



Magnolia Chamber of Commerce City Council Questionnaire

Seattle City Council Candidate Name: Andrew J. Lewis

Seattle City Council District: 7

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Hello City Council Candidates: To provide a valuable service to our members and the Magnolia community, the Magnolia Chamber of Commerce seeks information about your candidacy for the Seattle City Council. Your concise answers to the following questions will allow the Chamber membership and other engaged community members to make an informed judgment about your candidacy. As a reminder, the Magnolia Chamber does not endorse candidates, provide financial assistance, or provide campaign support other than sharing information. Your answers will be posted on our website, discovermagnolia.org, unedited and publicly available to website visitors.

1. Coordination with District 6/7 Counterpart

The Magnolia peninsula was recently split into two Council districts. How specifically do you plan to work with your counterpart in District 6/7 to ensure coordination of efforts and adequate, cohesive representation of Magnolia's business community and residents? This includes but is not limited to the Magnolia peninsula's transportation access, the power grid and aging electrical infrastructure, growth, its impact on transportation in and out of the Magnolia peninsula, zoning and developments in Interbay, and emergency response access.

I know that the recent decision of the Seattle Redistricting Commission to divide Magnolia between two council districts invited widespread frustration and condemnation in the neighborhood. But, I think having two councilmember accountable to the voters of Magnolia will ultimately benefit the neighborhood.

I speak from experience as someone who has represented Magnolia for the past term and on occasion found it difficult to find five votes to support priorities and investments in the Magnolia neighborhood. With two councilmembers committed to supporting Magnolia, we can get a lot more done.

I am proud to say that I have worked with every single one of my colleagues on at least one project in the first term. I look forward to strong partnership on Magnolia issues with the councilmember selected in District 6.

2. Representation for Magnolia

Reflecting on the redistricting process and what you know about the constituents in the district, how will you represent the interests of Magnolia? Where will you seek constituent input, and how accessible will you be to constituents' concerns and issues?

When I was a candidate in 2019 I heard loud and clear that the people of Magnolia did not feel like the current mayor or councilmember were not very present in the neighborhood. I committed to being available and accessible to stakeholders and constituents to give Magnolia a voice in Seattle City Hall.

Either myself or a member of my staff has been present at nearly every single meeting of the Magnolia Community Council, with very few exceptions. I have also made myself available on request to meet with the Magnolia Chamber of Commerce every single time I have been invited. My office has maintained regular office hours and we regularly coordinate services on a variety of topics (see below answer) for Magnolia residents.

On critical issues we will continue to be accessible and maintain the same level of service to all Magnolia residents, regardless of the arbitrary boundary of the Redistricting Commission. My staff will continue to make themselves available and we will continue to collaborate with Magnolia stakeholders like the Chamber of Commerce, the Community Council, and Friends of Discovery Park.

3. Coordination with the Mayor's office, departments, and commissions

What do you expect your role to be with the mayor's office and related administrative departments and commissions to help increase the competitiveness of small businesses, such as fiscal policy, public safety, land use regulations, business incentives, and barriers to timely permitting, as examples?

I am proud to say I have cultivated a strong working relationship with Mayor Bruce Harrell and his administration. While we will not ALWAYS be able to compel a city department to act, my staff and I have been able to unstick city services for hundreds of Magnolia residents over the course of the past term.

These requests for services span a myriad of subject areas reflecting the full breadth of essential city functions. We have negotiated agreements between SDOT and home owners on street ends (Magnolia has a LOT of street ends), resolved permitting disputes, expedited permitting timelines, arranged for trees to be trimmed, had street lights replaced, garbage collected, homeless encampment outreach coordinated, and sidewalk panels replaced.

While our efforts will not always be successful in unsticking departmental action, we will always work with constituents to try and get it done. We look forward to continue to deliver on basic services for the people of Magnolia.

4. Public Safety

How do you assess our current situation on public safety in neighborhoods and business districts in Magnolia? What actions would you take to enhance public safety, and how would you work with and support the Seattle Police and Fire Departments, community organizations, and other stakeholders to reach these goals?

