

1. TRASH: Do you support once a week refuse and recycling pick-up or twice a week pick-up? Do you support the recommendation for a refuse and recycling commission made up of Rockville citizens to advise the mayor and council? Do you support variable pricing for refuse and recycling based on your trash container size? There has been discussion that the refuse and recycling has put one neighborhood against another. Do you agree with this statement? Where do you see the city going in the next 5 years regarding this issue and what are your recommendations?

The current mayor and council have already made some critical decisions, including voting 4-1 to fund the new semi-automated trucks and single stream recycling program and voting 3-2 to form a new refuse and recycle commission. Unless we want to start over from scratch, which would affect our CIP process in the next fiscal year, we have commitments in place that should be completed.

The real issue is the decision the city of Rockville made to switch to semi-automated trucks and the single stream recycling program and the cost to implement this program. With this decision is an investment (irregardless of twice per week or once per week service) of \$3.4 million dollars which breaks down for a facility improvement at \$475,000, two new carts per household (one for refuse and one for recycle) at \$1.3 million dollars and purchasing new semi-automated trucks at \$1.6 million dollars. Most of the projected “savings” occurs in salary and benefits on the backs of our city’s garbage workers switching to once a week service. Each of our neighborhoods is unique and diverse and one size does not fit all.

Per the City of Rockville charter, variable pricing is not an option at this time. Should we change the charter, the accounting for variable pricing would be an administrative burden on our staff and difficult to implement in our neighborhoods. Furthermore, we still have not seen credible numbers on the cost of once-a-week pickup. One of my contributions to this spring’s budget debate was to point out that some of the cost of the new system was inflated to create an excessive float. Trimming this expense brought the cost per household down by about \$5 per month.

On the recycling side of the program we should strive for state of the art recycling regulations at every level, both for private homes and for commercial businesses.

2. CITIZENS FORUM AND FREE SPEECH: Citizens Forum provides the opportunity for citizens to bring concerns to the mayor and council. Over the years, this format has changed. Would your administration maintain the current format? Do you believe citizens should be permitted to cede time to another speaker during a public hearing or during citizen’s forum if their testimony exceeds 3 minutes or is the current system in place effective?

The current format is working adequately but we do need the option to cede time to another speaker as is currently practiced in the Montgomery County system. I would start with a limit of one transfer of time per speaker and see what effect that has. I think the most necessary change to citizens’ forum has already been put in place by allowing Citizens’ Forum at every Mayor and Council meeting. This has already changed the climate at City Hall so citizens do not have to track constant agenda changes but know they can be heard at any time.

I think that when citizens bring substantive issues there should be a consistent and public follow-up in future Mayor and Council meetings whenever possible. It is important to citizen confidence in the process that remediations to public questions be publicly demonstrated.

3. TOWN CENTER: Previous elections have focused on the redevelopment of Town Center as a priority. Should Town Center continue as the main focal point? If not, in your opinion, what should be the main focal point?

We need to embrace Rockville's new Town Center because we the citizens wrote the mortgage on it. The City of Rockville, Montgomery County and the state of Maryland have invested over \$131 million dollars in this project. If it fails, we will still be obligated to pay for the bonds and other costs. It looks like we will be pouring more money into town center over the next few years to guarantee its success. Just to start, the merchants in Town Center as well as the new county library are concerned that high parking costs will keep customers away and cause these new enterprises to fail. We still have the unresolved issue of the pavers. The City spent \$1.2million dollars on replacing pavers on the privately owned areas but did not commit to replacing the pavers in our parts of Town Center, especially the Town Square in front of the library.

We need to have a financial exit strategy for the three parking garages' operational financial shortfall. It was \$1.5million this year, \$800,000 per year from now on, according to the city's current projections.

The lesson to be learned from Town Center's pro-development approach is that the taxpayers can no longer subsidize this kind of development. The Town Center II and II projects cannot be built on the backs of taxpayers.

We need to focus on funding government services and not subsidizing development. We need to get back to focusing on what our neighborhoods need and repairing that shortfalls that have accumulated in the years we have funded Town Center to the exclusion of many other pressing needs.

4. PARKWAY OR HIGHWAY – NEIGHBORHOOD ROAD PRIORITIES: (a.) Wootton Parkway was pulled from the City of Rockville's master plan to widen the road to four lanes. Do you agree or disagree with this decision. (b.) are there any circumstances that would change your decision and widen Wootton Parkway...please cite those circumstances? (c.) do you support a Gude Drive interchange off 270 (d.) do you support the ICC?

Now that there is a speed camera on Wootton, we see about 600 violations per 2 hour cycle (June speed stats), which certainly proves the neighborhood's contention that Wootton is getting its fair share of traffic. Given that Wootton was intended to be a mostly a local road for the adjoining neighborhoods squeezed between I-270 and Watts Branch, it seems that widening Wootton would be contrary to the general master plan for that area.

