



Ottawa Municipal Election 2018:

**RESPONSES by Ward-22 City Councillor
Candidates to RSCA Questionnaire**

October 4, 2018



RS= Riverside South

INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Riverside South Community Association (RSCA) *is to channel the voices of the residents towards the development and maintenance of a safe, vibrant, and attractive community.*

In-lieu of public debate, which typically offers only a glimpse of candidates policy views and platform (also has limited accessibility for many), we have prepared this Ward-22 questionnaire on behalf residents as a means to better-understand candidates views on key issues in our community, and to the Association. The questionnaire offers an uninterrupted, civil, and limitless space for candidates to get their points across. The questions asked are listed by theme, and in-turn are now available for you to view in this comprehensive guide. ***This document is 47 pages, so please use the Table of Contents and click-through sections of interest to you. This will take you directly to questions & responses.***

METHODOLOGY

Candidates were tasked with the questionnaire via email on September 11, 2018 and originally had until September 25th to respond. Due to the unfortunate September 21st Tornado and related recovery efforts throughout the City, including the suspension of most political campaigns, we extended the response deadline to September 29th (end of day). By the 29th we had received three responses (*Councillor hopefuls Mei, Singh and the incumbent Councillor Qaqish*). On the 30th we contacted all candidates informing them of an extra day's grace (due Oct. 1 Noon) with the caveat that any late submissions would be indicated as such in this guide. Previous submissions were also permitted to be altered by Oct.1, however no further alterations were made. Responses are listed in order by candidates: first (given) name; answers have not been modified from the wording that was sent to us.

NEXT STEPS

We applaud candidates for participating in this forum and wish them well in the final weeks of the campaign. Per previous practice, and within the current Executive Board mandate, the RSCA will not be endorsing any specific candidates, during any election at all levels of government. We are an independent, apolitical organization. Our Mission statement encompasses ALL residents, regardless of political, religious, or personal beliefs. As an Association, we are deeply committed to the principle and practice of political neutrality.

We hope this guide is of use, and to better-inform you of the positions candidates are taking on these key issues to Riverside South and the City. Should you have any questions pertaining to the responses, please contact the candidate(s) directly. We also hope you get out and [vote!](#)



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EDUCATION AND SPORTS

Q1. The RSCA understands that the Ottawa Carleton School Board is planning to build a high school at Spratt and Earl Armstrong and that other French and English schools from the different school boards are also planned throughout the community in years to come.

- **What role do you see yourself in advancing these projects?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

There is no question that Gloucester South Nepean needs a few things, high on the list is additional High School spaces as well as additional recreational facilities. The decision ultimately whether to build additional schools falls to the school boards and to the province, however I believe there is much that the local councilor can do to pave the way. I will work diligently with those serving on school board as well as the local MPP and the local community to not only move this file forward, but to ensure it is a good fit for everyone.

Harpreet Singh

While canvassing, I have heard frustration from many parents whose children attend high school outside the community. There is also frustration at the lack of communication about when schools are going to be built or what delays are stalling the completion of these large projects. As city councillor, it is imperative to gather data from my residents about their needs and to communicate it to the appropriate authorities. I would work with all relevant stakeholders to ensure we get these schools built as quickly as possible to serve the growing population. I would also regularly communicate with residents about the current status of the plans so they feel respected and informed about what is happening.

I have proven my ability to reach across the aisle and I will reach out to our provincial counterparts as well as work closely with school boards and trustees to ensure that our residents' voice are heard and we are able to push through our priority projects quicker.

Irene Mei

I would work together with the community and the school boards to ensure that the schools being built are meeting the needs of our community. I see myself monitoring the progress of the development of the schools to provide updates to the community. As well as help troubleshoot any issues that arises from the city's end in order to get the schools built.



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Q.1 Continued...

Michael Qaqish

The OCDSB has identified a high school in Riverside South as a capital priority. I am working closely with our MPP and school trustee to bring forward a petition to expedite the construction of the high school.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

I will work with the City Council and Provincial government to get the required funding for the new schools, I will work with different school boards and try to start the work as early as possible.

- **What role do you see the RSCA having in these projects? In your opinion, who do you see involved in the planning and coordination of this project and partnered-with around public engagement?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

One of my big issues has been my concern that community members have not been sufficiently involved in projects large and small in a meaningful way. Whether it be a new school, a park or changes to transit routes, I believe that the community and the RSCA should be involved in discussions early on in the process where their views might be included in the final decision.

Harpreet Singh

The RSCA has their ear to the ground in the community and I would rely on them to share any resident concerns and questions they may receive. I would ensure they are consulted when key decisions are being made about the schools and that their input is incorporated appropriately. The School Board, province, the city and school trustees all play a role in determining how these capital projects will proceed. RSCA and my commitment to working with grassroots organizations will be pivotal in this regard. I would work with RSCA to ensure that those concerns are heard, collected and shared appropriately. I will be happy to see a working group from RSCA that works together with myself and other stakeholders to get our job done.



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Q.1 Continued...

Irene Mei

As the RSCA is a voice for the residents of Riverside South, RSCA would be well positioned to provide feedback in meetings with school boards and other stakeholders. I see myself, RSCA, the school board, school trustee and parents working together.

Michael Qaqish

Over the last 4 years I have worked closely with the RSCA on a number of important issues and will continue doing so if re-elected. I will maintain a working relationship with them on this issue and others, maintaining open lines of communication and working together on community engagement.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

I believe as the major stakeholders, RSCA can work with the city and engage in planning and coordination for successful completion of the project on time and on budget.

Q2. Although the recent announcement of a new Recreation Centre and Library by 2021 is positive, it lacks the key elements that so many RS residents use elsewhere: a pool and ice-rinks. Pools benefit people of all ages, backgrounds and physical abilities. Ice-rinks are not only for traditional hockey, but sledge-hockey, ringette, figure skating and free skating. Our residents will continue to have to travel to Barrhaven or Nepean in order to have access to sport facilities like the Minto Recreation and Nepean Sportsplex complexes.

- **Will you seek the maximum opportunities to engage residents fully in the remaining phases of the design and construction of the community centre and library complex in Riverside South?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

Yes. As a resident whose family would use the recently announced Rec Centre and Library I was frankly very disappointed to see that this was only a political announcement. A political announcement like that of the Rec Centre is an announcement that has the possibility of only meeting the needs of the politicians involved and not the community.



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Q.2 Continued...

If there is no money attached to a project (and there is none in this case) then it is more of a wish than an announcement.

Harpreet Singh

Yes. The community centre is for residents, young and old, therefore it should cater to their needs. When canvassing in Riverside South, I have heard from numerous residents about needing a pool and ice rinks in the community because other centers are already so busy. As the population grows in Ward 22, we will need more community centres and aim to have them provide as many services as possible.

Irene Mei

Yes, having the residents engaged and keeping the community updated and involved throughout the process is important. It allows feedback from the community on what their needs, expectations and wants are for their recreation center. The residents are the stakeholders whom the recreation center is built for. We need to build a center that is commonly used by everyone.

Michael Qaqish

Yes. We have already had an open house earlier this spring to consult with residents on the future community centre and library.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

I believe in engaging Community Associations and the residents is very important to understand the services they require and what they expect from their elected representatives, so I will engage residents in all the phases of the project.



