

Motor Avenue Improvement Association

Palms Neighborhood Council Candidate Questionnaire October 2012

Candidate Name__Eli Lipmen_____

Position Name (if applicable)__Residential Representative Area C_____

Responses dealing with campaign strategy and finances will not be made public.

Introductory Questions

1. Why are you running for office?

Answer

Since moving to Palms I have been active in community building, including serving on the PNC for the past four years. When I joined as Secretary, I wanted to beautify our community and we took those first steps by installing artwork on utility boxes throughout Palms. As the President of the PNC since 2012, we have made Palms safer, cleaner, greener, and friendlier with community-driven projects like renovating Woodbine Park—which my two-year-old daughter loves! My family and I have now made Residential Area C in Palms our home with the recent purchase of our condominium. As your representative, I want to focus on our residential area by: 1) moving forward on the PNC project to improve Overland Avenue, 2) working to maintain Woodbine Park, 3) improving sidewalk access and walkability, 4) continuing to organize neighborhood clean ups, and 5) bringing us together as neighbors.

2. What is the most pressing issue facing Palms and how will you deal with it? What is the most pressing need facing Motor and how would you deal with it.

Safety – with the recent break-ins we need to focus on outreach, improved safety, expanding the neighborhood watch program, and keeping the neighborhood clean to prevent further issues.

3. What are three to five specific tasks (e.g. specific legislation, policies, enforcement actions) you intend to accomplish if you are elected?

I want to focus on our residential area by: 1) moving forward on the PNC project to improve Overland Avenue, 2) working to maintain Woodbine Park, 3) improving sidewalk access and walkability, specifically where National Blvd meets Mentone Ave, 4) continuing to organize neighborhood clean ups, and 5) bringing us together as neighbors.

4. What is your profession or current place of employment? Do you have time for this position?

Answer

I am a manager at an international nonprofit – AJC - with an office nearby. I have flexible time for this position

Topic-Specific Questions

6. Did you support the creation of the PNC? What do you expect the Council to accomplish?

Answer

I support the Neighborhood Council system and believe the PNC can play an important role in the community to engage and empower its stakeholders. I recognize the limitations of the role and understand the importance of working collaboratively with the other NC members, community groups, City officials, and the City bureaucracy. I have a track record of getting things done from funding for crucial programs in the neighborhood to the importance of branding the community to increase economic development and smart growth. I have seen where the Council can be most effective in its work and will find ways to expand on our mission.

7. Please describe Palms and specifically Motor Ave. What would you do to improve it?

Answer

Palms is a dynamic, diverse, distinct, and historic community. Motor Avenue is its historic and current business core. I am passionate about Palms because we have such great restaurants, businesses, residents, and community members. I created the Palms mural project to celebrate and display our diversity and history to attract new residents, businesses, and customers to the neighborhood.

8. What steps would you take to increase the sustainability of Palms? Do you think there are environmental issues?

Answer

Absolutely. As a current board member, I have brought a number of sustainability issues to the Board. As a result, we have passed motions supporting the citywide plastic bags ban, a ban on polystyrene (Styrofoam), the America Fast Forward plan for public transit in LA, the RePower LA campaign (energy efficiency measures at LADWP), Proposition 37 (GMO labeling), and a ban on hydraulic fracturing in the City of Los Angeles. Our advocacy and support for these crucial issues has helped many of these campaigns tremendously and Palms NC has been recognized around the city for its efforts to support these sustainability efforts. With the construction of the Expo Line, we need to support transit oriented developments, more bicycle parking, and more pedestrian amenities to encourage people to walk, bike and ride, rather than drive, when shopping locally or traveling somewhere else in the City.

9. What steps would you take to increase public participation in Palms?

Answer

More engagement at places where people in Palms gather – businesses, Woodbine Park, the farmers market, and the local schools. Also, we need to reach out to renters by providing a renters' guide to Palms.

10. Please describe the Park system in *Palms*. Does it need improvement? If so, what would you do to make those improvements?

Answer

Woodbine is now a great park and as the Residential Representative for that park, I would ensure that it is maintained. I take my daughter there at least once a week and am in regularly contact with the daily park goers who tell me what needs to be fixed or changed. I have already been working with the Department to upkeep the park.

