen downtown grow into a desirable destination. Restaurants and shops abound, residences are full, and people are moving into surrounding older city neighborhoods. City living is a trend that has swept the country and Knoxville is no exception. Development is good, however, unbridled and unchecked development can destroy communities. As development moves into our older, established city neighborhoods, it is time to take a breath and work more closely with the residents who have lived there for decades. Rapid development can push out residents; we hear more about "gentrification" every day. I bring a vision and voice of cooperative progress. Development should and will continue, but in conjunction with input from the families, businesses, and neighborhoods that will be affected. The City should extend incentives to small business startups and to companies to relocate to depressed areas, such as Magnolia Avenue.

Shawnee Rios: The vision and objective of the current council appears to be one of protecting the citizens of Knoxville, and expanding growth. I have been impressed with Mayor Rogero's efforts to promote unity and acceptance of some of our minority communities, including the LGBT+ and refugee communities. Our city has made efforts to empower our at risk youth as well. The environment has been a topic, and I applaud that. I would like to aid in our move towards becoming a more progressive and accepting community by means of open dialogue and education. We must address the issues of violence, drug addiction, and poverty in order to further empower our at risk youth. This

includes more opportunities for their parents and guardians. It's time to examine the minimum wage and how increasing it will affect our city, as well as increased locally owned businesses and employment opportunities in our lower class areas. We also need to evaluate our incarceration rates for misdemeanor drug charges and addiction.

Brandy Slaybaugh: I believe that the current administration has focused on economic growth of the city, especially downtown and its corridors. We have become a busy tourism city- around a billion dollars taken in from the tourism industry yearly.

This growth is fantastic for our economy but I would like the city to be cautious and ensure that we don't homogenize our neighborhoods. The differences in the areas of town and the diversity of the people is what makes Knoxville fantastic. The people who live here need to know that these improvements are for them and their benefit. Our people are who give the city personality and character; we should protect what makes us unique.

I specifically would like to address the Magnolia Warehouse project which is in its infancy. Preserving existing businesses and recruiting local small scale manufacturers and retailers should be priority over recruitment from outside of Knoxville or East Tennessee. Again, prime concern should be given to existing population.

Q: Please provide examples of how you have served the community in the past five years and how you think those efforts have prepared you to serve on city council.

Joyce Brown: I have participated in every election by being a part of someone else's campaign and working towards getting folks to register to vote. I also play a large role in getting healthcare for everyone, the fight of course continues. I have always stayed behind the scenes and it was time to branch out.

John A. Butler: I have served with numerous organizations and community engagement efforts that have help prepare me to serve on city council as a servant, leader and advocate. I served as the President of the Knoxville Branch NAACP, as the President of the Knoxville Interdenominational Christian Ministerial Alliance (KICMA), as the Chair of the FAITH Coalition (a Faith-Based Coalition to help reduce HIV & AIDS), on the Knoxville Police Advisory and Review Committee (PARC), on the Knoxville Save Our Sons Advisory Committee, on the Board of the Beck Cultural Exchange Center, on the Board of the Great Schools Partnership, on the Knox County Schools (KCS) Disparities in Educational Outcomes (DEO) Task Force & Steering Committee, on the Knoxville Smarter Cities Partnership Stakeholder Committee, on the TVA Energy Efficiency-Information Exchange Stakeholder Group.

I worked with several community initiatives including: the Mechanicsville Neighborhood Watch Program; Rescue & Resto

Maurice L. Clark Sr.: Holding several Voter Registration Drives, to include education & the importance of participation.

Being a charter member of the grassroots group "Knoxville Community Step Up", with emphasis on helping those who get out of prison to obtain the necessary tools needed to stay out and live a productive crime and drug free life. Mentoring young men through 100 Black Men of Knoxville. And coaching little league baseball and basketball out of East Knoxville Athletic Association (EKAA). Co-Vice President for City Center Youth Sports Program (CCYSP) who coach & mentor kids throughout Knoxville's low income housing. Being a city bus driver, I've not only witnessed the growth in other districts, I've also conversed with passengers about changes they would like to see in the 6th District and

throughout the city to improve their way of life. These passengers range from working class to those living in homeless shelters. These efforts have prepared me to speak with a voice for everyone.

Michael Covington: In 2014, I brought the community together in the midst of a crisis that came about as the result of the Walgreens at 2514 Magnolia Avenue closing at a time when other area businesses were closing. After getting a handle on the situation and realizing that once the loss of the Walgreens as a pharmacy and food source was accepted as an indicator that the community was continuing to decline, I transformed our monthly community gathering into a speaker series featuring local and state elected officials along with agency heads and business leaders to address attendees and share information about local government and business development. Along with this effort, I have continued the task of working to bring a much needed hospital to the area to service residents of District 6 presently forced to travel significant distances to see a doctor and get access to healthcare service. Additionally, I have been working to attract supermarkets to an area of the District designated as a food desert.

Charles Frazier: I managed budgets for several local businesses and as a result I understand numbers and do realize we have to balance an annual budget.

Sales Executive for WJBE Radio and car sales person in Knoxville. I have met and built relationships with many entrepreneurs which lends itself to establishing relationship with business of Knoxville.

I am an on-air broadcaster of Austin-East and Fulton High School football and basketball games which has provided me with an opportunity to meet many of our youths and listening to their pulse about Knoxville.