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Q.2 Continued...

- **What is your position on modifying the current design to include an indoor pool and indoor ice rinks?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

This should be a community facility that is heavily used and should include those features required by the local community if the consultations show demand for a pool or a rink then they should be part of the design.

Harpreet Singh

My approach to any city infrastructure project is “community centred design”. And this simply means that the city is able to modify and change the designs as the community needs evolve.

As city councillor, I would ask questions about the possibilities of amending the design, potential costs, and timelines. We need to explore all options and be able to explain why certain decisions were taken. The first pillar of my platform is engagement and I strongly believe that residents deserve respect and to be involved in decisions about what the community center will have.

As a father of three young boys, I am constantly using the indoor pool and ice rink facilities provided by the city. I understand the difficulty that all parents go through, when they have to rush back from work, pick up kids and take them to their swimming or skating classes. And when these facilities are not close by, things become even harder and maybe impossible.

Irene Mei

I think an indoor pool is needed. Every community center has it. It has health benefits for everyone and learning to swim is an important life saving skill.

Michael Qaqish

When I was elected in 2014, no new recreational amenities were planned for this area before 2031. I advanced this project by more than a decade. A pool is planned for phase 2 of this project. The district park in the north east part of the Riverside South Community Design Plan will be host to the rinks.



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Q.2 Continued...

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

I'm surprised to learn from the residents while campaigning in the area, the residents has complained the missing of indoor pool and ice rinks from the plan. Riverside South is one of the rapidly growing neighborhood in Ottawa South with many families with young kids and it is really pain for the families to travel far places for recreation activities for their children. I believe the project of this big size the residents are not consulted and their opinions are not respected. The project definitely needs modification to include pool and ice rinks to provide the services the people need most.

- **What measures will you take to see this recreation complex including indoor pool and indoor ice fully financed?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

I am more than prepared to stand up at Council and make it clear that a complete recreational complex for Gloucester South Nepean is non-negotiable. If a project is not funded in the budget it is a mirage at best.

Harpreet Singh

I am in favour of public-private partnerships especially when the deals are transparent and are formed with companies that believe in corporate social responsibility. Therefore, I would explore possibilities of seeking corporate funding for this community center. It is not clear why the city would delay pursuing this avenue. I understand that the city's budget is stretched and there are multiple priorities. However, residents deserve a state-of-the-art community center that will serve them for a long time. There are always opportunities to build relationships with corporate partners invested in health and physical fitness.

Irene Mei

I would join the committees in City Hall to ensure that proper funding is allotted to the recreation complex.

Michael Qaqish

I will ensure we get funding the same way I secured funding for the land and design. I am the only candidate with the experience to do this.



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Q.2 Continued...

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

I will discuss the plan with the contractor and planning design committee to get the sense of the project in terms of time and money. I will push the City Council hard to approve the budget required for the Recreation Complex with the addition of swimming pool and ice rinks.

- **What will be your target date for the completion of the entire recreation complex including indoor pool and indoor ice?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

I would like to see the complex completed sooner rather than later, but I am willing to wait to get the full loaf rather than settling for half a loaf sooner.

Harpreet Singh

It would be great to have a complete recreation complex during my term as city councillor. I would make best efforts to make that happen.

Irene Mei

To have it on budget and on schedule; completed for 2021.

Michael Qaqish

Design is underway and construction will begin in 2019, a decade ahead of schedule.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

Project of this size can take up to two years realistically.



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HEALTH

3. Riverside South is a fast growing community with limited health services.

- What health services do you feel are needed in this community?

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

The south end of Ottawa is the fastest growing region of the city and will ultimately require a full-service hospital, but that is in the future, we need a plan that will grow our current and limited access to health care. I will work with The Champlain Local Health Integration Network to move to a clear and public path to a more comprehensive health package for our community.

Harpreet Singh

It is clear there is a shortage of family doctors and walk-in clinics in the community. Also, as we have an aging population, we will need more physiotherapy clinics, blood testing labs, xray/imaging/ultrasound facilities and mental health services such as psychiatrists and psychologists.

In my platform, I have proposed a "Healthy Seniors' Program" to cater to our senior population living at home, alone or with their families. The model operates similarly to Ottawa Public Health's Healthy Babies' program. I propose to run this program as a pilot in ward 22 for one year and research the outcomes in terms of reduction in ER visits and reduced pressure on our paramedic services. Therefore, the program will pay for itself in terms of its economic value, as well as, the social and health benefits are endless.

Irene Mei

In Barrhaven, there used to be an urgent care center in the Greenbank/Strandherd plaza. It was a great idea and seemed like it was always busy. It would be great if we can have an urgent care in Riverside South that would cover the surrounding neighbourhoods (Osgoode, Riverside, Findley Creek, Barrhaven) as there is only 1 medical clinic in the Riverside South community. As our community grows, we need more urgent, walk-in and medical clinics. It would be good to have a medical plaza with urgent care, family doctors, walk-in, eye exams and dental in Riverside South.



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Q.3 Continued...

Michael Qaqish

As a member of the Board of Health I am proud to have secured funding for various Ottawa Public Health programming at the Rideauview Community Centre in Riverside South such as Healthy Babies, Healthy Children and Better Strength, Better Balance. There will be more health services at the future town centre.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

Definitely we need more medical centers/walk in clinics, emergency services in the area to provide better services to meet the needs of the residents especially seniors and families with children.

- **What role do you see a municipal councillor having with respect to health services?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

Your Councillor has a dual role when it comes to health services, first ensuring that the city lives up to its public health responsibilities and to be a community representative working to ensure that the province and the local LHIN are living up to their community health responsibilities. I have no problem or reservations in making myself a nuisance at either level to make sure our community is getting proper health services.

Harpreet Singh

My role is to connect people with the services they need in the Ward. When it comes to health services, I believe strongly that we need to support seniors to live at home with respect and dignity. In fact, a Healthy Seniors program where we provide in home support services to seniors is a part of my platform as mentioned above. Ottawa Public Health provides services to Ottawa residents which many other cities do not have. I would like to sit on the board of OPH and influence the services and funding provided. We need more services through Ottawa Public Health to provide preventative care to seniors and vulnerable individuals.



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Q.3 Continued...

Irene Mei

We cannot determine the health care services that OHIP covers. But we can help advocate or work with medical professionals and developers to bring more medical access into the community by providing incentives to practitioners.

Michael Qaqish

As a member of the Board of Health I have secured funding for local programming. I will continue to work closely with other levels of government and medical practitioners to bring more services to Riverside South.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

I will consult with residents and health professional to provide better health services to the communities to meet the growing needs of the population with many families with young children, I will advocate to open more medical centers/ Walk in Clinics with more facilities like laboratories in the area

4. How will you address the needs of affordable and accessible housing, especially for seniors?

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

Every year seniors who have long since paid off their mortgage are being forced to sell their home because they can no longer afford the property taxes, this is something every Councillor should reflect upon when we raise taxes. City run housing is not my first choice as it is just not something the city does well. We should look at a transferable voucher system where the recipient chooses their own home and the money tied to the voucher goes directly to the landlord.

