

**Friends of Sunset Park
City Council Candidate Questionnaire 2012**

Response from John Cyrus Smith:

1) *In the 1984 Agreement between the City of Santa Monica and the FAA, the City agreed to operate the Santa Monica Airport until 2015. In addition, when the 1984 Agreement expires, all the leases at the airport (short and long term) will expire giving the city enormous parameters in changing the character of the airport property.*

A) When this Agreement expires, how do you envision the future of the 227-acre airport property? (100 words maximum)

As either a limited use airport with expanded park space and other city benefits, or the greatest urban park in Santa Monica, where schools, teams, citizens and everyone enjoys a wide array of activities. Perhaps part could become the future home of a new Santa Monica High School. Or maybe hangars can be turned into studios to bring movie and TV business to the site and generate revenue for the city. It must not fall into the hands of developers and become another Playa Vista.

B) Whom do you feel your future vision would benefit? (100 words maximum)

Right now very few people benefit from the airport. If we close the airport, the land should truly become a city resource with something every person can enjoy.

C) What kind of process do you feel should be involved in the decision? (100 words maximum)

For starters, one that does not make assumptions or place preconceived ideas or limits as to the possibilities. I also want a completely transparent process, powered by city-wide input, with a greater voice going to the people who live closest to the airport. I also want to make sure city legal staff are ready so we can truly decide SMO's future.

2) *Results of community surveys (CASMAT and OPA) and the City's own Phase II visioning discussion groups show that 80% of participants support either substantial reduction in operations at SMO or closure of SMO.*

A) City Staff has repeatedly shown their reluctance to study either closure or reduction in operations. How would you deal with directing staff to pursue a full study of these options and their benefits/drawbacks? (100 words maximum)

City staff must work with the Airport Commission, the Council and the citizens of Santa Monica. I like how the Airport Commission came up with several bold ideas on how to charge more for flights, or reduce flights, even before 2015. Those options, and future legal options, need to be explored now. If I were on the

C) If you support "self-sustaining," how would you change the fee/lease structure to make airport operations self-sustaining? (100 words maximum)

Clearly, since so few people in Santa Monica actually benefit from the airport, it makes sense for those who do profit from its use, pay for the cost of the benefits they receive. Why should taxpayers have to foot the bill?

6) *The residents of Sunset Park, Ocean Park, Venice, Mar Vista, and West LA complain of the impacts of pattern flying over their neighborhoods.*

A) What is your position on the following statement?

I would oppose granting additional flight school Commercial Operations Permits (COP's), and I would oppose renewing flight school leases that expire.

| | | | | | |
|----------------|---|--------------|---|---|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | | | | | Strongly Disagree |
| 1 | 2 | XXXXX | 4 | 5 | |

B) If you rated the previous statement 3, 4, or 5, please explain your reasons for supporting the continuation of permits and leases for flight schools. (100 words)

Again, I only want to have the option for a LIMITED use airport available, IF City Hall has the votes to create a Playa Vista style development there. I would rather see a limited use airport with some city benefits everyone can enjoy, than a mega-development that will choke another part of the city with traffic and congestion. Three Council candidates were late to the recent Airport Forum due to traffic. Just imagine how bad the traffic would be, with hundreds and hundreds of homes there.

7) Any additional commentary you wish to share on Santa Monica Airport issues is welcome.

Everyone in Santa Monica has a right to health and safety where they live. The health effect of jet fumes on nearby residents is a paramount concern. It's time for a definitive study on the health impact of SMO.

LAND USE & CIRCULATION

8) Will you accept donations from developers, land use attorneys, or architects whose projects the City Council will be voting on? **(ABSOLUTELY NOT)**

If yes, will you recuse yourself from voting on any of their projects that come before the City Council? (YES OR NO)

Background: The FOSP Board took a position in 2005 to oppose any large development project who traffic impacts on residential neighborhoods could not be mitigated.

Although the federally funded Bergamot Area Plan has not yet been adopted by the City Council, 2 million square feet of development is currently in process and will generate 10's of thousands of new daily car trips in the Pico and Sunset Park neighborhoods (Agensys, Bergamot Transit Village, Colorado Creative Studios, Paseo Nebraska, Roberts Business Center, and Village Trailer Park).

In Sunset Park, the proposed Pico/Centinela project would include 300 apartments and possibly generate 2,000 new daily car trips. It's a block from Trader Joe's, a few blocks from the SMC Main Campus (with more than 30,000 students enrolled), and on a section of Pico that already has more than 26,000 daily car trips.