Wootton may be still within Rockville's control, but we will see more cars forced down I-270 as poor planning "upstream" from Rockville causes more development and traffic. External pressures may make it necessary to widen Wootton, but it

should be a community decision. We may soon be fighting to keep local control of our road network. Decisions regarding the ICC and the Gude Drive interchange will be made at the county or state level but we're going to have to show some real political will to keep Rockville's interests in play.

5. PEDESTRIAN SAFETY, including traffic enforcement is sometimes outside the City of Rockville's jurisdiction on county and state roads that are adjacent to our municipality. How would you solve this problem? What other pedestrian safety measures would you recommend and implement? In your opinion, what are the top 5 pedestrian 'hot spots' in the City?

We have a pedestrian "hot spot" in front of every Rockville school. Do we need to have more students killed because no one remembered to do the traffic studies necessary to install crosswalks and other pedestrian safety improvements, as came out at September 17th's Citizens Forum on the new Richard Montgomery problems? Other hot spots in the city include the Mixing Bowl, with practically no way to get across that major intersection, almost the entire length of Rockville Pike, the area in front of the Twinbrook shopping centers, and the Darnestown road / Shady Grove area.

We've got to get away from the idea that because we don't directly control the ICC, RT 28, Veirs Mill, and other critical roads we can't have any impact on what can be done. We need to be more proactive in asserting that Rockville must have the first and major voice at the county and state level in those decisions.

6. RORZOR has many implications for the city in terms of new zoning proposals. The Rockville Planning Commission will be making recommendations to the new Mayor and Council. Explain Rorzor and outline the process you would recommend for citizen input including a general timeline for consideration and recommendations to staff? List the pros and cons of RORZOR for communities and neighborhoods in Rockville in your response?

RORZOR is a complete rewrite of the Rockville zoning code. It will change the face of Rockville. The major problem for citizen input on RORZOR is that the subject is so big and so technical. There needs to be a major public outreach so that the average citizen can understand what is being proposed. I'm sure that every development lawyer in Rockville understands exactly what is being proposed and has been studying how to derail any pro-citizen improvements such as the increased notification regulations. On the other hand, there are some very tough regulations in the new zoning code that will hurt neighborhoods, especially our older neighborhoods. Real outreach, not a public relations campaign for a predetermined outcome, should be undertaken. Diverse and inclusive input should be welcomed and the zoning revision should reflect the will of the people, not the developers.

'Quality of life' Issues in Rockville - Ranked

1. Traffic Safety / Congestion / Road Projects

Infrastructure has not been funded or kept pace with the massive development in our area. Rockville is approving more and more development but we do not have adequate roads or reasonable plans for mass transit to support even the current level

of development in the city. With the imminent approval of the ICC and the subsequent dedication of most state funds to that project, we cannot depend on the state to provide funding to support projects in Rockville. This can be seen in the county growth management policy under review by the county council, which is trending towards charging tens of thousands of dollars for each new housing unit to cover infrastructure costs. We're going to have to be very proactive in our planning and public works to keep Rockville's roads as safe as possible while pushing as many creative solutions as possible to these problems.

2. Accommodating Senior Citizens

Rockville is fortunate to have so many long term residents who contributed to the building of this city still living in this city. As we have seen in the recent senior citizens survey, currently we have 6553 residents ages 65 and older living in Rockville and this figure will double by FY 2020. We need to take a serious look at measures to keep our seniors' housing affordable, our seniors' taxes affordable, our seniors' healthcare affordable and our seniors' transportation accessible. We need to encourage developers to provide accessible and affordable housing for seniors within Rockville and work with non-profits to retrofit houses and provide other accommodations. When we try to raise our standards to help those who need the most help, everyone benefits.

3. Affordable housing / MPDUs

The model for MPDUs is almost entirely developer driven, so just to get a few MPDUs, we have to accept a 10 story luxury condo building. We do not have the regulatory "teeth" to get family oriented MPDUs – the developers use the loophole that says "units" must be provided to build only studios and one bedroom MPDUs. We have to close that loophole in our regulations. Families need housing but condos fail as housing because the condo fees are not affordable.

We need to use all the tools at our disposal, both public and private, commercial and non-profit, to integrate as much affordable housing as possible into Rockville. We need workers at all income levels to keep Rockville functioning. Legacy in Lincoln Park was a good start and we need to continue to push innovative strategies to keep housing in Rockville affordable.

4. Environment

Rockville's environmental focus in the coming years will have to be more sophisticated as more development comes on line. LEED strategies for energy conservation should be made part of the Rockville building codes and we should get more creative in mandating proven strategies such as green roofs, greywater and passive solar building design. Rockville should facilitate conversion to locally based renewable energy sources. Single stream recycling should be followed by encouraging on-site composting and on-site bio-filtration wherever possible. There are a lot of technologies that are still perceived as prohibitive in start-up costs but that do pay for themselves over the lifetime of the investment.