Harpreet Singh

I would advocate for better urban planning where we evaluate the community's needs first and then seek specific plans from developers. It is not good enough to build the same type of homes everywhere without planning for specific needs such as more affordable senior's homes and...



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Q.3 Continued...

rehabilitation services.

Secondly, seniors who have purchased their homes in the past and have even paid their mortgages off, now find it difficult to pay their property taxes as taxes rise with the MPAC evaluations. City of Ottawa has a tax deferral program for specific groups, such as seniors and people with disabilities. However, less than 150 households used this program in the past year. I would work to create more awareness of this program and make it easy for seniors to apply for tax deferrals so that they can enjoy their retirement and not suffer from financial stress.

Irene Mei

I would review the processes and what the demands are and how we can improve in housing affordability. One such avenue would be the requirement for developers to incorporate more high- density housing in medium and low density developments.

Michael Qaqish

I have had regular discussions with the Riverside South Community Association and city staff on this file. The city has a housing first policy and I have supported the need for affordable and accessible housing for seniors. I will continue to raise this with developers and stakeholders. I do support inclusionary zoning.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

With growing cost in housing affordability has become a big issue for lot of seniors with limited income to support the rent/mortgage and pay their utility bills I'm fully in favor of inclusionary zoning, I will work with the local builders to provide at least 20 percent affordable accommodations for seniors and family with medium to low income.



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5. RS is currently part of the East Ottawa Resource Center, which is located in Beaconhill and Orleans, a boundary that dates to pre-amalgamation. Other Resource Centers are located closer to our community. The RSCA feels that reviewing the current boundaries is long overdue as there have been significant changes in the demographics of Riverside South.

- If elected, what action would you take to request the Coalition of Community Resource and Health Centres undertake to review its boundaries?

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

Yes.

Harpreet Singh

I would better understand the demographics of the Ward and explore which services are needed where. I share the view of RSCA for a boundary review and I have said it earlier that even our ward boundaries need to be reviewed to respect current transportation and communication patterns, geographical and topographical features (such as natural water bodies), and keeping boundary lines around recognized settlement areas, traditional neighbourhoods, and community groupings etc. I would support the review to improve services for residents of Ward 22.

Irene Mei

I would review the boundaries and the accessibility to the community. As of right now the East Ottawa Resource Center is located where accessibility can be a challenge. I would review the needs of our community and where best to locate the RS to better serve our community.

Michael Qaqish

We have worked closely with the Community Association and Resource Centres to discuss possible collaboration for the Riverside South Community and additional services. The Resource Centres have been very helpful and supportive following my request and intervention.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

Community resource Centers and Health Centers are necessities to provide the services, I will work with the stakeholders to get the merger.



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TRANSPORTATION AND ROAD SAFETY

6. The three levels of government including local builders have announced funding has been secured to extend the O-Train tracks to the Westside of Limebank at Earl Armstrong. The RSCA wants to be fully informed of public engagement opportunities and changes to the proposed completion dates to be fully transparent.

- **What will you do to ensure the O-Train is built on time, as planned and fully transparent?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

Residents were told that Phase 1 would be “On Time and On Budget” until literally days before the first announcement that deadlines would not be met. I want to hear not just from City Staff on where the rail projects are, but I expect the contractors to be more open about delays and the causes of delays in regular reports to Council.

Harpreet Singh

Using my business background, I would advocate for fair tendering processes to ensure local companies have a chance at obtaining large contracts. It's also important to negotiate for the best contracts possible. I would ensure there are regular checks and balances in the system and that no one company controls the entire process, leaving the city at their mercy. Residents of Ottawa deserve to know how much the project is costing and if there are delays or challenges. Most importantly, I would push for accountability and transparency in the process so residents know why certain things are happening.

Irene Mei

I would monitor and request written updates directly from the Transportation committee periodically between and at milestones. I would communicate this information as well as the reason for any delays to the community and RSCA (to post on all communication platforms), this way our community would have relevant and timely information.



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Q.6 Continued...

Michael Qaqish

I have been working hard with the province and private sector to bring the train to the community core in 2021. The original plan ended in Bowesville. We have had several open houses on this project under my leadership and will continue to consult with residents.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

With the delays in the LRT Phase 1 project, many residents feel the city is not coordinating properly with the contractor and pushing hard to make things work fast. I will work closely with the contractor RTG and the city staff and monitor the updates closely, I will also include strict clauses to penalize the contractor if the services are not delivered on time and on budget. I will provide latest update on the project in community newsletter and on my website.

- **Will you commit to ensuring the maximum opportunities for the RSCA and Riverside South residents to be fully engaged in the project?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

Yes, but not only in this project but further transit/transportation projects and changes.

Harpreet Singh

Yes. As mentioned before, engagement is the first pillar of my platform. I am committed to ensuring that residents get services and programs they need and using tax dollars responsibly. Engagement does not cost large swathes of money, it simply requires the will to reach out and listen to different perspectives. Any opportunities for engagement would be focused and targeted on achieving certain results so that it helps get us closer to our common goals.

In my previous roles, I have engaged with industry experts and communities on developing College programs (through advisory committees), have chaired and participated in various community and professional organizations, and moreover, have executed multi-million dollar projects which have involved public engagements, socio-economic impact assessments and environmental assessments. I can collaborate with different stakeholders to achieve success.

Irene Mei

Yes. Any key decision made should be based on the feedback of the public.

Michael Qaqish

Yes - this has always been my approach.



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Q.6 Continued...

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

I believe the engagement of the residents and community associations who are the main stakeholders is vital, I will ensure the full participation of RSCA and the Riverside South residents in in all the phases of the project.

7. There are several area arterial roads operating at capacity, and roads that are deteriorating in and around Riverside South.

- **How will you support much needed road infrastructure upgrades to help ease traffic pressure on the different roads in our community?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

We need a community plan that includes transit and road expansion to not just ease the pressure but to address the reality that road pressure will only increase with new developments coming on line.

Harpreet Singh

Before allowing further residential developments to happen, I would advocate changes to how the city determines the values of development funds put forward by the developers. We need growth and infrastructure in tandem. The population is growing and the pressures on our roads are only going to increase. The city's formula of using development funds needs revisiting and so is the formula with which infrastructure projects are prioritised and funded. These are major shake-ups that need strong leadership and an ability to reach across the aisle to get other councillors on board.

We also need smart city ideas to fix roads, so they do not deteriorate so quickly. I am the only candidate who is running on the platform of "INNOVATION" that brings smart ideas and innovation to save our tax dollars and to create service efficiencies. Sinkholes and water-main bursts contribute to the deterioration of our roads, for which I am proposing the pilot of smart sensors in our city water-sewer network. We can reduce wastage, leakage and seepage of water, but also prevent damage by pipe bursts and sink holes. Ottawa is a "Smart City of the Future" and I will explore smart ideas for roads that make our roads safer and last longer.

Irene Mei

I would review the roads and base it on priority needs. Moving forwards, I would like the city and developers to improve the roads before mass producing an entire community with the lack of infrastructure that causes traffic jams. More importantly to ensure infrastructure keeps up



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Q.7 Continued...

with development, the completion of major arteries must be done before any substantial new phase is started.

