

## Amanda Fritz Response to Candidate Forum Questions

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### **Land Use:**

- 1) The residential population in Portland will continue to increase in the coming years. How can the city expand its residential population while ensuring that there are housing opportunities for all income levels?***

I will help our city grow in ways that keep Portland, Portland. While serving on the Portland Planning Commission for seven years, I helped pass the Accessory Dwelling Unit code, which allows small grandparent/student apartments within homes, in back yards, or over garages. Over 4,000 affordable homes have been added to our housing inventory with minimal adverse impacts, using this code. I will work for common-sense changes that protect neighborhood character and provide services along with development.

I helped eastside and North Portland neighbors push back on the City Council in the “skinny lots” issue, which continues to affect neighborhoods -- especially in NE Portland. I will work for necessary further corrections. I am the candidate with the most experience in planning and zoning issues. We need someone elected to the Council who understands the City Code and Comprehensive Plan, as well as the needs of neighborhoods.

- 2) The need to encourage increased employment and business vitality in the city will be critical to supporting Portland’s expanding population. How do you propose to support business development in the city without sacrificing neighborhood livability and critical residential amenities such as open space?***

Supporting our local economy is one of my top priorities, along with spending taxpayers’ money wisely to provide basic services including public safety, streets, and parks in all 95 neighborhoods. Please see my web site, [AmandaFritzforCityCouncil.com](http://AmandaFritzforCityCouncil.com), to review my Ten Point Plan for improving the economy. Good jobs with living wages and benefits are important to all of us. Clean air, clean water, trees, and greenspaces matter to all Oregonians, too. My experience on the Planning Commission, and in 17 years’ service as a Neighborhood Association Land Use chair, prepares me to ensure we have both good jobs and livable neighborhoods through my actions as your City Commissioner.

### **Transportation:**

- 1) Increased congestion in the city will affect the local economy and public health as well as contribute to global warming. How will you ensure that the people and goods will be able to move smoothly in and out of the city? How will you pay for these improvements?***

I will prioritize funding for basic services such as public safety, streets, and sidewalks. There is money in the City’s existing \$3 billion budget which if used more wisely can pay for necessary infrastructure. I will work on a long-term plan to begin paying down the backlog of deferred maintenance and improvements in neighborhoods. I will partner

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with other jurisdictions to provide better bus service, and enhanced interstate passenger and freight rail transportation.

I will work to change the Code that allows cost overruns of up to 25% in City contracts, and push for more audits to assure citizens get what we pay for. By spending taxpayers' money more frugally, savings will be available for infrastructure improvements.

**2) *Pedestrian and bicycle safety are chief concerns for Northeast neighbors. What initiatives do you plan to undertake to ensure that residents can safely walk and bike to work, shop and play? How will you pay for these improvements?***

I will prioritize funding for sidewalks and safe bicycle facilities in all 95 neighborhoods, over expensive projects for fuel-powered transportation that benefit only a few. It makes no sense to me that the City of Portland is paying farmers in Eastern Oregon millions of dollars to grow crops for biofuels to burn in cars, when our children can't walk to school safely due to lack of sidewalks. I applaud police officers for talking with bicycling advocacy groups to address issues of bicycle safety and lawful cycling, and I will support further partnerships in this area.

**Public Safety:**

**1) *We have seen a significant spike in gang activity and youth violence, however the East precinct continues to be understaffed and funding for gang and youth intervention programs are also very low compared to historic levels. How do you plan on addressing issues of gang and youth violence in Northeast Portland? What increase in funding for the East precinct and intervention programs do you have planned?***

I will work to restore funding and staffing for gang outreach programs which have not received adequate support over the past few years. I am a Registered Nurse who has worked in psychiatry at OHSU for 22 years. I will work with Multnomah County to provide more available, more cost-effective treatment for drug and alcohol addictions which are the root cause of many crimes. I will support our schools, and apprenticeship programs that help young people learn well-paying jobs in the trades when they graduate from high school.

I was asked a question about East Precinct's staffing at the Rose City Park Neighborhood Association forum when I ran for office in 2006. I did not know the answer at the time, but I followed up. I learned The East Precinct may have enough positions budgeted, but the City's long and arduous hiring process results in chronic understaffing. I will work with the bureau to resolve that problem, and to improve relationships and support between police officers and the community.

- 2) ***Graffiti and vandalism continue to cost local businesses thousands and thousands of dollars. What initiatives do you have planned for supporting graffiti abatement, investigation of vandalism, and the prosecution of vandals in the city?***

I will support and promote strategies with proven effectiveness that reduce graffiti. I am a member of the Hollywood Boosters, joining after choosing to locate my campaign office on NE Broadway at 35<sup>th</sup>. It's a great Business Association! At the Boosters' monthly meeting in April, I heard a presentation from a company specializing in graffiti abatement. Rapid removal is key. I will support funding for community non-profit groups providing clean-up services, and for education. Our police officers want residents to call 911 when we see taggers in progress. Vandals should be required to perform community service cleaning up graffiti, either on conviction or as a diversion option.

**Neighborhood Associations:**

***What role will Neighborhood Associations play in your policy development and policy making decisions? What specific initiatives do you have planned to ensure that neighborhood concerns are not ignored by council?***

As a Neighborhood Association Board member in Portland for 17 years, I will include neighborhood volunteers as integral stakeholders when developing policies and making decisions. I served on the Task Force for Neighborhood Involvement in 1995, and on the League of Women Voters of Portland study of the Neighborhood Association system in 2005. My plan for encouraging neighbors to participate in ways that are more meaningful and less arduous is posted on my campaign web site. I will ask for reports on how neighborhood input modified staff proposals. I will push for more City Council meetings to be held in neighborhoods, in the evening and on weekends. I will visit each District Board every year I am in office. I will continue to volunteer with neighborhood improvement projects in every area of Portland – in the past four years, I have helped with over 100 cleanups, tree plantings, and other events, in 87 of the city's 95 neighborhoods. I will come back to Concordia's meeting, to listen, long before I run for re-election in four years.