

Friends of Sunset Park

City Council Candidate Questionnaire 2012

Response from Shari Davis

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)

My understanding of the 1984 agreement is that it will not result in full control of the Airport. Therefore, I believe the City must work to compel the FAA to address the impact on residents and reduce air and noise pollution and continue to push aviation industry representatives to reduce these impacts.

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

When and if the Airport ever could be closed, I envision a grand park that will meet the needs of Santa Monicans first, but be a regional destination as a model for urban open space -- with forest and gardens, recreational uses and sport facilities.

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

Santa Monica has a long history of extensive community input and involvement in creating a vision for new projects (ex: The Civic Center Plan). I believe that type of process will be needed over a long period of time for such a massive property.

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)

I would base decisions on new, in-depth survey research that incorporates neutral perspectives of the options and their benefits/drawbacks.

B) What is your position on the following statements?

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

Make revenues equal to or greater than expenses.

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

3

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)

I have more to learn on this complex topic, and I will have a better perspective on the impacts of these issues when they come before the Council with detailed staff reports and comprehensive community input.

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

I respect the work done by opponents of Santa Monica Airport. As with any issue, I believe it is important to stay open to multiple points of view on important decisions that have extensive impacts for our residents, neighboring residents, businesses and the region.

I believe the City is working hard to improve conditions at the Airport to make it a better neighbor. I support efforts to reduce air pollution, reduce landings and takeoffs of jets and flight students, and will seek innovative measures to speed the removal of lead from aircraft fuel and increase safety and public uses around SMO. I would like to see Santa Monica pioneering the changes needed to remove lead from aircraft fuel everywhere, not just in our community.

LAND USE & CIRCULATION

8) Will you accept donations from developers, land use attorneys, or architects whose projects the City Council will be voting on? (YES OR NO)

I will accept contributions from people who believe in what I stand for – keeping Santa Monica an innovative, diverse city that sets groundbreaking policies that

are models for the rest of the nation and puts residents first. Because of the cost of communicating with voters in Santa Monica, I am not opposed to accepting donations from anyone who is above board, as long as there is 100% transparency.

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

I believe that creating affordable housing for workers near their workplaces is key to reducing vehicle trips, as is mixed use housing where all the amenities one needs are within walking distance of a person's home and/or workplace. The LUCE goal of No Net New PM Vehicle Trips is attainable with the proper planning and incorporation of transit that will be accomplished with the arrival of the Expo Light Rail.

In making your decisions, would you take into account the traffic impacts of West LA development projects on Santa Monica neighborhoods? (YES OR NO) **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 OR NO)

Yes. My understanding is that the City is looking into additional alternatives. The most important issue is to protect the residents and ensure that they have decent, affordable housing.

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 believe that people are already coming to Santa Monica – but now they are doing so in cars, which cause our traffic problems. I am not sure the EXPO line will necessarily bring in more people, but it will bring them into the city in a fashion that does reduce traffic. Those traveling on it will enjoy walking, biking or using transit to work, shop or play here. Our current infrastructure will need additional connections for "multi-modal" transit options.

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 OR NO) **No.**

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)

Seek improved efficiencies of city departments, conservation of resources, fewer consultant contracts and other collaborative approaches with the 11 different bargaining units in the City.

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)

Continue the Big Blue Bus passes, encourage fewer vehicular trips, continue off-site parking and shuttles, and improve opportunities for cyclists. Also, the creation of affordable student housing would certainly help – creating an environment where students could afford to live, study and play in Santa Monica without the use of a car.