

Candidates for City Council – Response to PSG Questionnaire		
PSG did not receive responses from the following candidates: District 1 - Harry Warner; District 3 - Dorian Daniels and Hassan Fountain; District 4 - Jeff Thomas; District 8 - Amelia Lightner and Reva Trammell; District 9 - Germika Pegram		
PLANNING PROCESS		
What will you do to improve planning and zoning in the City of Richmond, including involving the public in planning?		
District 1	Andreas Addison	<p>The organization of public information is a key function and foundational role of government. Making zoning data, planning information, and plans available online in a public facing and easily understood format is crucial in the 21st century. The City of Richmond is far behind in engaging the public in the important and process of the neighborhood shaping and community defining projects that demand citizen engagement, input, and direction. It is paramount that we emphasize the role of the public in the process. Citizens should be able to type in an address and see active, proposed, and recently closed zoning changes, building permits, and other plans that are in the vicinity of their address. Allowing the public to have open and available access to public information is a foundational part of my career at City Hall when I worked as the Civic Innovator. Public engagement with government services and information was a paramount focus of my efforts to drive creating the City's open data portal which houses zoning and house value data, SeeClickFix to empower citizens to submit requests for basic neighborhood services from their phone and online, and to bringing the NextDoor platform to connect neighbors to each other to share recommendations for service, events, and relevant community information. It was these experiences that led my involvement in the creation of the "Digital Sustainability Conversations" guidebook to engage citizens with local government online (http://www.albanysustainability.org/documents/DE%20Guidebook%20-%20Web.pdf).</p> <p>I believe there are two areas we need to focus on to address zoning and planning:</p> <p>A) We need to improve and streamline how businesses interact with Richmond City Government when obtaining permits and dealing with zoning projects. Ask any business owner what the most cumbersome part of operating a business in Richmond is and they will almost always say Room 110 at City Hall. A main theme of my campaign for City Council is improving our city's services, infrastructure and bringing it into the 21st Century. It is time to streamline the process, modernize our online services and ensure we remove as many roadblocks in the process as possible.</p> <p>B) By expanding our online and digital services we will create an atmosphere where there is increased transparency and accountability. Residents and business owners will be able to access the information instantly, which allow for greater citizen input and interaction. It is time to enhance engagement by removing the archaic paperwork and processing now required</p>
District 1	Jonathan Cruise	<p>Among others, one of the priorities of my campaign is to foster, promote, and increase transparency in all city activities by employing sensible communication channels to publicize opportunities for citizens to participate and provide input. I firmly believe that a government that embraces transparency and openness helps strengthen our democracy and promotes efficiency and effectiveness in government activities. Making sure that city planners, developers, and citizens all have the ability to access and understand the planning and decision-making process is critical. I will strive to address areas where developers express serious challenges in working with the city and ensure that the process is fair and predictable. I will commit to ensuring that citizens can easily engage in the planning process and that the process is clear and understandable. Lastly, I will promote sensible economic development that secures Richmond's future as a robust, dynamic, and vibrant city.</p>
District 2	Charlie Diradour	<p>Currently, I see two issues with the state of planning and zoning in the City. Some may see these two issues as a problem, but I think they offer us an opportunity, if City Council is willing to take a leadership role. First, we have not properly maintained the Master Plan and the Sector Plans. This has created a situation where the City now chases individual new ideas and does not consider their overall effect on the City. The second is that the Citizens increasingly are looking for a place where they can live, work and play. In the last twenty years, how we live in the City has changed greatly. With the plans out of date and lifestyle changes happening rapidly, we have an opportunity to set a path that can assure Richmond's future. We need to reformulate, with citizen input, the Master Plan and Sector Plans to craft a clear view of the kind of city Richmond will be twenty years out. With that clear intentional view, I know that investment, public and private, will make the Plans into a modern live, work, play city. As a city council representative, my job will be to make sure that we (council, mayor, citizens and other stakeholders) do the work to update all plans and then use those plans to measure and encourage proper restorative development.</p>

District 2	Kim Gray	<p>Prior to being elected to Richmond School Board in 2008, I served on the City's Downtown Master Plan Committee in 2007. There I saw firsthand the benefits of engaging the entire community in our planning process. I would like to utilize the same type of hands-on planning processes. I also want to include longer-term citizen components to these endeavors.</p> <p>In 2003, I was appointed by then-Governor Mark Warner to be Special Assistant to the Secretary of Education. In that role, I helped to implement Governor Warner's innovative Partnership for Achieving Successful Schools (PASS) initiative. PASS enabled private citizens, companies, and nonprofits to contribute resources of time and money to improve Virginia's schools.</p> <p>The city is in some financial trouble, and there is too much work for existing resources to handle. I want to create an ancillary organization of skilled volunteers that will support city projects. First and foremost, we need to correct the software problems that are still affecting the city and then correct procedures to avoid problems in the future. After that, we'll seek to add expertise and manpower to help turn around each department.</p> <p>Volunteers can also help to support the public sessions.</p> <p>As a School Board member, I've spoken with many constituents with specialized skills who want to contribute their time in a meaningful way. I believe there are many more who want to help the city, including IT Specialists, retired CFO's, mechanics, etc. Most people can help in some way. Zoning and Planning will improve simply by adding the transparency that this initiative can bring.</p> <p>Zoning is hampered in the same way that the Richmond Police Department is-by losing experienced people, many of them driven out by a system in dysfunction. Planning may have similar problems. Leadership changes may be in order, but we will need more information to proceed. A comprehensive audit of the city's operations, such as was performed by Bellwether Education Partners for Richmond Public Schools, will give us recommendations for improvement, best practices, and more. It's hard work to get through those types of audits, but they are worth it.</p>
District 2	Rebecca K. W. Keel	<p>There are creative solutions for community engagement and ways to improve planning and zoning. Once in office, I will create platforms in which community members can easily access information about city projects. I will then create processes in which community members can actually engage. This can manifest in numerous ways such as online campaigns, canvassing, public forums (on and offline), a city survey, and participatory budgeting.</p>
District 3	Milondra Coleman	<p>There are four things that I would like to help improve planning and zoning in the City of Richmond. First, I would put together a commission that would update our currently out of date citywide master plan and current sector plans for each defined commercial and mixed-use neighborhood. Additionally, I would propose that every development project makes the required findings under the City Charter and uses sector plans to provide guidance on how a project should conform to the community vision. Third, I would make sure that a commission was formed to update the zoning for all areas of Richmond. Finally, I have found that the city makes it hard to follow its website on many issues. As such, in the area of planning and zoning, I would task the planning and zoning commission with providing the suggestions necessary to make it easier for a citizen to track planning and zoning issues.</p>
District 3	Chris Hilbert	<p>I share your concerns about the importance of citizen involvement. We must simplify the website so information is provided in an accessible and transparent way. We must better reach out to the citizens in a more overt way to engage them in the process. I believe that the Master Planning process that was used a number of years ago by Rachel Flynn provides an excellent model for this type of engagement. We must prioritize neighborhoods and communities. Richmond definitely benefits from economic development (jobs, increased tax base); however, it must be done in a way that preserves and enhances a livable community. We must make the permit process more streamline while involving the citizens in the higher level planning and zoning process.</p>
District 4	Tim Grimes	<p>From a City Council perspective, I will urge the new Administration to adequately fund Planning and Zoning for staffing. I will strive to open a continual dialog with the Administration as well as my fellow Councilmembers. Especially, during Budget negotiations (think of that possibility). Regarding involving the public in planning, depending on the size and scope of project, larger projects should have town hall meetings. Smaller projects, are well served by being vetted through the Planning Commission, Administration and City Council.</p>
District 4	Kristen Larson	<p>Richmonders are concerned with a lack of consistency regarding zoning, planning, special use permitting, and public outreach. On some projects the city seems to be doing well, on others, the public feels ignored. The city needs to work to be more transparent in presenting and inviting public input on development projects, and I will work with the relevant agencies in my district to make sure the citizens of the 4th District are involved in city-permitted projects.</p>