Michael Qaqish

We have invested millions of dollars into River Road and Prince of Wales this term of Council to improve north-south traffic flow and widened Earl Armstrong and Limebank in recent years. I have also been successful in advancing the road network in Leitrim by 5+ years with intersection modifications for Leitrim/Albion and Bank/Leitrim set to begin in 2019. The Transportation Master Plan will be opened next year and I will ensure we continue to receive dollars for local infrastructure in Ward 22.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

I will invest in road infrastructure upgrade projects for road widening, patching path holes, twining and resurfacing to address the traffic congestion

- **Earl Armstrong at Bowesville is deteriorating, traffic volumes have increased significantly along with higher speeds. Earl Armstrong between Limebank and Bowesville is in need of resurfacing, especially the part of the road closest to Bowesville.**
 - **Would you press for traffic lights or a round-a-bout at this intersection?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

Agreed.

A firm maybe. Consultations should not just extend to community members but to city staff as well. I believe that creative solutions are available to us if we start by focusing on the outcome we desire and not pre-determining the best way to get there.

Harpreet Singh

I believe we must ensure safety for drivers and cyclists at this intersection. At this point, a two-way stop sign is way too dangerous for vehicles trying to negotiate the stop sign while oncoming vehicles are driving at 80-90 km speed. In its current position, a round-a-bout might be too risky and therefore I would suggest traffic lights. However, instead of micro-managing this issue, I would push for better traffic management at this intersection and others, and then let the experts working in the city take the call on what would be appropriate.



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Q.7 Continued...

Irene Mei

Traffic lights. This is a 4-way intersection where there are a lot traffic as the community grows.

Michael Qaqish

The City is currently going through the process of an Environmental Assessment for Earl Armstrong which will determine which traffic controls are recommended. Once this is complete, I will work with City staff to advocate for the proper controls at this intersection. Recently, I was able to advance the resurfacing of the deteriorating area of Earl Armstrong and Bowesville. It will be completed this fall.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

I would prefer traffic lights over roundabout.

- **Leitrim / Bowesville intersection:** There are increasing number of cars making left hand turns at this intersection. In addition, the volume of cars travelling on both Limebank and Leitrim is creating serious safety concerns. The RSCA thinks this intersection needs traffic lights and left hand turning lanes.
 - What are you prepared to do to remedy this serious safety issue?
 - What measures would you take to see these road improvements made?

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

The concern is legitimate and something must be done, refer to my previous answer let us have the conversation with staff as to the best way to solve this serious problem.

Harpreet Singh

Having used that left hand turn myself multiple times, I agree with a left-hand turning lane. However, as mentioned above, instead of micro-managing, I would leave it to the experts to analyse and respond to safety and traffic on this intersection.



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Q.7 Continued...

Irene Mei

I am in support of turning lanes and traffic lights to reduce the safety concerns and ease congestion. It is a busy road during morning and after work commutes. I would make it a priority to have the lights and lanes added. Given the location, lights maybe added first then the lanes later. Be part of the Transportation and Planning committee, to advocate and allot funding to road improvements in our community especially the ones mentioned above. Advocate for more frequent and reliable public transportation so busing becomes a viable commute to work instead of using cars. This also has the added benefit of reducing traffic volume.

Michael Qaqish

We will work with traffic staff to see what improvements can be made at this intersection to ensure the safety of motorists.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

I fully agree with RSCA and support traffic lights and left hand turning lanes at this intersection. I will work with the road transport authorities and review the ongoing work and new requests made, I will work with the contractors and monitor the progress time to time to ensure tax payers dollars not wasted.

- **Leitrim relocation and widening: is not foreseen before 2030 and the possible airport expansion.**
 - **How will you address the increasing traffic on Leitrim due to the rapid growth of the communities bordering this artery (Riverside South and Findlay Creek) and increased traffic coming from Barrhaven?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

The volume on Leitrim has been a source of concern to me and I find it appalling that we are decades away from the only solution on the books. If we cannot manage our capacity for growth, then we will have to manage the growth.

Harpreet Singh

I would advocate that developers not be able to build more homes which will enhance the current traffic congestion in this area. Why can't the city increase the cost of development



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Q.7 Continued...

expenses to first improve the infrastructure in Findlay Creek? I have seen first hand the traffic jams that are created during rush hour. We must have foresight to develop infrastructure alongside expansion of residential zones. If corporate plazas can be built in a matter of months, why does the widening of one road require more than a decade? By then, we're going to have to further widen the road to handle the increased population.

Irene Mei

It is unfortunate that it would take another 12 years for the roads to be expanded since the communities are rapidly growing but our infrastructure is not in line with that growth. I would want to review and see if it can be pushed earlier. At the same time, I would advocate for a better and more reliable public transportation. If more people chose to take public transportation or car pool then it can reduce the traffic. But residents do not trust in the reliability of the public transit resulting in more cars on the road.

Michael Qaqish

I have secured funding for intersection improvements years ahead of schedule for this area to help with congestion ahead of the widening. The intersection at Albion and Leitrim will be improved in preparation for Light Rail Transit and will help free up some congestion on Leitrim Road. The intersection at Bank and Leitrim will also be modified next year.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

I will have to discuss the plan with the city and stakeholders involved and come up with alternate solutions.



RS= Riverside South

- **River / Limebank:** has become a major bottleneck for people travelling towards Hunt Club.
 - **Do you have any short terms plans to relieve the pressure at this intersection?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

I honestly don't know that there is a short-term solution, but if we can't find a short-term solution we need to find the correct long-term fix.

Harpreet Singh

The intersection of River and Limebank is definitely a major bottleneck and many times, our traffic apps (such as waze) try to avoid this intersection altogether. However, a short-term remedy would be to introduce smart lights at the intersection. A medium-term remedy will be to advocate a flyover on Riverside and Hunt Club as well as a couple of other intersections involving Hunt Club. A long-term solution will be the economic growth of our own ward and to make it more self-sufficient and sustainable as mentioned in a later part of this survey.

Irene Mei

With a growing population and infrastructure lagging behind the only viable solution is public transportation. More reliable buses are needed until LRT is fully implemented. Incentivizing carpooling would also be part of the solution.

Michael Qaqish

I think the main pinch point is further north at Hunt Club and Riverside and we hope to review that intersection as part of an active application in the north west corner.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

I will discuss possible short term changes to the route with the city and traffic authorities to ease the flow of traffic.



RS= Riverside South

- **Brian Good / Earl Armstrong intersection:** According to the traffic department, this intersection doesn't yet warrant traffic lights. The RSCA receives on a regular basis resident concerns from the near misses and chances taken when making left hand turns onto Earl Armstrong. The 80 km speed limit on Earl Armstrong adds to an already dangerous and hazardous situation.
 - **Will you push for the installation of traffic lights at this intersection?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

Traffic light warrants are based on a mathematical formula, and while I am not sure if this intersection yet meets the formula, it will, staff should take another look at this intersection.

Harpreet Singh

Yes. This intersection is getting busier and is waiting for an accident to happen. I believe that we also need to reduce the speed limit on Earl Armstrong between Limebank and Prince of Wales to 50 or 60 with speed enforcement measures to create a safer environment. I have witnessed zooming traffic by the road. Homes built alongside Earl Armstrong receive too much noise pollution and it is an unsafe environment for kids with the current speed limit.

