



First Hill Improvement Association Questionnaire for City-Wide Council Candidates

First Hill has roughly 14,000 residents and over 30,000 employees, bounded by Union Street to the north, Broadway to the east, Main Street to the south, and I5 to the west.

Homelessness on First Hill

First Hill has hundreds of shelter beds, housing for formerly homeless individuals (with more under-construction at the 1400 Madison project), and various services that support homeless individuals.

- What are your plans to ensure that there are adequate shelter beds and housing options available to those who are unhoused?

Addressing the housing crisis and providing support to our unhoused neighbors, especially in the wake of COVID-19, is my top priority. As Chair of Housing, I have successfully acquired new revenue for housing and advanced policy solutions to help build more affordable housing more quickly across our city. I have coupled housing with resources for supportive services, recognizing most folks living unsheltered need holistic care and case management services, many have experienced trauma, and many of us in Seattle are just one paycheck or health crisis away from being unsheltered ourselves. As your City Councilmember, I will work with social service providers and case managers to invest in “Housing First” models that provide a safe place to live, a warm bed, a shower, a place to rest and recover. I will champion permanent supportive housing and shelters for individuals, women, families, and seniors who may have co-occurring disorders. To achieve this, I commit to working with my colleagues to buy apartments, hotels, and other multi-family structures on the market to convert to housing and shelter options, stand up more tiny house encampments, build housing, and open more shelter options. Alongside supportive housing infrastructure, I will scale up sanitation services, like public restrooms, handwashing, and garbage pickups around our city to improve the quality of life for all residents.

- What is your plan to ensure that other neighborhoods throughout the city provide the services that First Hill already does?

We must build more housing and invest in shelter services in all areas of our city so that people have access to services near where they work, go to school or need care, we must also create permanent supportive housing and affordable units across this city so fewer people are getting displaced and pushed out of the city limits. I am working with my colleagues in public health and human services to open more hotels, multifamily structures like old apartments, more tiny houses and supporting non-congregate shelter services, to create more compassionate and health-based solutions for our homeless community. And doing so across the city is a priority. I have prevented the city from selling off public land to the highest bidder so we can use the underutilized/surplus land outside of First Hill to create temporary and permanent housing options for those who need a place to call home.

- How will you plan to provide adequate counseling to help unhoused people transition into housing?

Providing adequate support to transition people into housing is a prerequisite to a compassionate solution to Seattle’s housing process. I have redirected city funding to provide additional medical providers, case managers, mental health providers, and substance abuse counselors with a COLA - a cost

of living increase that they had not received in 10 years. And will do more to support our human service providers so that our most vulnerable/unhoused community can have stability in the team of individuals who provides the care they need. Additionally, I plan to create “Warm Handoff” hotlines and a 24-hour nurse line for shelters and supportive housing locations to get the required targeted assistance: open beds, housing options, prescription refills, appointments, aftercare, wound care, etc. Additionally, I would like to add more Health One mobile health units to provide low-acuity treatment on demand to the unsheltered in the five ladder areas our fire department serves so that we have at least 5 teams across our city - I funded two more in my time as Budget Chair bringing the Health One team to a total of 3 teams so far.

Affordable Housing

Thousands of people commute to and from First Hill on any given day and workforce housing is needed to reduce traffic and commutes.

- What is your plan to increase workforce housing in First Hill and other downtown neighborhoods?

The lack of affordable housing is causing more workers and high numbers of workers of color specifically to be pushed further away from their place of employment and community. Consequently, Seattle has become the third-highest mega commuter city in the country. To address this, I am proud that JumpStart secured an additional \$135 million per year for affordable housing, shelters, homeownership opportunities, and more to address the housing and homelessness declared states of emergency by building more housing, preventing displacement, improving access to services, and protecting public land for the public good. I have also championed legislation allowing Seattle to collect a portion of existing sales tax revenue for housing, building on our State legislative champions’ good work. Additionally, I’ve passed legislation securing an additional \$20 million for shovel-ready affordable housing creating the largest-ever round of affordable housing funding in Seattle. I passed the Land Disposition Bill to tell the city to stop selling underutilized public land to the highest bidder and instead use it for public goods like housing. We passed Racial Equity Toolkit to evaluate current zoning policies and see the impact on communities of color and lower-wage workers. Included Community Preference and Affirmative Marketing requirements in our City’s Administration and Finance housing policies to allow for more affordable housing options, especially for communities at the highest risk of displacement. I plan to continue advocating aggressively for affordable housing for all Seattle residents.