District 4	Larry Olanrewaju	<p>If elected to Council I will be one of nine members that constitute the policy making body of city government. Therefore, it is not what I can do, but the leadership I can provide in improving planning and zoning, and involving the public. Richmond cannot plan effectively if it does not have a vision of what type of city it wants to be. The new Mayor and City Council have to, first, create a vision for the city, with inputs from the citizens. The vision then guides the planning initiatives of the city. If we do not have a vision of what we want to be then any economic development project will do regardless of how it affects our city or neighborhoods. From my perspective, the new government (Council and Mayor) will improve planning and zoning by adequately funding positions in the planning department, recruit individual who are experts in this field, be able to retain them, and value their expertise by listening to their advice. Political consideration should not override the advice of experts. This will start the process of improving planning and zoning in the City.</p> <p>Secondly, the new government should bring back the neighborhood team concept. The neighborhood teams consisted of members and officers of the neighborhood associations. My old Team was the Huguenot Team. It was through the teams that the public, first, had an opportunity to input into development that affected their areas. By reconstituting the team concept it will create avenues for citizen participation and inputting into the planning process.</p> <p>Lastly, to improve planning, the new government, must update the City wide Masterplan and also review the zoning ordinance for alignment with the new Master Plan.</p>
District 4	John Walker	<p>Richmond must make itself much easier to do business with and be transparent in its dealings with businesses (small and mid-size) as well as, "Joe private citizen." We only have to look to our neighbors in Henrico County, to see how Virgil Hazelet, former county manager, made that county a place where you would want to do business.</p>
District 5	Parker Agelasto	<p>Neighborhoods should always be engaged in the planning process. Residents should have the opportunity to meet with developers to get a fuller picture of the proposed development and address concerns early in the process. While serving on City Council, I worked with staff to improve the notification process to civic associations from the Planning Commission, Urban Design Committee, and Board of Zoning Appeals. I have also regularly posted these meeting agendas on social media highlighting projects in the 5th District. Lastly, I have sent email notifications to residents in effected communities when special use permits have been on the agenda. Likewise, I have utilized Storefront for Community Design on several occasions to develop a community vision to share with potential developers before a proposal is submitted. Planning needs to be a two way street. It should be proactive and not reactive.</p>
District 5	Montique Magruder	<p>I have to gain some understanding of zoning issues to better answer this question. This isn't exactly my area of expertise. To help engage the public in planning issues, I will introduce/push for an ordinance that requires any economic development deals requiring \$1 million or greater to be put to a binding public referendum.</p>
District 5	Garrett Sawyer	<p>We must improve our current planning and zoning procedures within the City of Richmond in addition to ensuring the public is involved from beginning to end as it relates to the planning process. Planning and zoning serve as a primary tool in our city for helping increase density and supporting high quality services. More specifically, planning assists with guiding development, whereas zoning law regulates areas of land and dictates how it can be used. Regulations and incentives are necessary to entice developers throughout the city instead of selecting neighboring counties, such as Henrico and Chesterfield. It is important to note that the development and implementation of zoning regulations will not be successful without a cooperative process that fully engages the public. Unfortunately, we have seen approaches to planning and zoning that (a) often have alienated Richmond residents and (b) often fail to address the needs and concerns of those residents and businesses within the potentially developed areas (i.e., Redskins training camp). When you involve the public in planning, you build community buy-in and support for policies that will be adopted. In addition, you are building trust with residents that have the ability to gain knowledge of the standards the planning commission must apply to the decision-making process. I fully support public hearings that give the public the opportunity to pose questions on how development will impact their community and surveys to determine the pulse of the community on the proposal. If the city cannot increase transparency and engagement, then the city will continue to be viewed as a city where a select group of individuals make decisions about the future of our evolving city.</p>

District 6	Donald Moss	<p>One of the most important things for the 6th District is to start working very strategically to get rid of blighted, vacant properties that are dangerous to our neighborhoods. I'm passionate about working with multiple City departments - including the Planning Department, Office of Community Wealth-Building, Finance, Revenue, and Law to help get tax-delinquent properties rehabilitated, back on the tax rolls, and filled with new neighbors for the 6th District. Additionally, our District particularly shows some of the great things that can happen with citizen-driven planning efforts, such as Manchester in the Downtown Plan and the Hull Street Revitalization Plan, but also shows the need to make implementation a critical part of the planning process. I will push the Administration to show how they're going to implement new plans, as well as ones already adopted.</p>
District 6	Ellen Robertson	<p>The City lacks a citizen agreed-upon policy and procedure to achieve citizen engagement in policy making and planning. According to administration, we follow the law which requires public meetings and public notifications. Council must adopt the citizen engagement policy prior to future planning process. The City makes decisions without defining processes for achieving agreed upon desired results. The City of Richmond put in place a completely new government making one change to the Charter- changing the word City Manager to Mayor. Council need to take a more aggressive role in the expectation of planning by establishing policy and planning expectations and goals for the City, adopting the citizen engagement policy, and charging administration to present a plan to achieve the outcomes. Over the past 2 years, I spent an extensive amount of time working with community stakeholders, administration, and citizens to prepare legislation to define objectives for citizen engagement and economic and community planning for the City. It was one of the most difficult tasks, but did result in Ordinance 2016-090 finally being adopted by Council. I advise you to review the Ordinance. This is a major accomplishment in doing the right thing the right way; however more needs to be done to address citizen engagement without compromising competitiveness.</p>
District 7	Cynthia Newbille	<p>I have met with, and will continue to work closely with the Master Plan Project Manager throughout the Master Plan development process to support and assist with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Community education re: the Master Plan process – What it is? Why it's important, and How one can be involved. b. Community outreach and engagement in the process e.g. Resident, civic, tenant, business and other associations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Engagement strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Towne Hall meetings/District meetings 2. Social Media, Website etc. 3. Community listening sessions etc. c. Development of a comprehensive master plan to guide our City's growth and development to minimally include data collection/study and recommendations in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Land Use & Zoning ii. Economic Development & Employment iii. Transportation & Parking iv. Utilities v. Arts & Culture vi. Community Facilities vii. Historic Resources viii. Housing ix. Environmental Resources x. Parks & Recreation xi. Urban Design

District 7	Josh Williams	<p>I would support the effort for a revised city planning commission. We have lost sight of the fact that planning is one of the city's core functions. We do not plan, but instead react hastily to new projects without considering the effects or the public's wants and needs. The city plan needs to be updated and built on. Sector plans are marked and identified but very few substantial updates to old plans have been made, if at all. We do not consider or consult our plans appropriately when considering new projects.</p> <p>Step one: Lead the effort to have public discussions for what the public's ideas and needs are within the East End. These discussions and planning sessions are never behind closed doors and are between the planning commission and the citizenry of the effected sector and district.</p> <p>Step two: Review and update the sector plans from these discussions.</p> <p>Step three: Review and update the city's master plan including the individual sector plans.</p> <p>Step four: Once the proposed master plan is developed, continually return to the public by means of public forum (i.e. no back door deals) to discuss solutions for zoning gaps and infrastructure needs within the master plan.</p> <p>Step five: Implement the plan and adjust zoning as required to facilitate execution of the approved plan</p>
District 9	Leon Benjamin	<p>If elected to the office of 9th District Richmond City Council, I suggest the best way to improve planning and zoning in the City of Richmond would be to work collaboratively with the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer which oversee the Richmond Dept. Planning and Development Review. There should be a clear cut vision for the direction of the city when it comes to growth and development and that starts with the Mayor. Included in this development strategy would be to have public forums where the community can give input and ask questions as to the process of planning and zoning. Also a section on the city website might include a "community voice" section to get input from the public. How we use this input would be determined by the Mayor and CAO and the Richmond Department of Planning and Development Review.</p>
District 9	Michael Jones	<p>I will seek to fully fund the Planning and Zoning Departments, and will hold the administration to following the rules/law in all development deals.</p>
District 9	Marcus Squires	<p>Currently to planning and zoning process in Richmond can take a long time, I'm hoping to shorten this process given the situation at city hall allows for the positions to be filled in the office. Currently I am happy with the current master plan that was most recently released. I feel that for the most part the master plan is still up to date apart from current transportation upgrades but those would only require an amendment to the master plan for the areas along the pulse and a few other areas around Patterson and Manchester. I do agree that involving the public in what goes on in the city is very important, but the public also has access to the GIS mapping system which states what is in the process of being under review by the city and in my opinion is easier to navigate in comparison to the legistar database.</p>