In addition, I support the speed limit on small residential streets to be reduced to 30 as UN studies across various cities have suggested and proved that speed limit 30 reduces fatalities by 90%.

Irene Mei

Yes. The speed and lack of turning lane makes getting off and on that intersection very challenging.

Michael Qaqish

Traffic criteria and warrants determine where lights are installed. I will continue to work with the community and police regarding the speeding issues on Earl Armstrong Road. Ottawa Police have done plenty of enforcement in our community this term of Council to keep our roads safe

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

Absolutely I will recommend traffic lights at this intersection.



RS= Riverside South

Q.7 Continued...

- **Speed near schools:** Would you support implementation strategies to reduce speed near school zones in Riverside South? E.g. electronic speed indicators, speed bumps, increased police presence, photo-radar, etc.

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

Where there is a problem we should look at additional strategies.

Harpreet Singh

Absolutely. The safety of our children is paramount. As a father of three young boys, nothing is more important to me than the lives of our children. I fully support photo radars as they are proven to be a deterrent to speeding vehicles. Anyone concerned with their privacy should be made aware that in a connected world with Internet of Things (IoT), CCTVs and other devices, we are constantly being recorded or photographed and photo radars are not going to solve the issue of "constant surveillance". I believe we need a variety of other approaches including increased crossing guards, police enforcement, speed bumps, and flex signs as our budget allows. But, I also promise to spend the money allocated to me for speed and traffic management measures in full and very wisely. Currently, there is \$72000 left unspent in this category for our Ward and so many issues remain. I would carefully spend the money to add traffic calming measures on Spratt, Canyon Walk, Shoreline, Summerhill etc. to ensure the safety of our residents.

Irene Mei

Yes. I would like to reduce speed limits to 30km/hr. As well as adding speed radars (where it displays how fast going), speed bumps, Zebra lines and stop signs where needed.

Michael Qaqish

I have worked with staff to implement dozens and dozens of traffic calming measures on streets and worked with schools and parent councils to implement a school zone on Spratt Road. A photo radar pilot in school zones was approved by Council, we are waiting on approval from the province for implementation next year.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

I will recommend gateways, speed bumps, lowering speed limit and increased police presence.



RS= Riverside South

ECONOMY

8. How will you help bring jobs and employers to the vacant employment lands in RS so that it is not a 'bedroom community'? Currently there is no significant economic activity in RS, although we are ideally located near the airport and will also have excellent communications with downtown Ottawa as soon as the O-Train is built.

- **What is your vision for economic development in Riverside South?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

A mixed use community with a good variety of residential, institutional and commercial development is the gold standard, and why should we settle for less?

Harpreet Singh

I am the only candidate that has a plan for economic development. The second and third planks of my platform are "GROWTH" and "INNOVATION". Having worked on major economic development projects across the world, with my experience of teaching Business at Algonquin College and having been a small business coach, I am the most qualified candidate with a valid economic development plan. Even though other candidates are now propagating my ideas, I have done my homework for the past few months and have consulted with various stakeholders and agencies to ensure that my plan is grounded in reality.

My vision is to create a very specific knowledge-economy hub that has the potential to create at least 3000-4000 jobs over the next 10 years. This hub could be focused on nanotechnologies or smart manufacturing or 3D manufacturing or artificial intelligence. In addition, I also propose a hi-value food processing manufacturing hub that also has the potential to create an additional 1500-2000 jobs.

The idea is to work with our regional development agency, Invest Ottawa, as well as agencies such as the Canadian Council of Food manufacturers and EDC. We have the potential to set up an export hub of hi-value food processing. We are rightly placed to be a successful hub, with our close proximity to the airport, 90% of Ottawa being rural, Ontario being the second largest North American Food Processor and the recent Canadian European Trade Agreement (CETA), we are poised for success. All we need is the right vision and leadership that has a proven track record in business and getting things done...



RS= Riverside South

Q.8 Continued...

In addition, the idea of an Entrepreneurship accelerator (incubator) embedded in the hub is to promote entrepreneurship amongst our youth, veterans returning for second careers, our indigenous peoples and newcomers as well as anyone interested in pursuing their goal of starting their own business. Being a small business champion, I will help local, home grown and authentic entrepreneurial ideas into reality with the incubator.

Irene Mei

More retail and small businesses integrated into our community. I prefer small boutique businesses that are accessible by foot and public transit. I believe they add character and a quality of life to a community by tailoring services specifically to our ward. I do see a need for large businesses as anchors. My vision is of a business environment that allows for a variety of entrepreneurs to succeed.

Michael Qaqish

Smart growth, smart development. I have worked hard to ensure we preserve the employment lands in the northeast part of the Riverside South Community Design Plan to make sure that Riverside South has all the elements of work, live & play. We will also have a very beautiful and attractive community hub in the future town centre.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

To set up new IT companies in open lands to attract jobs to help grow economy, support and invest in small and medium size businesses such as big-box stores, multiple grocery stores, small specialty shops, a variety of restaurants

- **Do you have a plan in mind on the kind of industries this community should be attracting?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

One of the problems we are facing is that so many of the people in our community work in the downtown core, choking roads and transit by moving all at once. Attracting private sector or government to our community could be a game changer and should be a community priority. Single movements like that of the RCMP Headquarters or DND to Bells Corners can make a huge difference. I plan to go after this very aggressively.



RS= Riverside South

Q.8 Continued...

Harpreet Singh

Yes. Please see above.

Irene Mei

My plan would be to incentivize small boutique businesses primarily in providing specialized items and service. This would include cafes, bakeries, florist, and theatres.

Michael Qaqish

I worked closely this last term of Council with the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) to roll out the carpet instead of the red tape. CFIB works on a mission that small businesses can thrive with the help of all levels of government. I would like a community hub at the future town centre of Riverside South to be home to independent businesses as well as high skilled jobs in our protected employment lands.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

I believe Riverside South is in a perfect location, we can use the empty lands to setup private IT companies since most of the work force in Ottawa is in Public Sector, we need to build Information Technology Park and attract new IT companies, I have heard lot of concerns with new graduates and people with good education to create more jobs in private IT sector in the areas of innovation and development.

- **Will you champion the establishment of a high-technological innovation hub or 'clean-tech cluster' and focus on secure future-oriented jobs?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

Yes

Harpreet Singh

Absolutely. This has been the cornerstone of my platform. I also see the economic development as the key to sustainability of our ward. Once we are able to create jobs in our vicinity, we will be no longer a "bedroom community" and we will be able to come back home from work quickly, spending more quality time with our families. In addition, moving our traffic along the East-West corridor of 416 to Findlay Creek, we will take pressure off our North-South traffic. Along with the



RS= Riverside South

Q.8 Continued...

widening of roads, this will ease traffic congestion and promote biking to work, helping our environment and our physical-mental health. With the changed political and business climate in the United States and specifically Ontario, clean-tech is unfortunately going to suffer as a cluster for sometime to come and therefore, we are not going to be able to attract and retain clean-tech industry here until there is a drastic change in our business climate.

Irene Mei

I am in full support of secure future-oriented jobs.