11. What steps would you take to deal with the problem of non-participation in our community?

Answer

We need to address these issues of relevance to the community and engage them to help us solve the challenges we face together. These include street accessibility, clean parks, graffiti, and walkability.

12. Do you support making Palms more bicycle friendly? If so how?

Answer

Absolutely. My family are all avid bikers and I have supported all efforts to make Palms more bicycle friendly. We even purchased all our bicycles from Palms Cycle. I will continue to support the construction of bicycle lanes in Palms and will work with businesses to install bicycle racks.

13. What measures would you propose to make the Motor Avenue Farmers Market more successful? Do you support the activities of the Motor Ave Association? If so which ones and how?

Answer

Flyers should be distributed to the major faith institutions in the area that have a built in network of active community members.

14. Do you support mail in election ballots? Why and what if elected will you do to support your position?

Answer

After hearing from many other neighborhood council leaders about the problems with the City Clerk's mail in election ballot system, I would prefer to support online voting for those who cannot make the election and outreach to those who do not have, or do not know how to use, a computer.

15. How do you feel the PNC currently functions? If elected what would you do differently?

Answer

The PNC needs to focus on translating its work into actions. Any motion should have all the documentation to support it ready to go – be it a funding request or a letter to an elected official – so that the burden of the work does not fall on the Executive Committee.

16. What do you think about the state of transportation in Palms? On Motor Avenue?

Answer

Transportation on Motor Avenue is one of our biggest challenges. Finally getting a left turn light at Venice Blvd and Motor Ave is important. The 'no left turn' restriction on Motor Avenue at National Blvd should be moved north to Manning Ave. The restriping of Motor Avenue was the right decision for the community – it improves safety on the street by creating a dedicated left turn lane for problems areas like Regent, Tabor, and the US Post Office, and it completes the Motor Avenue bicycle lane to connect the two studios at either end of Motor. I am concerned about the additional traffic caused by the \ new developments on Motor and we need to find solutions to reduce traffic.

17. How many programs have you initiated, developed and implemented in Palms? Please list. (Please be as specific as possible)

Answer

- Helped bring the Woodbine Park project into reality and ensured its completion on the schedule outlined by the Department of Parks and Recreation
- The Palms Mural Beautification project with the support of Council District 10, the Palms NC Board members, and LA Commons. This program hired 2 local artists and a dozen apprentices (students), and engaged hundreds of community members in development of artwork and painting of the murals
- A mural "art opening" at the Museum of Jurassic Technology, fostering a new partnership with this community group
- Created of the monthly Palms clean ups; over 20 have been held with dozens of community members.
- Initiated the yearly Summer BBQ in Woodbine Park; 4 have been held

18. How familiar are you with other community groups, city hall, city agencies and city departments?

Answer

I have worked with our Councilmember, Paul Koretz, for years on a variety of issues and have a close relationship with him and a number of his staff members. I was recently appointed by Mayor Eric Garcetti to serve as a City Commissioner.

Campaign Activities and Structure

19. Explain your plans to incorporate a Motor Ave agenda into your campaign.

Answer

I am open to improvements on Motor Avenue and have supported new businesses, new projects, and opportunities to partner.

20. What is your campaign outreach goal? As of the date of this questionnaire, how much have you raised? What is your plan for raising awareness of your candidacy? (Please be as specific as possible.)

Answer

I am speaking with neighbors and people I know in the community about my candidacy. I plan to visit a few buildings in the Residential Area.

21. Why do you want our endorsement? How you will use it in your campaign?

Answer

I am always open to any ideas that are doable and will help to improve the community. I know that the only way we can make Palms a better place is to work together, as true partners.

22. Who in the community supports and endorses your candidacy?

Answer

I have not been actively seeking endorsements but have many community supporters.

Completing This Questionnaire

Please provide the ***names, phone numbers and websites*** of your campaign if relevant.

email: eli4palms@gmail.com

Please list names, titles/affiliations/agencies ***and a current phone number*** for the person or people who helped you with this questionnaire, including staff and family members.

N/A

"I affirm that all the information I have provided in answering this questionnaire is true to the best of my ability and reflects my personal beliefs, ideas and plans. I understand that my answers will be available to the public on the Motor Avenue Improvement Association website." (Campaign Strategy and Finance responses will not be published)



Eli Lipmen

04/8/2014

Candidate Signature

Candidate Name (printed)

Date