What will be your approach to potential economic development deals which don't conform to current city plans/zoning or where the city doesn't have an updated sector plan?		
District 1	Andreas Addison	Public engagement is paramount to the successful growth and development of our city. Proposed economic development deals must be vetted in an open and engaged process whenever possible. Plans that have been debated and discussed publicly and approved by elected officials and city leadership must be adhered to as new projects are presented. When there are not available or outdated plans, transparent communication with the public needs to be conducted as soon and as frequently as possible. While complete public consensus is not always achievable, engagement is key. Open dialogue and communication about proposed plans, their impact on the day-to-day lives of citizens and businesses, as well as amount and timeline for public funds needed to complete the project need to be presented up front. That is why I believe it is important to maintain city strategic plans that are current and relevant to national, state, and local trends. Regularly engaging our residents and business owners about the plans for the economic centers of our city is a key component to sustainable growth and development. Proper plans are a required part of building a 21st century city, and Richmond has fallen behind in maintaining our development consistency in a sustainable manner. We have fallen victim to flashy new projects that have created wasted public funds and indifference between our existing small businesses that have made Richmond the great city it is as big name clients have the red carpet rolled out for them. We need to have a strategic plan and vision for the future of our city, while protecting our natural assets, neighborhood charm, and historic charisma.
District 1	Jonathan Cruise	Input from the community is critical in special cases like these. In these circumstances, my approach will call for the city to engage citizens and/or community/neighborhood associations to ensure that any and all aspects of the deals receive public review and debate with a level of transparency that significantly exceeds what we might observe today. Economic development deals that lack public engagement sacrifice City Hall's effectiveness and degrade the quality of its decisions.
District 2	Charlie Diradour	There are two distinct roles depending on if the change is in district or outside the district. For years, the custom has been to allow the representative from the district to take the lead on the investigation of the project, confer with staff, and most importantly, get citizen input. Willingness to work through a process has been tossed out the window in the past four years. It is important that the in-district councilperson serves as the "expert". When that role is filled, then any considered change will hopefully support the residents and drive to the goal of creating a live, work, play city. The remaining council members need to consider how any local change may affect the city as a whole. If the change has a citywide impact or the accumulation of changes impact the master or sector plans, then modifications to the plans will need to be considered to maintain the long-term goals.
District 2	Kim Gray	Special Use Permits do have a place, but they should not be used by default. The Tredegar Green Amphitheater is a good example. In negotiations with the Oregon Hill neighborhood association, Venture Richmond asked for a Zoning change to an industrial designation that would allow them to build almost anything on the Riverfront, but said that they wanted only to build restroom facilities. The neighborhood wanted to restrict the use of the area to preserve public access, preserve historically important sites, and sustain the river's natural beauty. A SUP could do those things, but the zoning change allowed too much leeway. As long as SUPs are voted on by the City Council, and the City Council is not represented by individuals with financial interests in the outcome, the SUP can have a place. In the past, rules have been enforced against some business owners while ignored for others. We need to level the playing field to encourage more small business growth, and that will take more resources. We hope that the public/private partnership organization will help to get those resources in place. In the short-term, the increased transparency of having volunteers engaged with zoning projects will by itself improve some practices. Additional sources of knowledge and guidance that are underutilized are the neighborhood associations. I will directly engage Neighborhood Associations regularly, especially when development projects are being discussed. My long-term goal is to increase participation in the neighborhood associations by making them more impactful in the decision-making process. Another idea would be to bring the Neighborhood Teams program, which worked very well for many years.
District 2	Rebecca K. W. Keel	The best way to ensure conscious economic development is to gain buy-in from the community. Outlier development should be put up for a public referendum vote (a public vote) so the community can engage in the decision making process.

District 3	Milondra Coleman	If an economic deal did not conform to our desired city plans/zoning, I would not even be interested in entertaining it. Additionally, my willingness to entertain such a potential economic development deal would be even less if we, the city, had not created an updated sector plan for each defined commercial and mixed-use neighborhood. Finally, while my thoughts, as a representative of the third district would be important, I would definitely solicit the input of my constituents regarding any potential economic development deals that the city was considering.
District 3	Chris Hilbert	I would ask that the developer go back and find a way to make his plan match the current plans and zoning. If the plan is outdated, I would involve the community, all the stakeholders and experts such as PSG to see if this is really a good project. The Planning Commission and the City Council must be proactive in seeking community input; we cannot set back and let the community come to us.
District 4	Tim Grimes	I will meet with parties on both sides of the project, pro and con. Then get a feel for where my fellow Councilmembers stand, hopefully, confer with the Administration and Planning Commission to develop an educated understanding of the project.
District 4	Kristen Larson	The first priority for economic development in our city is to update the city master plan. We have some areas of the city where zoning hasn't been updated for decades. For example, the residence and commercial development in Manchester and Scott's Addition is not reflected in our current master plan. It is important that this plan be updated with meaningful public input. I anticipate that this process will take 12-18 months. Once completed, we will be able to operate a more transparent, efficient economic development office. Having clear zoning plans for each part of the city will go a long way in avoiding concerns from the public about non-conforming or special use development projects.
District 4	Larry Olanrewaju	While viable economic development is important to the city, it is also important that such developments fit in the overall vision, plan and zoning ordinance. The purpose of planning and zoning in any community is to provide and orderly and controlled economic growth of the city and its neighborhoods. Therefore, if the administration feels that a case can be made for the deviation from the master plan/zoning it should provide a long period of time for the review and discussion of the implication of the development for the master plan and zoning ordinance. Most importantly, the public should have a say in whether city council grants a variance to the plan, and zoning ordinance.
District 4	John Walker	We must have vision to determine if that project makes sense for the future (long term,10 years out). Most importantly the city must be dynamic and flexible in this key area.
District 5	Parker Agelasto	The city master plan is outdated and is in the process of a complete update. Many areas need to be revised from existing zoning. This will facilitate a long-range plan for economic development. Good planning should assess the needs of the entire City and be applied consistently and deliberately. However, opportunities for unanticipated projects are likely to occur. These projects should require a small area plan to be incorporated into the master plan and not rushed due to artificial timelines. Therefore, I will continue to consult neighbors, the developer, smart growth and environmental experts to reach a decision. Clearly, we need to update the master plan.
District 5	Montique Magruder	I have to gain some understanding of zoning issues to better answer this question. This isn't exactly my area of expertise. To help engage the public in planning issues, I will introduce/push for an ordinance that requires any economic development deals requiring \$1 million or greater to be put to a binding public referendum.
District 5	Garrett Sawyer	Based on the level of growth the City of Richmond has seen in recent years, it is critical that the city take a close look at current and future needs for land use. It just doesn't stop at the city though; it requires bringing the city residents to the table to contribute to the process of updating our plan that will help guide the sector in future years. In the case where the city has a potential economic development opportunity that does not fit within current city plans/zoning, I would request that the Richmond Planning Commission assess zoning and make a recommendation to City Council on whether we should look into a zoning change to allow the project to proceed. In addition, the public must have the opportunity to weigh in on the economic development to ensure it will positively impact the area.
District 6	Donald Moss	We have to make sure that any economic development deal is affordable, transparent, and includes significant public input. It is incumbent upon City Council to vet any such proposal, analyze the benefits, consider the cost, and if necessary, hold marathon council meetings until they have arrived at conclusion that best serves the citizens of Richmond. A late night in service of the people of this city is the least we can do to make sure their money is being invested fairly and properly.
District 6	Ellen Robertson	The City Council role is spelled out in the Ordinance referenced above. The special use process remains an option, but our role as defined in the Ordinance stipulates the review process for development deals, and requires the support a CEDP incorporating the master plan, and includes small sector plans. This Ordinance places the significant of planning and citizen engagement as lead driver in decisions on economic development to ensure we are rebuilding a desired City and less by special use and spot zoning. Economic Development Department greatest concern remains that planning works to enhance competitiveness.
District 7	Cynthia Newbille	I will review and thoroughly vet each project with staff, resident and community stakeholders relative to the most current Master plan guidelines/amendments, and CIP plans to inform decisioning relative to each proposed project.