Post-COVID 19 Recovery

Over the past year, multiple small businesses, many of them owned and operated by People of Color, have experienced break-ins, assaults, thefts, and arson.

- What is your Road to Recovery for First Hill?

The COVID-19 crisis wreaked havoc on our community and local economy, with hundreds of small businesses across our city shuttering, workers facing unemployment or underemployment, and families facing food insecurity, housing instability, and impossible choices. A just and equitable recovery post-pandemic means adapting what we’ve learned from this past year to improve society. Many aspects of recovery must be accounted for: racial equity, social equality, economic prosperity, and environmental justice. With life after COVID, we have a chance to make some big changes to what we consider ‘normal.’ Society’s near halt has shown how much of an impact humans have on the environment. It means investing in services, programs, and direct cash for those hardest hit by COVID, especially women and people of color, and directly into organizations with trusted relationships within those communities hardest hit. For First Hill - we need to secure more housing for the healthcare workforce at all levels of care to be able to afford to live near their place of employment, we need more affordable mix-ed use and

multi-family structures around the hill so more students, small businesses owners, workers, elders can live around their place of employment and community. This area has seen a lot of change and we need to build the mixed-use/multi-family housing to accommodate the growing need and that will in turn support the businesses on first hill. We need to connect bike lanes that have growing but still need protected lanes amongst heavy traffic, and I'd like to increase bus and street car frequency as well.

- How do you plan to support small businesses that have seen increases in crime?

I am fully committed to supporting small businesses and workers in Seattle, particularly in this time of recovery. In the face of so much uncertainty, I prioritized \$86 million in new JumpStart revenue for COVID Recovery to help small businesses, rental assistance, immigrant and refugee support, and childcare. I specifically allocated relief and emergency funds to small businesses in my COVID Relief Bill, in the 2021 Budget I chaired, and in the Seattle Rescue Plan that I sponsored. I plan to continue supporting small businesses' recovery in office. When it comes to community safety, including the safety of small businesses, I supported advancing more multidisciplinary co-responder crisis teams that include mental health professionals, social workers, and crisis counselors that may be a contributing factor to property crime on the rise nationally..

First Hill Open Space and the Public Realm Action Plan

Our neighborhood is vastly underserved with access to open space. That is why our organization, alongside SDOT, the Parks Department, and SDCI created the First Hill Public Realm Action Plan (PRAP) in 2015 to address the lack of open spaces due to inadequate availability of land and high land values.

- Will you commit, before the August 3rd Primary to go on a FHIA guided tour to learn how the PRAP has benefitted the neighborhood thus far?

Yes.

- Will you pledge to support First Hill through the continuation of policies that encourage private developers to implement the PRAP? Do you have any policy ideas that can overcome challenges associated with new park development in First Hill?

I support the deliberate development of open spaces. Density done right in Seattle means having access to parks from our high opportunity access areas. Connecting our homes, workplaces, and services through transit is great, but we must also include green spaces in those high opportunity access areas. As we convert more space in Seattle from single-family zones to multi-use, multi-family zones - we can simultaneously expand our tree canopy, green spaces, and community play areas. This will mean that more community members with the highest risk of displacement have access to more affordable housing throughout the city and access to green spaces and trees along with other amenities in high-opportunity neighborhoods. I also support more safe streets, superblocks, and ways to turn concrete use into green space and public places for more pocket parks.

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