Michael Qaqish

I have championed the protection of the employment lands in the CDP for this exact purpose.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

Being a Computer Science graduate from University of Ottawa and working in IT for almost 20 years, I have the experience, skills and knowledge. I can leverage this to champion for the establishment of high-technological innovation hub

- **The Riverside South Community Design Plan approved in 2016 shows the location of mixed uses and where employment lands will be located. What role do you see a municipal councillor having in attracting mixed uses and employment to this community?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

Development like so many other things will not be a one woman show. If we are going to pursue industrial development it needs to be a community priority. But understand that every silver lining is surrounded by a cloud and commercial development comes with its own challenges. Employers are looking for communities who will welcome them, first we must be that community and that comes from residents who have confidence in their community engagement process.

Harpreet Singh

I strongly believe in sustainable development, promoting small businesses and ensuring we can work and live in the same community. This is the only way that our part of the city can continue to grow and sustain the increased population.



RS= Riverside South

Q.8 Continued...

Irene Mei

As a city councillor I see my role as being uniquely positioned to not only advocate the benefits of our communities to businesses but also foster the appropriate environment to attract successful businesses. At the moment, Riverside South have 2 business plazas. More needs to be done to incorporate retail into our communities.

Michael Qaqish

I have worked hard to ensure we have the balance of residential, commercial, employment, recreational and natural green features in our Community Design Plan. I will continue to work with our economic development department and Invest Ottawa to highlight Riverside South to local and international corporations.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

I support the 2016 design plan for mixed uses, I believe it will create a stronger neighborhood character with a blend of residential, commercial, cultural or entertainment uses.

9. Most communities have well developed business environments with a variety of shops and businesses including big-box stores, multiple grocery stores, small specialty shops, a variety of restaurants, and most importantly right now for many RS residents: coffee shop(s)!

- **What are your ideas to attract and support such investments / growth; especially small and medium size businesses in Riverside South?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

Small and medium size service business will be attracted to areas of commercial development. Land the bigger fish and the smaller fish will look after themselves.

Harpreet Singh

I know that retail, big box stores come wherever there is population growth. It is more important to plan for how to bring well-paying jobs to this ward so that people can actually afford the homes here and enjoy their lives. As an entrepreneur, I am committed to nurturing small businesses and I have suggested that we create a business incubator in our ward to support...



RS= Riverside South

Q.9 Continued...

and train entrepreneurs. Big box retail is not going to be a growth segment in the next few years, and therefore, we will need to be more strategic and futuristic in our approach on what kind of businesses do we want to promote here. Small specialty shops, urban cafes, theme-based businesses are here to stay and we need to promote these in our ward. "Chore" shopping will be moving online, so we can't rely on those stores, and it's rather "Cherish" shopping that will survive the next disruption in retail. I have been tinkering with the idea of a "Village", or a "European style piazza" in our community where small, local businesses can thrive, where we can walk around and shop while also getting entertained. With the advent of LRT, we will need to incorporate that design around LRT station. This kind of design will enhance our sense of community and belongingness, while still promoting small business and entrepreneurship as well as healthy lifestyle.

Irene Mei

I think the city can do more to incentivize and support small businesses. First to ensure adequate zoning is created so that large businesses would have the space and ability to open. This would create anchors where other smaller businesses could then benefit from the high foot traffic. It is about fostering the environment for business to thrive.

Michael Qaqish

I have always been interested in starting a Business Improvement Area in Riverside South. When I was first elected there were not enough businesses in the community to achieve this, but as it continues to grow there will be an opportunity for a BIA to help businesses in RSS to flourish. I have regular contact and engagement with many of the local business owners and will continue my efforts to support them.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

With the opening of Vimy Bridge and soon to come LRT till Limebank it is expected there will be more movements from neighboring communities and it will create more opportunities for the businesses. Definitely it will create more opportunities for small business to prosper.



RS= Riverside South

ENVIRONMENT

10. Protecting our water resources is essential to our future. Riverside South lies within the Lower Rideau River subwatershed, with Mosquito Creek as part of this watershed. The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) conducts water quality and fish habitat studies every five or so years through its city Stream Watch Program. The study summaries show Mosquito Creek as a healthy creek, however the residents of Riverside South would like to protect and improve (where possible) this natural asset.

- Will you support development plans that protect the Lower Rideau River sub watershed including Mosquito Creek? Many of the tributaries flowing into this creek will be lost due to home construction and this community's projected expansion.

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

I support a balance of development and conservation.

Harpreet Singh

Yes. I think it is imperative that we protect these natural wonders and learn to plan around them. Homes are important too, but so is preserving natural heritage sites and ensuring that residents can enjoy nature around us. We cannot recreate these natural spaces, but we can build homes almost anywhere.

Irene Mei

Complete support in protecting our natural resources. More and more new communities are cookie cutters resulting in identical feeling communities in multiple areas of Ottawa. Our natural resources are what makes our community unique and more habitable for all of us. It is an integral part of our quality of life.

Michael Qaqish

Yes, I will support the protection of Mosquito Creek. I have been supporting the Community Association through promoting initiatives for Mosquito Creek as well as connecting them with Stream Watch Program for gaining access to Mosquito Creek for their walk along the creek back in June.



RS= Riverside South

Q.10 Continued...

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

I believe we need to protect the Lower Rideau River and all natural resources, I'm against any expansion that will cause or damage our natural resources

- **Will you work with the builders/developers and the conservation authority to mitigate water quality impacts resulting from the loss of these tributaries?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

Yes.

Harpreet Singh

Yes. Prevention is better than a cure to answer simply. I am also the only candidate who had a thorough environmental plan that I responded to Ecology Ottawa survey. Please visit <http://bit.ly/surveyecologysingh> to see all candidates' responses.

Irene Mei

Absolutely. There need to be a balance to meet the housing and retail needs of our community while protecting our quality of life.

Michael Qaqish

I always make it a priority to work with all stakeholders and collaborate with the community on these issues and will continue to do so moving forward.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

I will work with builders and the conservative authorities to have better tools/tests to improve water quality resulting from the loss of tributaries.



RS= Riverside South

Q.10 Continued...

- **What role does a municipal councillor have in protecting our waterways (including the Ottawa River) and natural habitat from landscape changes resulting from urban development and pollution?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

A clean and healthy environment is very important to the quality of life we enjoy. We should not permit our quality life to be damaged because of carelessness in planning and zoning approvals.

Harpreet Singh

Municipal councillors are responsible for managing development in the city, thus must lead efforts to protect our waterways and natural habitats from ruination. They must balance the need for building homes with ensuring we preserve natural habitats. Overall, they must ensure urban planning considers all relevant factors.

Irene Mei

Integral part. As the city councilor represents the community there is the ability to work with developers and committees to ensure our community's interest are served.

Michael Qaqish

A municipal councillor should do their best to support the efforts to reduce the impact of pollution and sewage overflows both on the Ottawa River as well as natural habitats in their Ward. I have been supportive of the Ottawa River Action Plan which is aimed at enhancing the health of the Ottawa River and protecting the water environment for future generations. As well as helping find money to purchase woodlots from the developers in order to protect natural habitats in Riverside South.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

It is very important to protect the natural resources from the urban expansion. I will work closely with builders and engage residents and take proper action to protect Ottawa River and the habitats from urban expansion. I will make amendments to zoning laws in proximity to stop the expansion which will affect waterways.