District 7	Josh Williams	The focus should be on updating the plans. However, if the plans are not updated then a special use permit is a way to allow for positive development. Involving the community and listening to their needs is the only way to ensure it is done without back door deals and in the best interest of the community. If a potential economic development doesn't fit within the current updated plan, then the public should be consulted prior to any further consideration. If the public approve and believe it to be in their best interest, then proceed. Otherwise, it should not be entertained as the public's voice was what initially created the plan.
District 9	Leon Benjamin	As a city council member, I believe the best approach to potential economic development deals which don't conform to current city plans/zoning is to ask questions and consider the budget that is appropriated to our city for projects that do conform. Now in the case of updating a sector plan, this will give way to open discussions as to the possibilities for such deals that will make Richmond better, expand her reach and cause it to be more attractive to new residents who may be looking to relocate to our city.
District 9	Michael Jones	First we must update the sector plan, and include public input
District 9	Marcus Squires	Currently economic development has been viewed by some as a double edged sword. I am always pro economic development.

<i>Will you direct and fund upgrades to the city website that make planning information and ongoing initiatives easier to find and track?</i>		
District 1	Andreas Addison	<p>I absolutely support giving increased funding for upgrades to our city's website and resident/business services portals. Digital upgrades and advancements to the City website have been a core foundation for my work in City Hall. Unfortunately, current city leadership has not valued or properly invested the proper resources to improve civic engagement, online access to services, and transparency efforts. These are vital elements to create a 21st Century City Hall, which is why this is a critical part of my RVA First Policy Platform.</p> <p>For residential services I want to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the creation of a citizen focused online portal to make payments, find accurate information about services online, and to track the status of requests for service • Digital Front Door to city services and information – the city needs to make available online accurate, timely, and accountable information about city services with clearly defined expectations that is available to all residents • Create online content for services and government information that is designed and defined through public input and direction • Create online reports that express the city's functioning for key service delivery, <p>For business services I plan to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an online Business Portal to request and track city services and information • Create a one-stop-shop for new businesses that is streamlined, easy to follow, and accountable for needs and expectations on both sides • Emphasize online payments for businesses as a part of doing business
District 1	Jonathan Cruise	<p>As an information technology project manager with over 10 years of experience in the industry, I have significant experience with overseeing web site development, operations, and maintenance. I will commit to directing and funding sensible upgrades to the city web site to make planning information and ongoing initiatives easier to find and track. I understand the benefits to making information related to planning as well as other city initiatives more accessible to the public. I also strongly believe that there's much to improve upon with what the city does today in publishing information to richmondgov.com.</p>
District 2	Charlie Diradour	<p>Absolutely. For any planning process to be properly developed and to work efficiently stakeholders need to have unfettered access to current information.</p>
District 2	Kim Gray	<p>Absolutely. Our city needs to do this to increase transparency and also to increase operational efficiency. The website should be able to access most of the city's repository of information, and our city's processes need to be improved to ensure that information routinely moves to that repository as a natural part of each organization's procedures. I recommend the following three initiatives to improve the city website:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Perform a third-party citywide audit of the city's operations. A reputable firm will identify problems, be able to suggest solutions, and tell us best practices that are used by other cities. I think this is fundamental to all other endeavors. 2. Create a Public/Private volunteer organization. This will bring IT resources to the city to assist the transformation of the city's operations. We need Enterprise Architects, Software Developers, and Business Systems Analysts. Our city's resources are overwhelmed by their existing responsibilities right now, and they will need help to turn it around. I have already had two individuals with strong IT backgrounds approach me about volunteering with the city. 3. Leverage the use of technology to make our City's operation more effective and efficient. Information Technology needs to be fundamental to the basic operations that city employees perform day-to-day. In meeting with Public Works and other departments, it is clear that IT is sometimes an afterthought. A consistent incremental approach to changing the city's core processes will dramatically improve the city's capability over time.
District 2	Rebecca K. W. Keel	<p>Yes, absolutely. I am an advocate for accessibility both on and offline.</p>
District 3	Milondra Coleman	<p>As stated above, I am completely in favor of a more user friendly city website, As such, I would not hesitate to direct and fund upgrades to the city website that made planning and ongoing initiatives easier to find and track.</p>
District 3	Chris Hilbert	<p>Yes</p>
District 4	Tim Grimes	<p>Yes, the City's website needs a lot of work. Also, I will urge more programs such as Zoning's implementation of the Energov online system to make it easier for contractors to track permits and inspections.</p>
District 4	Kristen Larson	<p>Yes. We need to update our website. That includes making PDFs and other public documents available for download and review by the public.</p>

District 4	Larry Olanrewaju	My response to this question is yes. The current website is not user friendly and must be redesigned. While the planning piece is important, it should be redesigned for easy access to all information useful to citizens, business and other stakeholders.
District 4	John Walker	We need to make sure we find a model that works for us and significantly improves the citizens' experience. We should look to increase efficiency and productivity while ensuring staff becomes more customer friendly. Yes, I would support directing funds to such an upgrade because my 35 years of corporate experience tells me that we will see a net gain in city revenues as a result.
District 5	Parker Agelasto	Yes. The city website's planning information should be easy to navigate and easily accessible. The entire process needs to be transparent and available to citizens. While serving on City Council, I successfully launched Granicus as an online portal for citizens to find important documents on all agenda items before the Planning Commission and City Council.
District 5	Montique Magruder	Yes, if the funding is available to do so. Remember, the 2015 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report hasn't been turned in yet.
District 5	Garrett Sawyer	Yes. Our city government must work toward creating transparency across the board, particularly as it pertains to making information
District 6	Donald Moss	Yes. This is a simple, necessary solution and long overdue. An informed electorate is an active electorate, and it should be the goal of anyone
District 6	Ellen Robertson	I support this recommendation, but also encourage easily accessible for those without the web access capacity.
District 7	Cynthia Newbille	Yes
District 7	Josh Williams	Yes. This would allow the public to see the progress of their plan and will create much needed transparency.
District 9	Leon Benjamin	As a city council member I would make query as to the effectiveness of the current website in how it makes planning information and ongoing initiatives easier for find and track, make recommendations and get recommendations for groups such as yours (Partnership for Smarter Growth) and then submit our recommendations to the proper authorities. I believe, if we can find a way to make things easier and more accessible for tracking, it should be funded.
District 9	Michael Jones	All city funding needs to be prioritized and I will encourage the administration to make our website more citizen and business friendly.
District 9	Marcus Squires	Again the city already has a way to track this on the GIS mapping system and is currently in the process of doing this with the current council and I do not foresee a need to add more funds to the process which is bound to shrink after the first one or two years due to the amount of time it would take to update the page.