5. Pedestrian and Crosswalk Safety

The “smart growth” principles that the voters rejected in the last county election depend on high density areas with walkable cores. Rockville used this as the justification for Town Center, Twinbrook Station, and other development in the pipeline. However, you can drive almost any street in Rockville and see crosswalks with peeling paint, lack of sidewalk connections, bus stops that need to be improved or expanded, bike lanes that stop without warning, roads that dead end with no exit route for bikers or pedestrians. These are easy to ignore when speeding down Rockville pike at 40 mph, or rather crawling at 15 mph at weekday lunch time. We need to put some resources making these relatively minor fixes that can mean a lot to someone who crosses Rockville at a walking pace. They’re not exciting changes, but they’re necessary. Finding ways to let pedestrians and bikers cross the streets and highways that divide our city will help unite us.

6. City budget / budget process

The city budget is now \$94 million dollars with approximately 110 cost centers, including eleven supposedly self-sufficient enterprise funds. The process starts in November and ends in May. In order to ensure that the Mayor and Council’s vision is implemented, we should change the city manager’s budget updates from a quarterly schedule to a monthly schedule. That would allow a clearer picture of the revenue stream and allow more responsiveness to spending and outlays. Given the scheduling constraints for the process, it is difficult for the Mayor and Council to make more than minor changes in the budget. We should charter a citizen’s budget commission to meet in February to review the budget in detail, question the underlying assumptions and projections, and force the budget through revisions before being presented to the Mayor and Council in March, to be followed by public hearings in April.

7. Neighborhood Crime

With increased density, we’re going to see the pressures of just having more people around. We need to be proactive in safeguarding our streets so that they continue to be walkable. We need to keep a lid on gang activity by providing safe and secure afterschool programs for kids. Not only do we need to provide our police department with adequate tools for crime prevention, but we need to get more cooperation and support for private security at development projects, including active security within structured parking and around access points and neighborhood contact points. Enhancing the safety at metro and at the metro developments is critical. It’s a given at County projects, why can’t we negotiate the same concessions at every Rockville development?

8. Town Center Parking

We have two major problems with Town Center parking: we need to come up with a financial exit strategy to cover the operational financial shortfall this year at \$1.5 million dollars and \$800,000 every year thereafter, and at the same time we need to support the local library, retailers and restaurants by not charging the \$1 per hour parking fee for at least one year while Town Center gets established. In the short

term and the long term, we're going to be paying a lot to cover the costs of playing developer in town center.

9. Town Center

The city's investment in Town Center was and will be a substantial proportion of our tax dollars for years to come. We can not undo the contracts but we should be cautious about entering into more pro-development agreements. Rockville should not create more competition for Town Center housing and businesses while building out the Rockville and Twinbrook metros, Stonestreet, Town Center ii and other high density "smart growth" cores before the financial issues with Town Center are resolved.

10. Older Existing Neighborhoods

The challenge with our older neighborhoods is keeping them current and modern while preserving the characteristics that make them attractive. We often mention neighborhoods on the east side of the metro tracks but we forget that there are neighborhoods on the west side that are aging. We can not freeze them with discriminatory regulations and code enforcement. We need to make absolutely certain that people are allowed to make reasonable additions and improvements so that they can continue to stay and raise families, rather than being forced to move farther away from the city and create more traffic and congestion. Stable communities and neighborhoods should be a core value of city policy. We need to appreciate our unique neighborhoods and not turn them into urban areas. We must continue to make quality investments in our neighborhoods by improving our neighborhood parks, schools and recreational facilities.

11. RORZOR

The greatest concern I have for RORZOR is that there is considerable overlap between the RORZOR committee and the new zoning code's approving bodies. four members, or 57% of the planning commission sat on RORZOR, as well as two members of the mayor and council. We need to have an independent approval process that can verify that RORZOR has produced a document that will truly facilitate the goals with which RORZOR was tasked. The zoning code needs to represent the common good so when RORZOR comes to public hearing, all council members should recognize that citizens have the overriding interest, not special interests.

12. Refuse and Recycling

The lesson to be learned from the refuse and recycling debate was that one size does not fit all. Substantial adjustments had to be made to accommodate the townhouse communities and the older neighborhoods. King farm, especially, was an example of poor planning as the trucks could not fit down the undersized back alleys. We learned that input from all areas of the city is necessary when considering citywide changes.

13. Civility

Differences of opinion on the council have led to some visible stresses this year. Council members have been taken to task if they have differing viewpoints. We need to respect the diversity of opinion among council members. Being a strong advocate for a position is important, and personal attacks hinder an elected official's ability to question the issues and make informed decisions. We need to return to a climate where divergent input from citizens and community leaders is respected and welcomed, not disparaged.

14. Staff Salaries

It is clear that Rockville city staff make good salaries. We want to offer good salaries but we want to have the best employees for our money who put citizen interests first. We are giving out a lot of money for consultant fees, especially for planning processes and legal advice. Some of that should be brought back in house where we can monitor what we're actually buying for our money.