

Introductory Questions

1. Why are you running for office?

After working at schools throughout greater Los Angeles the past six years, I've realized that I am helping many communities except for the one in which I live. The experience of working with teachers and students in multiple communities has brought to my attention the rewarding excitement that comes with working with people to effect change. After seeing many of the changes that have taken place in Palms over the past couple years, I would like to take part by both having a voice and moving the people's voice to take action.

I am a dedicated and hard-working professional and believe local communities need people who are willing to put in the time to listen to stakeholders and improve the community. The opportunity of working with experienced council members and organizations such as the MAIA is an experience that I am both curious to have but also prepared to take seriously to ensure that the best candidates are in place to effect change.

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.

After last year's shooting and the changes that will ensue once the Metro is opened, I believe crime and safety are a top priority. I think Palms would benefit from bringing back the Neighborhood Watch programs as well as improving communication between local authorities and residents. Coming in as an outsider to the Palms NC yet having been a resident in Palms for 6 years, I believe this is all a part of a larger issue in which our community needs more opportunities and reasons to come together. I believe more outreach and knowledge sharing can help to better prepare and respond to future 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 bring Neighborhood Watch programs back and work on improving community outreach through more events and better advertising of these events. I want to work with local authorities to create better systems for managing crime by working with stakeholders and try to problem solve ways to address our homeless residents camped out beneath and along the Metro line and freeway. I'd like to continue to add more parklets and provide more places for public recreation while simultaneously making Palms more "green" both literally as well as providing more ways for people to recycle and organize waste.

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

I am currently a History Curriculum Specialist for Green Dot Public Charter Schools. I coach high school and middle school teachers, manage and train departments, and work in teams to facilitate professional development sessions for teachers and other Green Dot employees. My background is in Global Studies and German before I received a Masters' in education. While this a full-time job, my schedule is often flexible and I seldom work at night. I certainly have time for the position and plan to view the position as another job.

5. Please provide a copy of your resume.

Attached in email.

Topic-Specific Questions

6. What do you expect the PNC to accomplish?

I believe the PNC can revive the Neighborhood Watch system which will begin to bring the community together. From there, we can better advertise events like the Farmer's Market and continue to do the same work as the MAIA but around all of Palms and not just along Motor Avenue. By getting in better touch with community members, the PNC can hopefully pre-empt and respond to changes from the Metro to minimize and mitigate any potential negative effects (homelessness, crime, traffic, etc.) as well as of course address as they arise once it's opened in May.

7. Please describe Palms and specifically Motor Avenue. What do you hope to do to improve it?

Palms is one of the most diverse and dense neighborhoods in Los Angeles as well as one of the last affordable areas in western LA. Motor is one of the neighborhood's most unique streets with many local stores and locations representing the area's diversity in terms of culture as well as socioeconomic status. I hope to highlight and advertise all the restaurants and stores in the area through more community engagement. I had never seen a map of Palms until the postcards about the PNC elections were sent out. I think there are many people who are very unaware of the council as well as the MAIA. I'd like to continue to build off the accomplishments of the MAIA as well as use the Farmer's Market as a venue to advertise local businesses and reach community members about other ways to connect.

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

I'd like to see even more of the recycling bins throughout all of Palms as well as clothing donations spots. I've seen communities really embrace "green" businesses and think there can be more advertisement for stores and buildings that are switching to more green practices, encouraging residents to shop there. I think there can always be more done to help Palms residents make better choices in and outside of their homes.

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

Outreach. As aforementioned, many Palms residents simply don't know about the PNC or MAIA. This will begin to hopefully improve as we campaign over the next couple weeks and I believe switching to electronic voting will get the word out. I want to better advertise both PNC meetings and other community events (namely the Farmer's Market). From there, we can try to hear from more residents what they would like to have as well as brainstorm ways to come together as a community more often.