LAND USE AND TRANSIT		
<i>Do you support mixed use transit oriented development within walking distance of the BRT?</i>		
District 1	Andreas Addison	According to www.walkscore.com, Richmond is currently ranked 52nd when it comes to our mixed-use transit infrastructure. With the growing and diverse demographics of our city, we must focus on connecting residents with as many different venues of transportation as possible. Any future infrastructure projects should be focused on creating equity between the various methods of transportation, which will include improving sidewalks and dedicated bike lanes as 22% of Richmond residents don't own or have access to a car. Almost 80% of entry-level jobs in the region aren't accessible to public transit and roughly 27% of our residents fall below the federal poverty line. City Council has an obligation to address this critical infrastructure need so that all residents, regardless of what part of our great city they live in, have access to transportation and the opportunities our diverse economy offers. I thoroughly support the development of a mixed-use transit-oriented plan around the BRT/GRTC Pulse routes and stops.
District 1	Jonathan Cruise	I do fully support mixed-use transit-oriented development within walking distance of the BRT. As a former resident of Arlington, VA, I was able to witness and experience the advantages of supporting smart growth (i.e., high-density and mixed-use) development. The BRT has the opportunity to jump start economic development along its corridor and I firmly believe that these efforts will yield significant benefits to all.
District 2	Charlie Diradour	Absolutely. Further, I will work together with citizens and Council Members to expand our transit system so that it will work for all, not just
District 2	Kim Gray	Yes. The BRT appears to have been designed specifically to foster development along its route, and I will encourage a new attitude towards
District 2	Rebecca K. W. Keel	*I cannot answer the following questions because the BRT has not been created through a process of genuine community engagement. I do not support the Pulse, nor the processes in which BRT leaders have been operating.
District 3	Milondra Coleman	As mixed-use transit-oriented development would be beneficial to individuals using the BRT, I would definitely support such development.
District 3	Chris Hilbert	Yes
District 4	Tim Grimes	Absolutely!
District 4	Kristen Larson	Mixed-use, transit-oriented development is essential for the BRT project to achieve its full potential. Areas near VCU and downtown, where residents have less need for a car, should be developed with the assumption that residents will be using public transit for the majority of their transportation needs along the line.
District 4	Larry Olanrewaju	I recently attended a public meeting where a presentation was made about the Richmond Transit Network Plan. The concepts presented are designed to fit with the Pulse BRT. Three concepts were presented, the familiar, the high coverage, and the high ridership. Based on the three concepts I leaned towards the high ridership which will provide more access to transportation for those areas where bus services are needed and have use. Therefore, it will prudent to support mixed-use transit-oriented development that will be linked to accessible transportation.
District 4	John Walker	Yes, mixed-use transit development within walking distance of BRT will increase ridership, reduce cars on the street, while increasing the net revenue for the bus system. Hopefully this will keep GRTC rates reasonable so the working poor will still be able to afford to ride the buses (given that the bus is their primary means of transportation).
District 5	Parker Agelasto	Yes.
District 5	Montique Magruder	Most of the BRT already has that in place. In terms of the eastern-most portion of the line, I believe that connectivity to the BRT needs to be
District 5	Garrett Sawyer	Yes. We must ensure that through the creation of BRT that we as a city create better access to jobs, housing and opportunities for all residents regardless of age or socioeconomic status, through mixed-use transit-oriented development. The City of Richmond should strive for mixed-use residential and commercial areas that will provide a range of mobility options (i.e., bicycle, foot, transit, or car) for residents. When exploring mixed-use possibilities along the BRT route, we need to ensure we create mixed-income housing choices near the transit facilities to accommodate our diverse city population and cut down on transportation costs. The potential savings an individual or family, particularly our residents with lower income, could see from having resources (housing, retail, or office) available within walking distance or on the transit line would be significant.
District 6	Donald Moss	Yes. The Gateway 6th is already some of the best mixed use areas along the BRT route, and I want to help make sure it's even better and more
District 6	Ellen Robertson	I do without question. There should be an aggressive strategy in place, regionally, to ensure tracks of land be zoned to ensure this happen. Please proposed key components for such legislation and I will patron.
District 7	Cynthia Newbille	Yes
District 7	Josh Williams	Yes.

District 9	Leon Benjamin	As a council member I would support mixed –use transit-oriented development within walking distance of the BRT. The assumption is that the BRT is being expanded continuously as to its reach and effectiveness in getting our residents to their intended destinations. As the BRT improves it will cause other transit operatives to improve their services as well.
District 9	Michael Jones	All transit future development needs to balance the concerns of residents and business growth. I will seek input from all, to make the best decisions for the city.
District 9	Marcus Squires	Yes, I do and as stated earlier I think that the master plan should be amended to reflect this.

How will you ensure that the BRT investment enhances economic and social equity?		
District 1	Andreas Addison	BRT by itself is only one tool. BRT will only be effective for the City of Richmond if we complete all phases of the plan. We must ensure our long-term goal is connecting Short Pump with the Airport, which will benefit our low-income residents and those who need to utilize alternative forms of transportation. This creates a backbone on which we can build access for all the various forms of transportation and ensure the city is on the path for future growth and sustainment.
District 1	Jonathan Cruise	I will commit to doing everything I can to encourage community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions related to the BRT. I will also take steps to ensure that decisions are made objectively and in the best interest of all communities potentially impacted.
District 2	Charlie Diradour	We must keep in mind the BRT project is only an initial investment. Too many times Council has dropped the ball on funding good initiatives before they are finished. A new council and mayor must work together to ensure that the vision Ben Campbell and others have fought for is achieved – a metro area where resources are available without limitations of transportation. The bus transit system needs to be a major part of the city's master plan so that an effective and sustainable system is built.
District 2	Kim Gray	The BRT design has already heavily favored development, so secondary and tertiary transportation modes that feed the BRT should favor providing options to residents, particularly those that have been under-served . The recent GRTC redesign favors ridership, and that option serves the needs of employers while encouraging the growth of public transportation. I recognize it is critical to give more people an incentive to choose public transportation over their cars early on in the project's lifecycle. The preference to have a balance between coverage and ridership was subtly discouraged during the GRTC Redesign meetings, since it was identified as the "existing GRTC". Only with extensive explanation was the average person fully cognizant that this was still going to be a design change, and that it was not a return to the old routes. Trying to improve communications like this will be my goal.
District 2	Rebecca K. W. Keel	*I cannot answer the following questions because the BRT has not been created through a process of genuine community engagement. I do not support the Pulse, nor the processes in which BRT leaders have been operating.
District 3	Milondra Coleman	I will work to ensure that the BRT investment enhances economic and social equity in several ways. I will support the concept of a mixed-use transit-oriented development plan and I will implement mixed-use transit oriented development akin to what the Office of Housing and Development has established in Massachusetts; that which the Planning and Zoning Department has established in Austin, Texas or by putting in place a combination of existing plans that best suit the City of Richmond.