RS= Riverside South

11. The rapid growth of the community has led to massive cutting of mature trees.

- **Will you advocate for more tree preservation in future development plans?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

Preservation of our green spaces is exceptionally important and more complex than just preserving mature trees. That being said mature trees should be saved if at all practical during development and if it is not practical then they should be replaced.

Harpreet Singh

Absolutely. I've thought about implementing an urban forest strategy where we can engage citizens in planting and caring for local tree species in our community.

Irene Mei

It is important for the community and residents to have a green space. There should be a community plan where a certain percentage of mature trees are protected. Some of the most desirable communities in Ottawa have mature trees, they add great value to the community.

Michael Qaqish

Yes I will continue to advocate for tree preservation in future development plans. In the recent CDP I secured money to purchase woodlots from the developer that would have otherwise been developed.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

With the growing pollution we need more greenery around us for fresh air more than before. We need to preserve trees for a healthy living.



RS= Riverside South

- Are you prepared to actively support a tree-planting program within our community and / or the City?
 - For example, Montreal has a 25 % increase goal for its tree population by 2022 (<https://montrealgazette.com/opinion/opinion-montreal-shows-the-rest-of-canada-how-to-save-urban-trees>)
 - For example, an Ontario (provincial government) tree-planting program: <https://www.thewhig.com/news/local-news/50-million-trees-helps-landowners>

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

Yes

Harpreet Singh

Yes. I believe my answer above addresses this. I also believe in working with socially responsible companies to promote our urban forest strategy. Recent tornado and many storms have already proven that urban forest strategy will save our buildings in future, better than any other building material. Also, clusters of mature trees have a much better chance of survival (and less damage to our residences) than a single, stand-alone tree outside our individual homes.

Irene Mei

Yes, as I agree that our community should have a green space. Trees are beneficial to the community and residents. I do not want to live in a community where it is just full of houses, commercial properties and saplings. It's not good for the environment or us.

Michael Qaqish

Yes. We currently have several programs in place with the conservation authority and third parties such as Telus. If re-elected I plan to support this initiative in the next term of Council, as I have in the past.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

Yes, I will advocate for tree planting programs and I will offer incentives to the residents to encourage them.



RS= Riverside South

LOCAL ENGAGEMENT

12. The RSCA would like to be included in discussions dealing with transit, transportation and social infrastructure (policing, healthcare, social safety issues). Transparency and open dialogue on potential community impact can alleviate misunderstanding and misinformation i.e. Hard Rock Casino expansion plans. An informed community is a safer community.

- **What level of community engagement are you proposing?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

Lack of impactful community engagement is one of the key reasons I am running for Council. You should expect timely, effective and consultations that will not only inform, but will have an impact on the outcome of the project.

Harpreet Singh

As mentioned earlier, I believe in safe and sustainable communities with growth overseen by respect and transparency. I have answered my community engagement question earlier too. Therefore, my belief is to act in a transparent and collaborative manner, while receiving continuous feedback from the CAs and grassroots organizations as well as keeping multiple communication lines open with the residents.

Irene Mei

An engaged community is a caring community. I would love high engagement as that would result in more feedback to advocate on. However aside from going over all the motions of emails, posters, social media post we deeply need more to be done. I would propose making myself more available and approachable for in person monthly meetings to ensure the community feels heard and empowered.

Michael Qaqish

I have always been transparent and forthcoming about the files I have been working on, and will continue to be. I will be upfront with the community on issues that impact them, and will collaborate with the Community Association on these issues.



RS= Riverside South

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

I believe public engagement and consultations is very important to keep the communities involved so we can coordinate and alleviate grievances, I will be transparent in all my undertaking with my residents in my ward and promote public consultation in all decisions which are important to my resident

- **How will you help address transit and transportation and social infrastructure (Policing; Healthcare; Gambling addiction, etc.) pressures that will be created with the addition / expansion of the Hard Rock Casino and Entertainment Centre in a neighbouring community?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

There will be additional traffic but most of the social impact will be felt on a city wide basis and should be addressed by the totality of Council.

Harpreet Singh

Safety, security and sustainability of our communities is paramount to me and Hard Rock Casino is another example of putting developers' interest first. I am not opposed to development, but the widening of roads, developing the infrastructure and safety of our community has again been ignored at the expense of Casino development.

I will ensure that roads like Findlay Creek Drive get a fair share of speed calming measures including photo radars to deter speeding vehicles and potential speeding vehicles using these roads as a thoroughfare. I will also ensure that as a city, we don't allow HRC to promote gambling on big billboards or buses from specific communities. As a city, I would also want the city to put aside some earnings from the casino into awareness and gambling deaddiction initiatives, while also ensuring that our by-laws don't allow the casino to target our vulnerable communities such as youth, indigenous and some other minority communities that have been targeted by casinos around GTA.

Irene Mei

We need to find a mutually beneficial balance between the interest of the neighbouring communities and the casino. Having an avenue for easy communication and a process to mediate discussion between the two is the first item. It is also important to set expectations of patrons with the casino when in the neighbouring community. Financial penalties to the casino can be levied should their patrons cause issues. This will incentivize the casino to work with the city and neighbouring communities.



RS= Riverside South

Q.12 Continued...

Michael Qaqish

In regards to transit, we have expanded bus service for the first time in a decade as well as brought the LRT closer to the community core. In regards to social infrastructure- Ottawa Public Health and OLG were present in planning of the Hard Rock, and have programming and resources for those who need it. I also think it's important to note that the new Hard Rock will be more than just gambling. The Entertainment Centre will be home to a steakhouse, hotel, and concert venue. It will create jobs in our community and bring visitors to our area, helping our local economy.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

I will work with different stakeholder to address the concerns arising with the construction of the Rock Casino and take proper steps to increase policing, transportation etc to make my residents feel safe and heard.



RS= Riverside South

13. The RSCA is not a revenue generating organization. It is 100% volunteer based. The City of Ottawa has a policy of user pay. All users must pay a fee to use city owned facilities, and there doesn't appear to be a recognition of the thousands of hours of volunteer-time given annually in the community. We feel the RSCA use of municipal facilities should be free when hosting community events and programs.

- **What level of support are you prepared to provide the RSCA?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

I agree. The RSCA should expect me to be a very hands on Councillor.

Harpreet Singh

I am willing to provide the maximum level of support to the RSCA, including financial assistance. I truly value the residents who devote so many hours to volunteering in the community and to advocate for local issues. Community associations are vital and I have been so impressed with the work of the RSCA. Use of facilities to be free can be tough for the city as their revenue model will be hit by such precedents. These may also be hard to get passed through the city Budgets. I would rather fund part of these activities through the councillor's budget as promised earlier in my questions. That way, RSCA and other hardworking associations will be funded without changing by-laws at the city level.

Irene Mei

There needs to be a balance between the ability for city facilities to self fund as well as the RSCA receiving appropriate support. As the RSCA advocates for the community I see it as an extension of the Ward 22 councillor to inform the councillor of issues that our community deeply care about. I would support fees being waived for the RSCA to use city facilities with limitations in order to balance the cost to maintain facilities are limit pressure on tax revenues.