I have continued to make an effort stay abreast of the city direction and policies.

David Gillette: Received several proclamations for leadership from the city of Knoxville for the services I provided to my communities and neighbors.

Received the Diana Conn good neighbor of the year award from the city of Knoxville for going beyond the call of duty helping a neighbor care for her ill husband and sister, and then taking her into my home after their subsequent deaths to make certain she would not be alone.

Currently serving on the city's neighborhood advisory council.

Received a resolution adopted into house from Governor Haslam for my exemplary leadership with my communities.

Served on many boards and committees to include being Vice President of the Mechanicsville community association and acting as homecoming chairman for 7 years.

Zimbabwe U. Matavou: The last five years are an increment in the continuum of a life time effort to save the African American community from the onslaught of six decades of an urban renewal policy of the city of Knoxville. Urban renewal struck a devastating blow to business ownership - it virtually disappeared. An effort to get city and county governments and public agencies to do serious business with African American firms and assist with their development and growth is ongoing; and ongoing also to bring African American business vitality to Mechanicsville and East Knoxville. The advancement of the learning of citizen as what the early signs of gentrification are and how to resist the tendency to resign to it has been and will be how I serve.

Gwen McKenzie: My volunteerism spans 20 years with various organizations however within the past 5 years I have focused my efforts on working with the Knoxville Area Urban

League National Achiever's Program and caring for a parent. Working with young people who are striving for academic excellence, higher education opportunities and giving back through community service projects has been very rewarding. This experience has equipped me for city council by realizing the great need to encourage and expose young people to current issues in local/state government and becoming actively engaged in the political process.

Jennifer Montgomery: Over the last five years, I have been working in the community to build a business based on the mentorship of people in the community that want to serve as trusted advisors about housing opportunities. My business is located in the Sixth District, where I spent a great deal of my career acting in just about every neighborhood around the Sixth District as this kind of advisor. I have learned a great deal about the hopes, dreams, and necessities of people in the neighborhoods where I've been working. I have also been active in my neighborhood group. I am now serving as President. I have had the experience of facilitating and providing support for difficult conversations that have led to greater participation and dialogue over the last year. My term ends at the end of this year. I am looking forward to bringing my experience to the recently formed Lion's Club in East Knoxville and a merchant's group that I started, Magnolia Avenue Market Area (MAMA), a few years ago.

Damon Rawls: In the past five years, I have actively served in several organizations that have prepared me to serve on our city council. I was a member of City of Knoxville's Business Advisory Council (BAC). As a member of the BAC, I strategically built awareness around issues related to doing business in Knoxville, which captured the attention of our City administration. I care about the trajectory of Knoxville's youth; as co-founder of the #YEP (Young Entrepreneurship Program) program, I've worked relentlessly to teach entrepreneurship skills and strategies to students at Austin East and Fulton High schools. I currently sit on the United Way of Greater Knoxville Board of Directors. The United Way is a great community organization and great example of my desire to see more collective action and impact across the City. I've also served the Knoxville Area Urban League, and continue to honor my commitment to building a stronger community.

Kennie Riffey: My construction company received this year's Equity Award for Fair and Affordable Housing for our work with low-income homeowners. I teach construction skills through on-the-job training and employ people who need a second chance, such as ex-offenders. I am part of the Family Promise team that offers temporary housing for homeless families. Yet, my greatest opportunity to serve has been on my own street. I know most of my neighbors, and am often aware of their financial hardships and difficult family situations. I can provide a ride to the store, mow a lawn, or just lend an ear. I currently live in an older, downtown neighborhood, but have also lived in a loft in the city center of Denver. To serve you well on City Council, I bring an advocate's heart, an analyst's mind, a researcher's determination, and an understanding that some of the issues faced by city-center residents may be different to those faced by families in older neighborhoods. My job is to stand for both.

Shawnee Rios: I currently serve on the Board of Directors for 2 local non-profit organizations: The Freedom From Religion Foundation-East Tennessee Chapter and Rationalists of East Tennessee. Both have given me experience in leadership, governance, and maintaining a budget. Being a Director of FFRF-ETC has also given me more of a clear understanding of the First Amendment of the US Constitution, which is vital in all levels of

government. I currently serve as Co-President and Treasurer of the Atheists Society of Knoxville, giving me experience in leadership, diplomacy, and maintaining finances. I have been fortunate enough to speak to students at Webb School on a panel for Women in Religious Leadership Roles . I volunteer whenever possible with OCO's Urban Garden, speak out often in solidarity with Planned Parenthood, the LGBT+ community, and have volunteered for a RAM clinic. RAM, in particular, has given me insight into what our community is lacking in regards to healthcare.

Brandy Slaybaugh: About half of my work is reduced fee and pro bono. As a result of this, I have an intimate knowledge of the crises that are currently affecting the families of Knoxville. Homelessness, addiction, lack of resources, mental health treatment, low paying work, housing shortage, opiate abuse- these are all things that I already work on weekly. They are also things that the City could take steps to address.

I have also been involved with the National Women in Agriculture Association, promoting women and minority farmers. I have community gardened- for the benefit and at no cost to the recipients. I have worked with the people of Montgomery Village. I have searched out public art space. I have, and will continue, to work on the things I am passionate about.