District 3	Chris Hilbert	I will review every project with those goals in mind. It is important that we provide all our citizens with opportunity. To the extent legally possible, the city could add the enhancement of economic and social equity as specific criteria when looking at zoning decisions involving the area around the BRT and beyond if we cannot address the issue by limiting it to just the area surrounding the BRT. The city has adopted a Health in All Policy decisions approach for legislation that comes before the city council. I believe we can do the same for these criteria. Improving the lives of all Richmonders will entail reducing the concentration of poverty in areas of the city.
District 4	Tim Grimes	Again, from a City Council perspective, I will continue to support ongoing funding for the BRT.
District 4	Kristen Larson	New developments along the BRT line should be encouraged to have dedicated workforce housing. Even without dedicated workforce housing developments, the density and variety of housing along the BRT line will continue to keep housing costs in Richmond low, add residents that have a need for essential services like grocery stores and daycare, and add to the vitality of the Broad Street corridor.
District 4	Larry Olanrewaju	I will support the Richmond Transit Network Plan, with its focus on maximizing bus transportation opportunities for citizens, throughout the city. The primary way for any community to enhance economic and social equity is being able to provide ways to get people to work, and other destinations without having them spend limited income to purchase cars.
District 4	John Walker	We must ensure that GRTC routes extend to those city neighborhoods where the working poor live and depend on the bus to get to work because they have no other means of transportation. Again rates must remain reasonable.
District 5	Parker Agelasto	For BRT to be successful, City Council must be strategic in its adoption of amendments to the Master Plan and review of Special Use Permits. Projects along the route that do not fully support transit should be carefully reviewed. It is also important that the entire City transit system integrates with BRT to reduce travel times and to open new opportunities for improved fixed route bus service in other parts of the City. This system should focus on transfer wait times and destinations to important employment sectors. Likewise, development along the BRT corridor should include mixed income and mixed use projects. This would provide opportunities to reduce poverty density and provide jobs along BRT.
District 5	Montique Magruder	I don't believe it will enhance either as currently designed. Modifications to the routing are required for the achievement of social and economic equity. Recommendation #4 from the GRTC & Transit Study Task Force will provide the direct remedy to this issue. Extension of service to the Richmond International Airport will enhance both by providing access to job opportunities and inter-modal connectivity. That said, I will fight for the implementation of that recommendation (where possible) and start/continue dialogues with Henrico County and the Airport Commission to allow the BRT to access the airport.
District 5	Garrett Sawyer	The 2014 Public Transportation Fact Book completed by the American Public Transportation Association found that more than 2,100 public transit operators provided an astounding 10.5 billion unlinked trips; the total mileage for those trips is around 57 billion miles. When you look at the residents that benefit the most from public transit, it is households with lower incomes. We must ensure that we improve access to economic opportunities through BRT, particularly for low-income residents, who often have to use a significant portion of their income for housing transportation to reach competitive job or training opportunities. When researching other cities that have rapid transit, like Denver, an issue that I saw was the lack of affordable housing units built within walking distance of their line. To ensure this issue does not arise in Richmond, we will need to work with RRHA to develop ideas on where we can create housing on the BRT line. In addition, we will need to work with developers and businesses interested in coming to Richmond to determine if they can develop on the line; these partnerships will ensure better job accessibility for our residents.
District 6	Donald Moss	I'm committed to supporting the development of high-quality affordable housing near the BRT and all frequent transit service in my district.
District 6	Ellen Robertson	Equity and social inclusion, with justice, are platforms I always stand. Our society values and principles are well stated, by grossly
District 7	Cynthia Newbille	I will work with Community Development staff to ensure the receipt and vetting of viable recommendations pursuant to the Transit Oriented Development Plan conducted in conjunction with the BRT to identify core commercial, residential and other developments that will enhance economic and social equity.
District 7	Josh Williams	We need to ensure that transit options exist between the BRT line and all communities. These transit options need to be efficient and
District 9	Leon Benjamin	<i>No response provided</i>
District 9	Michael Jones	I will work to develop transportation policy that seeks to benefit all who live and work in the city.
District 9	Marcus Squires	I have attended the recent BRT over hall plan which seeks citizens input on the new system which they plan on implementing in the foreseeable future. I voted at the meeting to create a GRTC which connects all of Richmond.

PARKING		
<i>Will you support a study of the parking inventory and an evaluation of progressive parking policies and zoning to promote use of transit, walking and bicycling, and to encourage redevelopment of parking lots and placement of parking underground?</i>		
District 1	Andreas Addison	Yes. In downtown corridors this needs to be a priority as we develop and expand our city's roadways and access to business front property. We must study and develop underground parking and the redevelopment of our existing parking lots to assist in this goal and ensure that our parking needs keep up with the increase in economic development we're experiencing. Sustainable growth must be our priority. Parking has the potential to be a misuse of our limited City resources and can hinder our ability to expand and grow. Underground parking absolutely need to be factored in as we refine our long-term growth strategy to utilize our limited city space.
District 1	Jonathan Cruise	As a frequent visitor of the downtown corridor, I've observed the many blocks of above-ground structured parking and surface parking lots. I
District 2	Charlie Diradour	Yes, absolutely. City Council needs additional information regarding preferred modes of transportation, parking needs and housing density. Understanding how residents see and use modes of transportation to evaluate current and future parking/transit strategies could help greatly in planning to meet the current and future needs of residents and commuters.
District 2	Kim Gray	Yes. Getting people out of their cars and onto bikes, buses, or their own feet will be a priority of mine. But we have to find a way to make it easy, or people simply won't come Downtown. In DC, it's easy to get to one of many subway terminals by car and then take the subway into the city. I want to encourage that same ease of access here in Richmond. If we can think of steady, incremental improvement that moves us forward towards short-term goals of more parking underground and better designed decks that employ street-level retail on the building's exterior to liven the streetscape, it will make the city more livable. Long-term goals should be to move towards comprehensive public transportation, with terminals to provide access from the counties into the city.
District 2	Rebecca K. W. Keel	Yes, I am an advocate of research.
District 3	Milondra Coleman	As a citizen who supports and encourages the use of transit, walking and bicycling, especially since almost a quarter of Richmonders do not have automobiles, I would fully support a study of the parking inventory; an evaluation of progressive parking policies and zoning to promote use of transit, walking and bicycling; and encourage redevelopment of parking lots and placement of parking underground.
District 3	Chris Hilbert	Yes.
District 4	Tim Grimes	Yes.
District 4	Kristen Larson	Vast areas of downtown are consumed by surface lots and dedicated parking decks. These single-use car storage facilities are detrimental to downtown street life and do not represent the best use of our precious downtown blocks. I support any policies that encourage more innovative underground and multi-structure/multi-use parking facilities (such as having store fronts on ground floors), and will support policies that reduce dependence on car travel to and from our downtown central business district.
District 4	Larry Olanrewaju	We live in a city that is land locked in terms of square miles. I will be open to new research, experts' ideas, and presentation about how other communities similar to Richmond have adopted policies relating to these issues in order to increase the tax based through downtown development.
District 4	John Walker	Yes!
District 5	Parker Agelasto	Yes. While serving on City Council, I supported a review of the parking inventory in the Uptown neighborhood to do just this. I would support a
District 5	Montique Magruder	Absolutely.
District 5	Garrett Sawyer	I am supportive of promoting use of transit, walking, and bicycling within the City of Richmond; therefore, I would support a study of the parking inventory and looking into the feasibility of placing parking underground and redevelopment of parking lots. I think an area that could benefit from more parking options is Carytown. Carytown is a great area that I frequent weekly to dine with friends or purchase groceries. I love to frequent the area, but finding parking can be problematic. I would look further into what options we have to create additional parking for our great 5 th district businesses; additional parking would ensure patrons of businesses throughout the area have easier access to their favorite dining or hang out spots.
District 6	Donald Moss	Yes. On street parking needs to be priced in such a way to allow it to support local businesses rather than enable those who work downtown to skip paying for a parking pass/deck. New developments need to have parking maximums, not minimums, and bike parking should be used to offset parking requirements.
District 6	Ellen Robertson	Absolutely! We have several studies done. I will patron making underground parking a first option for future development, to include buy out options if certain conditions exist. Our need for inclusion must not be compromised by the added cost of underground parking.
District 7	Cynthia Newbille	(See Response to Planning Process Above to include Parking Study & recommendations)

District 7	Josh Williams	Yes. We need to maximize the land that we have and develop it with more economically productive solutions than parking.
District 9	Leon Benjamin	As a council member, I would support such a study. There are other areas around the country that supports underground parking and other modes of transit around the city such as Crystal City, Redwood City, CA, Minneapolis and Columbus, OH.
District 9	Michael Jones	I support finding the best solutions to all of our city's problems and development, we must balance citizen needs, wants, and desires with available funding and best practices.
District 9	Marcus Squires	I believe the free market will take its course.