Michael Qaqish

I have always supported the RSCA during my term on Council. I will continue to do so.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

I fully support RSCA and will help get the municipal facilities for community programs and events with no fees.



RS= Riverside South

Q13 Continued...

- **What is your position on user pay? What is your position on the free use of municipal facilities for community associations who host community events and programs?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

I support the concept of user pay but I see community groups that are providing services as partners rather than traditional “users”

Harpreet Singh

I believe there should be some flexibility on user pay. Publicly funded spaces should be available to residents to use and enjoy, as they have already paid for them with their tax dollars. We do need to support the operating costs of these facilities and can explore some options to support those who cannot pay or non-profit organizations. I am interested in funding youth internships through my office and to increase youth programming at local community centers and believe cost should not be inhibitive. Overall, I think concessions should be made in different situations for the greater good of encouraging community togetherness.

Irene Mei

I agree that if private individuals or groups want to use the facilities to have parties or gathering, it should be paid. However, for senior groups and community meetings where they do not have a budget then it should be subsidized or fee waived based on the situation.

Michael Qaqish

I have always supported local community associations and community groups, however, there is a cost for the City for these events and programs. Regardless of this, I have always done my best to support and sponsor these events and programs. I’m committed to doing so if re-elected.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

I believe all municipal facilities should be accessible at no cost for community programs and events.



RS= Riverside South

14. Seniors and youth are underserved in Riverside South. The RSCA would like to see these two age groups provided free space daily in a municipal facility/building to 'hang out'. In addition to the social and mental health benefits of providing a gathering place for residents, it also lends itself to community building and networking benefits.

- **If elected would you advocate for:**
 - **The funding of staff to assist the RSCA with administrative support, run youth and senior drop-ins at no charge to the user with increased frequency (at least three days a week)?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

I am certainly open to the discussion.

Harpreet Singh

Under the pillar of Engagement, I am promoting better services and programs for seniors and youth. I would work with the RSCA to meet our common objectives and ensure Ward 22 supports our seniors to live with dignity and respect. It is crucial we support good mental and physical health for seniors and youth. I commit myself to fund various CA initiatives and other grassroots initiatives. Infact, a better way of dealing with funding will be to have open bidding process for CAs to apply for councillor's fund at least twice a year. Some of these funds could be valid for multiple years. The idea is to fund specific activities and objectives which could include administrative support as well as drop-ins.

Irene Mei

It's a good concept. There can even be a mix of youths and seniors activities where the two generations can meet and learn from each other.

Michael Qaqish

I have been in discussion with City staff and the RSCA on this issue recently. The City of Ottawa employs staff at community centres who work collaboratively with community associations. In addition, Recreation Cultural and Facility Services has a team of Recreation Community Development Officers who are available to support community associations/groups seeking assistance to navigate recreation and cultural services. I have also worked hard to advance the new rec centre, which will have even more staff in place to assist the Community Association.



RS= Riverside South

Q14 Continued...

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

Definitely advocate funding for staff to assist with TSCA administrative support work to run different programs for youth, children, adults and seniors.

- **Advocate for the addition of a couple of outreach youth workers to move from park to park in Riverside South, or attend related youth-events to engage youth in constructive community activities?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

I am certainly open to the discussion.

Harpreet Singh

My idea of three youth internships paid for by the councillor's office are going to help with this objective where these youth leaders will not only be nurtured and mentored, but also they will be able to devise youth strategy for the ward and also engage with seniors. Their role will also be to encourage youth activities in the ward.

Irene Mei

Yes, I would advocate for that.

Michael Qaqish

I will explore this and continue to work to add more resources for youth.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

I will advocate for outreach youth workers or volunteers to engage in constructive community activities. Youth are the future of tomorrow we need to take care of them and provide everything they need to grow their potential.



RS= Riverside South

15. The RSCA would like to know your approach on community engagement.

- **Will you host regular ward wide meetings with the community associations in Ward 22 to discuss priorities, issues, initiatives, municipal projects, services and funding sources?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

Yes.

Harpreet Singh

Absolutely. I would host meetings, use technology to regularly share information and engage with residents, and be available through my mobile office to meet with the community.

Irene Mei

Yes. As a city councilor, it is important to receive feedback from the community we serve in. To me, a meeting with the important stakeholders within the community is important as well as hold ward meetings once a month to provide updates and have discussions about the issues within the community.

Michael Qaqish

Yes- I have hosted dozens and dozens of meetings during the last four years.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

I believe in public consultation and engagement with the community.



RS= Riverside South

Q15 Continued...

- Each councillor is allocated an annual operating ward budget that seems to include discretionary funds.
 - If that is the case, are you prepared to set aside a percentage of this annual ward budget to help community associations in this ward?
 - What percentage of that budget would you see as reasonable for this purpose?

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

I would be interested potentially utilizing budget funds for projects, but would not consider ongoing association budget funding.

Harpreet Singh

Absolutely.

Irene Mei

The budget allocated belongs to the community and should be used in ways that best benefit the community.

Michael Qaqish

With 7 community associations across the Ward, I make it a priority to contribute to each as much as possible. I will continue to support and sponsor the Riverside South Community Association with their events and program.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

I will definitely work with the community association and review their financial requirements to allocate some percentage reserved.



RS= Riverside South

Q15 Continued...

- **The RSCA promotes an open and transparent communications relationship with the ward councillor. The councillor is encouraged and welcome to attend meetings of the association.**
 - **Will you personally attend meetings when invited or will you send an office staffer?**
 - **Will you hold regular bilateral meetings with the RSCA President, and if yes - how often?**

Carol-Anne Meehan (Submitted Late)

I would prefer to attend when it is possible but would consider sending a member of my office if I could not attend.

I think regular meetings would be of mutual benefit.

Harpreet Singh

Absolutely. I commit to attend the meetings in person and to remain engaged with community associations. In fact, I have committed to build my agenda and priorities with input from community associations, grassroots organizations and residents. As well, I am committing to produce a "councillor report card" every six months, which I will be happy to present at the community association meetings.

I would be available to meet with the RSCA President on a regular schedule or as needed. Maintaining relationships with leaders in the community is a part the job of city councillor. My plan is also to bring all CA presidents together at least twice a year where we exchange best practices and share information from the councillor's office.

Irene Mei

I would attend all the meetings myself as I am the type who likes to be more hands on with all issues and meetings so there is no miscommunication or delays in responses.

I think once a month meeting would be ideal and confirm if that is enough or if twice a month is more ideal. But of course, we would meet immediately if any urgent issues arise.



RS= Riverside South

Q15 Continued...

Michael Qaqish

I attend more than 30 events a week across the Ward. I do my best to attend every meeting. If in the event I cannot make an RSCA meeting, I will send a member of my staff as I like to be informed and updated regardless of whether or not I can attend.

I currently meet with the RSCA President on a monthly basis and am happy to continue with those meetings.

ZAFF ANSARI (Submitted Late)

If available will definitely attend the meetings.

Few times a year.

END OF QUESTIONNAIRE

THANKS TO ALL CANDIDATES FOR PARTICIPATING!