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

Again, I think the bar has been set high by the renovations done at Woodbine. While there can maybe be work done to improve Palms Park, I think the council can do a better job at using the parks for public events to get people to see the improvements and make attending them more of a habit. For residents without kids, there needs to be reasons to go to the parks such as Food Truck events or other public events (live music, showcasing Palms' students talents and creating a venue for them to perform, and showcasing restaurants, etc.) that can draw various people on weeknights or on Saturdays.

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

It would be great for Palms to be more bike-friendly and we have other neighborhoods in LA already doing so. I think we can follow their lead by painting clear bike lanes and connecting them to existing bike paths along Exposition as well as throughout larger streets. Creating more bike lockers like those at the Culver City Metro station is another way to promote bike riding so bicycle owners know they can lock their bike in public safely.

12. What measures would you propose to make the Motor Avenue Farmers Market more successful?

I propose better advertising in order to continue bringing in new and different vendors to attract different crowds. It would be nice to showcase some of the new and old restaurants located within Palms as well as possibly attracting musicians and showcasing student work from the Palms schools. With new restaurants like Kogi coming in, we can be working with them to draw more people to events while allowing new businesses to get to know the people.

13. Do you support the activities of the Motor Ave Association? If so which ones and how?

Yes, absolutely. The MAIA's accomplishments have been one of the main reasons I looked into being a part of the PNC in the first place. The organization's ability to fundraise and make improvements for the community is exceptionally strong and should be a strong ally for the NC moving forward. The focus on creating more public spaces and events will continue to make outreach more possible and effective in ensuring that residents' voices and concerns are heard and acted on.

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

Yes. I believe that any and all means of voting should be allowed to make each Palms resident more likely to vote. The entire purpose and creation of a NC is to bring Palms' voice to the board from the people, who can then take it to larger groups. I will fight for that right unless there are huge hiccups with the system. But like with any new system, things may not run as smoothly as decided but regardless, the more options and possibilities for Palms residents to vote, the better. The backside of my campaign flyer will instruct people how to sign up and vote online.

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

From what I have learned by word of mouth, the PNC is making positive changes by working on outreach and making this election one of its most publicized events ever. However, I think the PNC can be doing more to cooperate with the MAIA and should be continuously finding new ways to improve the community. More specifically and timely, the council should ensure that the Metro does not create problems. I think council members need to keep the focus on doing what's best for the people and leave personal matters outside of the council.

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

With a bedroom window alongside Palms Avenue, the street sometimes feels more like a freeway than a residential street. I'd like to consider adding more pedestrian walkways so people are less inclined to J-walk and cars will slow down. Motor can be very crowded during busy times and while public parking has improved, I think traffic and transportation are absolutely areas worth looking into.

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

I look forward to adding to this list once elected!

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

I worked in the Fairfield City Works department for a summer in my hometown in Northern California after graduating high school. That was the first time I began to understand the various departments and distribution of responsibilities and tasks within local government.

This would be my first experience getting into local government agencies in Los Angeles. I have worked with and met government officials while teaching high school in Inglewood, but the programs were always school-centered and my work was done more often with colleagues and students.

Campaign Activities and Structure

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

I believe a Motor Ave agenda is the same as the agenda of the PNC. I think the MAIA has set a very positive example of what the council and any other organizations should be doing for the community.

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.)

Since this is the first election done digitally, I plan to campaign primarily through social media as well as using the weekends to walk around and flyer within Area C. I have money in my savings that should be enough for me to print out flyers and send out messages on Facebook and online to people about the vote.

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

I believe the MAIA has done great work with improving the community and agree whole-heartedly with virtually all of the organization's changes and improvements. I am goal oriented and once focused, I will work hard until the goal is accomplished. The changes brought about by the MAIA have both inspired and motivated me to run for this position and I envision a NC that works hand-in-hand with organizations such as MAIA since we all have the same intentions and goals in mind: to improve the quality of life for Palms residents. Since I have little experience with campaigning, the endorsement would be a huge help in getting my name out to the public.

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

My friends and neighbors.