<i>Will you support reduced parking requirements within walking distance of high frequency transit?</i>		
District 1	Andreas Addison	Yes I will. With roughly 22% of our city's residents not owning or having access to a vehicle – it is imperative that begin to structure our infrastructure projects around our alternative methods of transportation. While we must always ensure we provide ample parking to support our businesses citywide, we must also be mindful of our limited resources – especially when in conjunction with high-frequency transit systems.
District 1	Jonathan Cruise	I would support reduced parking requirements within walking distance of high-frequency transit. In most cases, high-frequency transit will encourage those using it to walk or seek other forms or transit. Furthermore, reduced parking requirements will encourage more high density development near transit.
District 2	Charlie Diradour	Yes, but we cannot implement without additional changes. We must at the same time consider increasing density as part of the master plan and mass transit plan. There are benefits and frustrations living in close contact with our neighbors. To maintain quality of life we need to provide a structure that supports a live, work, play lifestyle. Simply changing parking requirements without having higher density housing supporting a fully developed transit system that reduces the need to own a car could reduce quality of life.
District 2	Kim Gray	Yes. The best cities understand the many benefits of strong transit systems. Richmond must be willing to implement measures that decrease dependency on the automobile and increase ridership of transit.
District 2	Rebecca K. W. Keel	I will only support what is supported by the community.
District 3	Milondra Coleman	As long as alternate parking opportunities were made available, I would certainly support reduced parking requirements within walking distance of high-frequency transit.
District 3	Chris Hilbert	We need regional mass transit that includes the neighboring counties. We want folks to continue to come into the city to work and play and we
District 4	Tim Grimes	Yes.
District 4	Kristen Larson	I will support parking requirement that are useful for the density of the structure, the use, and the number of residents, customers, and workers. This includes reevaluating parking requirements along the BRT line for structures within walking distance.
District 4	Larry Olanrewaju	My interpretation of the question is whether I will support reducing parking requirements for residential development within walking distance
District 4	John Walker	That sounds look a good enhancement but I would need to study it more to determine the overall impact on city revenues.
District 5	Parker Agelasto	While I would like to see reduced parking requirements, I am cognizant that, at this time, we do not have true regional accessible mass transit. We have many citizens who live outside the city but want to work and play in Richmond.
District 5	Montique Magruder	I favor a ban on parking where high-frequency transit exists and having shared bus/bike lanes instead.
District 5	Garrett Sawyer	Yes, I would be open to the discussion of reducing parking requirements for transit-adjacent developments. Supporters of similar measures in other cities have found that relaxing parking requirements leads to a reduction in cost of housing.
District 6	Donald Moss	Yes, it is imperative that we address the many parking requirements that make it increasingly difficult for the citizens of Richmond to get to the transit stops they count on for transportation. However, like any project, it would need to be adequately vetted and implemented in such a way as to reduce the burden on the people of the city without creating unintended consequences. That is why I support reducing parking requirements in these areas, and am eager to get to work on a substantive proposal that will take advantage of these high-frequency transit locations.
District 6	Ellen Robertson	Absolutely!
District 7	Cynthia Newbille	(See Response to Planning Process Above to include Parking Study & recommendations)
District 7	Josh Williams	Yes.
District 9	Leon Benjamin	As a council member, I would support reduced parking requirements within walking distance of high-frequency transit. Such a proposal was given in Minneapolis, MN and the benefits of this are unlimited as to bringing in more residents. We would of course look at fiscal policy and budget benchmarks and make sure that the benefits outweigh the risks.
District 9	Michael Jones	I will seek input from residents, and business owners to find the best solutions to develop requirements that work for all.
District 9	Marcus Squires	I would not tell private property owners what they should charge their patrons. Also I would support investigating reducing the city's parking

ARCHAEOLOGY		
<i>Will you support an archaeology ordinance and commission?</i>		
District 1	Andreas Addison	I am supportive of this in certain areas of our city, but not as a citywide strategy. It has the potential to slow progress at a time when we're experiencing - and have the potential for - increased economic growth. Adding that requirement citywide that requirement has the potential to hinder that progress. Certain areas of our city absolutely need to be protected and preserved, such as Shockoe Bottom, Shockoe Slip, and areas along the river, but this should be a n element studied in how to best implement this requirement for archaeology research for certain developments in certain areas where ground will be disturbed.
District 1	Jonathan Cruise	I would support an archaeology ordinance and commission to a sensible extent. I do see the importance of enacting an ordinance to protect archaeological findings and ensure that research is conducted and artifacts are safeguarded prior to construction kicking off. Virginia, and Richmond, particularly, has a rich history that we should cherish whenever feasible.
District 2	Charlie Diradour	The recent discussion of a Downtown Baseball Stadium and slavery museum shows the need for the proper review and handling of potential archeological sites. An ordinance outlining how to handle these sites is needed, especially when you consider different segments of the city's population's ability to independently preserve and interpret their history in our city. As to an additional commission, I would have to review its functions and duties especially in relationship with similar commissions. As we move the City towards the future where we live, work, play and respect all communities, there is a lot of work to do. We need to keep an eye on how City Hall can be a partner, not a barrier, to "Smart Change". The current planning and review processes are not clearly defined and have many overlapping review functions. A single inter-departmental/agency review process could be used to better implement development policy. A unified review process also would help multiple agencies to work together and support the master and sector plans.
District 2	Km Gray	Absolutely. I always say that we can't know where we're going until we know where we've been. The perfect example of an area in dire need of
District 2	Rebecca K. W. Keel	Yes.
District 3	Milondra Coleman	As an Ancient World History teacher who has a love and appreciation for the past, I would definitely support an archaeology ordinance and commission. We could destroy/fail to preserve our rich history without an archaeology ordinance and commission.
District 3	Chris Hilbert	Yes.
District 4	Tim Grimes	Yes.
District 4	Kristen Larson	I support an archeology ordinance and commission.
District 4	Larry Olanrewaju	This is definitely something I will support. We do not need to repeat the problem our city had with the VCU parking lot, where a parking lot
District 4	John Walker	Yes
District 5	Parker Agelasto	Yes.
District 5	Montique Magruder	If the funding is available to do this, yes.
District 5	Garrett Sawyer	Yes, I think it is important to establish an ordinance and commission to ensure we preserve, promote and display artifacts that will be discovered and recovered in future construction projects. One of the main responsibilities the Richmond Archaeological Commission will have is to protect the artifacts from destruction, damage, or potential neglect prior to construction starting.
District 6	Donald Moss	I'm more concerned with making sure large public investments are coming out of community participation, with buy-in. However, as a amateur historian I know that Richmond is a city overflowing with history, and we can all agree that this rich cultural tapestry is not only an integral part of the River City, but also makes our home a tourist destination with a large potential for growth. However, we must demand that any project which involves a significant investment of taxpayer funds require public input and community buy-in. This includes anticipating ways to incorporate archaeology into large public projects from the get-go.
District 6	Ellen Robertson	I have done this by Ordinance in May of 2015. Administration lacked funding to execute the Ordinance. We should revisit.
District 7	Cynthia Newbille	(See Response to Planning Process Above to include Historic Resource Study & recommendations)
District 7	Josh Williams	Absolutely. We have to protect our history and I believe this could be an extremely effective way to ensure this happens.