On the NE corner of Pico and Centinela, in West LA, a 95-unit apartment building is under construction. At Pico and Sepulveda, more than 750,000 sq ft of commercial/residential development is planned.

9) If elected, how would you decide which development agreements in the Pico and Sunset Park neighborhoods to support? (100 words or less)

There are too many development agreements in Santa Monica. Why have zoning laws if developers don't abide by them when "floating" their projects? If a project contains housing that people who live here or work here can actually afford, has open space so as not to overwhelm the site, and contains adequate parking and pays for any needed traffic it causes, I might support it

In making your decisions, would you take into account the traffic impacts of West LA development projects on Santa Monica neighborhoods? **(YES)**

VILLAGE TRAILER PARK

Background: The Village Trailer Park has been described as an irreplaceable neighborhood, with historic roots, that has enabled affordable home ownership for low-income residents of Santa Monica for more than 50 years. If the city allows it to be destroyed, it can never be replicated. In the November 2007 Memorandum of Understanding, it states that "Village Trailer Park agrees that the Development Agreement Application review shall require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which would review a reasonable range of alternatives including, but not limited to, a resident owned mobile home park subdivision, and alternative rezones and projects (including reduced scale projects that would avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant environmental impacts as required by CEQA)."

10) If elected, would you direct City staff and the Village Trailer Park developer to seriously consider alternative projects along the lines of the Ron Goldman proposal to the Planning Commission and City Council, a "reduced scale" project that would allow current residents to remain in place? **(YES)**

If no, why not? (100 words or less)

11) EXPO LINE -- What policies would you support to enable the city to cope, logistically and financially, with the influx of daily visitors in 2016 when the Expo Light Rail Line goes into operation? (100 words maximum)

I love mass transit. I have seen it work in Washington DC, Atlanta, SF, Denver, Portland, Vancouver, Chicago, NY, the East Coast, and in Paris, London, Germany and France. I think, logistically, our Big Blue Bus system must

supplement and connect to Expo so more people will ride Expo to and from our city. We do not need a “Taj Mahal” Expo station at 4th & Colorado, but a functional station that supports its ridership.

SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES & PUBLIC SAFETY

Background: Social service agencies such as Common Ground are considered "general office use" in the current Zoning Ordinance. In the last few years, Common Ground (then located at 2012 Lincoln) and 818 Cedar (located directly behind 2402 Lincoln and used to house OPCC clients) generated 186 Calls for Service to the Fire and Police Departments. This had a negative effect on residents in adjacent residential neighborhoods.

The FOSP Board has recommended that in the updated Zoning Ordinance, social service agencies be required to get Conditional Use Permits (CUP's), as they do in other cities.

12) Would you support a CUP requirement for Social Service agencies? (YES)

13) CITY BUDGET -- The City of Santa Monica spent \$583 million in FY 2011-12. What strategies would you support in order to control city expenditures? (100 words maximum)

Budget leadership means setting priorities, such as schools, children, seniors, infrastructure, public safety and parks. You favor programs and projects that benefit the most people. The 2nd-biggest item on next year’s budget is \$97 million for “non-departmental” expenditures. I’d start there. That 20% of our budget deserves scrutiny.

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

Background: According to the California Community College Chancellor's Office Data Mart -- http://datamart.cccco.edu/Students/Enrollment_Status.aspx -- Fall semester enrollment at Santa Monica College increased from 22,393 in 1994 to 35,229 in 2009, a 57% increase. About 85% of the SMC students live in the Los Angeles Community College District (9 campuses) or come from out-of-state or from other countries.

Despite the increase of online classes and the recent "Any Time Any Line" Big Blue Bus program, the traffic and parking impacts on Pico and Sunset Park neighborhood residents remain substantial.

14) What can the city do to reduce the increasing traffic and parking impacts of the SMC Main Campus on residents? (100 words maximum)

I teach at SMC. I see the traffic and parking challenges. I think the demand merits increased Big Blue Bus Service at the college. If there is a demand for mass transit, we need to fill that demand. I also know many of the teachers at SMC live somewhere else. Again, the Council needs to force developers who want to build here, to build housing that people who work here can afford.

This is a great questionnaire, put together by people who care about their community. Friends of Sunset Park, Thank you.