

1. Why are you running for this position?

I am concerned about a lack of transparency, honesty, innovation and accountability in Minneapolis politics. I want to bring my hospitality industry and non-profit skills to the city budget, using consensus-based decision making and creativity to eliminate waste and redundancy. Why am I running?

To transform the idea of what a candidate and city council member can be

To let everyone know that an ordinary person of humble means can change city politics

To represent renting artists and hospitality industry folks, as well as property owners and small businesses

To bring innovative thinking and unique perspectives to city leadership

To listen to your thoughts and bring an independent voice to city government

To empower our ideas and create the policies we want!

2. Describe your background and why it makes you a good candidate for the position you seek?

For my entire adolescent and adult life, I have been immersed in local, small retail and wholesale businesses, management and leadership in the hospitality industry, performing and promoting music and art, public policy organizing, consensus-based decision making and local politics. I have owned and operated three small businesses, managed a local cafe, served as Executive Chef for three Ward 10 eateries and also managed a non-profit that worked on addiction prevention for youth and public health policy. I believe this broad spectrum of experience is perfectly suited to represent our six neighborhoods – what do we thrive off of in Ward 10, if not food, art, entertainment and local politics? All of these active, engaged environments that make Ward 10 what it is have been at the center of my personal and professional life for decades.

3. If elected, how will you work with the Lyndale Neighborhood Association and Lyndale community members to help us improve our neighborhood?

I will attend every LNA meeting I can possibly get to, and I will be present in the businesses that make Lyndale the wonderful neighborhood it is, speaking with the owners and employees on a regular basis – and enjoying the great food and services! (As a chef, I would love to jump into a kitchen from time to time and hear concerns from the pros who produce all the great Lyndale food). I will work to implement LNA initiatives on a daily basis, and always seek to coordinate citywide plans and projects with Lyndale priorities. In addition, I will make a personal commitment to emphasize the addition of Lyndale-prevalent languages to my vocabulary (beyond restaurant Spanish – “Ten cuidado, piso mojado”) and always respect the diverse array of cultural and socioeconomic perspectives that comprise the Lyndale neighborhood

4. What will your top priorities be if you are elected?

Dramatically curtail subsidies for corporate developers in the city

Shift business focus to micro-loans for entrepreneurs, small storefronts and rental property owners

Preserve the character of our Uptown neighborhoods by voting “No” on Trader Joe type proposals

Give local neighborhood zoning commissions real authority over planning and projects

Develop grassroots systems to get more local food to children and seniors

Push for smarter enforcement of stoplight and stop sign laws for bicyclists, and legalize locking bikes to any public post, sign or meter

Support late night bus service and no fare increases

Provide incentives for police officers to live in the areas they protect and serve, and start a program to put youth on a path to eventually patrol and protect their own neighborhoods

Protect the independence of the Park Board and Board of Estimation and Tax

Find new sources of revenue that do not include raising property taxes

#### 5. For City Council & Mayoral Candidates

a. What is your view on the role of neighborhood organizations in Minneapolis and how will you work with and support these organizations if you are elected?

They are doing wonderful work, but need to have real authority in the decision-making process. Serving in only a planning and advisory position has proven to be a problem. The people who live in the neighborhoods should ultimately have more power over what is developed or destroyed – this is a fundamental tenet of genuine democracy that is too often ignored. I will work to retain current funding for neighborhood initiatives and use my grant-writing experience to locate new pools of money for planning and projects. I will keep communication lines open and honest, and I will make myself available to constituents on a regular basis and respond to inquiries in a timely fashion with honest and complete answers. My leadership background in the hospitality is perfectly suited to this position – provide polite, prompt and professional service, and always prioritize the needs of the constituents first.

b. What will your approach be to ensuring the City is financially healthy over the long-term?

I will apply my experience in the restaurant and non-profit worlds to city finance, and utilize my skills from the world of small business (where I managed budgets for three of my own operations). The margins for financial error in these realms are extremely slim, and I have managed tight budgets in numerous capacities for many years. The basic tenets I would apply to city finance follow:

Keep overhead low and work to reduce mandatory costs at all times

Streamline for efficiency by eliminating waste and redundancy

Do it yourself whenever possible, and don't hire for new positions or outsource if you or a current employee can handle the task

Be aware of patterns, tendencies and trajectories, be they positive or negative. Learn from the past.

Don't be static. Always strive to anticipate opportunities and foresee situations, and, as a result, bring innovation and creativity into the problem-solving process.