District 9	Leon Benjamin	As a member of council I would support an archaeology ordinance and commission. One was implemented in Scottsdale, AZ and it just makes sense. As noted: "The Protection of Archaeological Resources Ordinance formalizes the City's commitment to identify and protect, and recover when necessary, significant archaeological resources on public and private projects in Scottsdale. Once a significant archaeological site is disturbed by land development, the potential information that could have been gathered from the site is gone forever. Some archaeological sites should not be disturbed and should be avoided where possible." Richmond if not now, should have this in place to avoid land sites that have significant archaeological resources. RVA Archaeology should be supported as well in their efforts to preserve such historical sites.
District 9	Michael Jones	We must preserve our city's history and culture. I will work to develop policies the help to retain our past while making sure future development can occur responsibly.
District 9	Marcus Squires	I would for areas in the historic core where no prior deep disturbance has occurred to ensure no bodies were under the development.

	TREES	
	<i>Will you support an update to the tree ordinance, require a citywide inventory of trees on public property, a strong tree commission, and the funding necessary to preserve and expand the tree canopy?</i>	
District 1	Andreas Addison	Trees are one of the most important elements of a streetscape in our city. They provide shade in the summer heat, they support our rain shed absorb water during storms, and they also provide a visual break in the urban landscape of our neighborhoods. Opentreemap.org is a resource I believe Richmond City government should start utilizing, as it empowers residents to get involved with mapping, identifying, and supporting our urban canopy. One of the themes of my campaign is greater citizen engagement in how our city operates. I want citizens to serve as partners to city government and to have an increased role. Applications like Open Tree Map would allow for citizens to become engaged and take ownership by helping us identify and preserve our city's natural resources. This will be a great way to best define and support our existing tree canopy. I would absolutely be supportive of this endeavor and look forward to helping get it done as a member of City Council.
District 1	Jonathan Cruise	I would support an update to the tree ordinance that would require a citywide inventory of trees on public property, a strong tree commission, and the funding necessary to preserve and expand the tree canopy. It's clear that citizens care about the city's stance on trees, given the public backlash to the city's initial decision to remove many storm-damaged trees on Seminary Avenue in the Northside. I share their concerns and was encouraged to hear that the city was reconsidering their decision. I also share the stance that the city's trees are a valuable economic and environmental asset.
District 2	Charlie Diradour	Yes, I will support 1) the role of the tree commission, 2) an update of the tree ordinance with a proper review of the citywide tree inventory and 3) funding for maintenance and the expansions of the total tree canopy.
District 2	Km Gray	The quick answer is Yes, of course. Trees are a vital part of any great city, providing environmental benefits and scenic beauty.
District 2	Rebecca K. W. Keel	Yes, absolutely.
District 3	Milondra Coleman	After reading the tree ordinance, I would definitely support an update to it. Additionally, I would support a citywide inventory of trees on public property, a strong tree commission and the funding necessary to preserve and expand the tree canopy.
District 3	Chris Hilbert	Yes, trees are a critical part of the actual health of a community and an important asset to livability and the attractiveness of any neighborhood. Richmond is fortunate to have beautiful canopies of trees in our neighborhoods and parks. Preserving and expanding those must be a priority. I have led the fight on this issue by writing legislation to constitute an Urban Forest Commission which is the process of writing a city tree policy. Given what happened with the recent storm activity in Northside, I believe that it is critical to have a strong policy of transparency in decisions regarding tree assessment and removal. Where a tree is truly a risk to public safety, it must be removed. However, the assessment of the health of the tree needs to be done by a company that does not benefit financially from the possible removal of the tree.
District 4	Tim Grimes	Yes.
District 4	Kristen Larson	I will support all of these measures. Our city trees are essential to improve our environment, air quality, aesthetics, and property values. Trees are especially important to my constituents, and I support changing or canceling the current stormwater project along Reedy Creek to preserve the tree canopy in that park.
District 4	Larry Olanrewaju	I do agree that trees are valuable economic and environmental assets to any community. However, this is an issue that I am open to learning more about and will be willing to do whatever is necessary to preserve these valuable assets.
District 4	John Walker	Yes, the city's tree line is an asset to all.
District 5	Parker Agelasto	Yes. Trees are an important part of our community. The City's urban canopy has been a model for other cities over the past 100 years. It's one reason that Richmond has been named a Tree City USA for 25 consecutive years. Their broad canopy and variety of species are truly notable in Richmond's beauty and the attractiveness of its neighborhoods. Moreover, trees provide shade, put oxygen into the air and are an important part of the urban ecosystem. They also help lower energy costs. An investment in maintaining trees is justified. I support an update to the tree ordinance. I have also advocated that the existing citywide tree inventory be publicly accessible online. While I support a strong tree commission, I also understand the importance that urban forestry be an important consideration in much of the City's decision making.
District 5	Montique Magruder	Answer is the same as previous question. Can't provide the funding necessary if it's not available.

District 5	Garrett Sawyer	Yes, the City of Richmond as a lush tree canopy that adds so much beauty to neighborhoods and helps filter out pollutants and cool sidewalks and buildings. We need to ensure we have adequate funding available not only to expand the tree canopy, but also have resources to address the tree roots that are maligning our sidewalks. Sidewalk improvement is an issue I have discussed with residents in my district and want to ensure we address that as quickly as possible with our available resources.
District 6	Donald Moss	I think the last issue is the most critical - we see throughout the 6th District where we've made plans and even wells for trees, and we're stuck relying on the private sector and volunteers to provide them. An inventory would be a 'nice to have' but we can still make major progress without it - plus, the recent inventory should be somewhat accurate.
District 6	Ellen Robertson	The conditions of our trees are likening unto the conditions of our street and other infrastructure. The conditions of both are a liability risk to the City and they degrade the residential and commercial assets of our citizens. I will review a white paper on the issue which helps define the scope of work, the estimate cost, timeline and a process to set priorities. This would help me be make a factual decision.
District 7	Cynthia Newbille	(See Response to Planning Process Above to include Environmental Resource Study & recommendations)
District 7	Josh Williams	Yes. I believe this is also an integral part in the planning and development we need for the city. However, I would need to lean on the experts in this field as my knowledge in regards to city's tree inventory is somewhat limited. I would support funding a strong tree commission as long as it did not degrade our ability to perform other essential services.
District 9	Leon Benjamin	As a member of council I would support a City of Richmond Urban Tree Canopy Program. Places like Cumberland, MD which have put in place such a program have given the benefits, goals, strategies and potential funding for the program. It is worth taking a look at and to glean from other places who have shown success and the need to protect our trees in the city.
District 9	Michael Jones	The city needs to better prioritize all budget needs, I understand the importance of trees to our environment, health, and beauty. I will work to make sure all city departments have the personnel, equipment, and direction to care for all of our city owned green spaces
District 9	Marcus Squires	Currently a tree planning program has been given funding by the current mayor with funds taken from sidewalk upkeep and development. Richmond also has the tress stewards program and the enrichmond tree farm which is starting up in the 9 th district. I currently believe trees to be an important part of urban quality of life but I would not require a citywide inventory of trees on public property. Also a tree commission is as strong as its members which are appointed by the council which I hope to develop.