While year-over-year most crime in Seattle is going down, we still have a lot of work to do. This past quarter response times in the West Precinct, which includes Magnolia, actually improved

by several seconds and inched closer to our goal of an average response time of 7 minutes. Recruitment and retention incentives proposed by Mayor Harrell, and approved by the City Council, are making a difference. Police hiring has stabilized and we have a unified city goal of hiring 1,450 in-service officers.

Proactive policies we can pursue to reduce crime intersect significantly with city efforts around homelessness. 20% of all shootings have a nexus with a homeless encampment, and that is just a fact. This is not a commentary on people experiencing homelessness themselves. Overwhelmingly, people experiencing homelessness are the victim of these shootings. And when we are able to move someone experiencing homelessness inside to a tiny house village or an enhanced shelter, the crime problems do not follow them. We have no discernible public safety challenges associated with tiny house villages or enhanced shelters.

I credit Mayor Harrell's outreach and encampment removal efforts with the corresponding reduction in criminal activity we are seeing. Over the past year, I have worked in partnership with Mayor Harrell to put together the Unified Care Team (UCT) a one-stop no-excuse shop to conduct outreach and resolutions of encampment locations. This team has resulted in a 42% reduction in encampments. We have a lot more work to do, but the effort is showing results.

Finally, we have made progress on expanding the number of civilian public safety workers. Working with Mayor Harrell I expanded our park ranger program from two to twenty eight rangers. These new rangers will be able to enforce park rules and will be on the same coordinating radio as the police department, allowing them to triage and manage cases. We have also created a new cohort of de-escalation workers called We Deliver Care (WDC). WDC de-escalates people in public health crisis before an episode escalates into conduct causing harm to themselves or others, and handling these cases so police don't need to. This service is currently only available Downtown, but it is my hope that it can be expanded to business districts all over Seattle, including Magnolia.

5. Access to Public Funding

The next ten years present unprecedented opportunities to access federal funds through the Inflation Reduction Act, the American Rescue Plan, and other programs. How will you coordinate with the Office of Intergovernmental Relations or other departments to enable Magnolia's businesses and residents to benefit from access to these funds for affordable capital (subsidies/grants, loans, guarantees) and infrastructure, including climate-friendly retrofits and development?

My office is working incredibly closely with OIR to make sure Seattle gets the full benefit of recent federal actions on infrastructure funding. During last year's renewal of the Metropolitan Improvement District we specifically planned our capital investments to take advantage of federal matches. We need to do the same with 2024's renewal of the Move Seattle Levy to maximize the impact. Using our budget to identify matching sources of funding, especially in conjunction with recent state infrastructure funding, is the best way to be competitive for federal investment.

6. Looking Ahead

We experience and hear consistent concerns about aging infrastructure across Seattle, such as bridges, potholes, electrical wiring, and drainage systems. How will you work with others to put Seattle on a better path to upgrade these areas before these essential items become urgent or even emergencies?

Over my first term I have worked closely with my colleagues to audit our infrastructure needs and prioritize increased investment. I have requested audits on everything from sidewalks to bridges, and the findings are always the same. We are woefully under investing in our infrastructure. I worked with my colleagues Alex Pedersen and Lisa Herbold to craft a \$100 million bond measure to invest in our bridges. Tragically, SDOT has let that proposal sit on the shelf while our bridges continue to deteriorate.

in this next term I will work with my colleagues to continue to put pressure on SDOT to make needed investments in our bridges. I will also advocate for a Move Seattle Levy Renewal that makes generational investments in capital projects necessary to repair and replace critical infrastructure. By leveraging federal and state resources, we can have a revolutionary decade in updating our infrastructure.

7. Imagine it is halfway through your term in office. What three things will you be most proud to point to as evidence of your representation of Magnolia's interests?

1. A locked in plan, enumerated in an interlocal agreement and accompanying legislation, for a state, city, federal, and port joint effort to replace the Magnolia Bridge in-kind with a one-for-one replacement.

2. A standardized practice with my District 6 colleague where we both regularly meet with Magnolia constituencies to plan and coordinate investments and policy initiatives in the Magnolia neighborhood. This is absolutely necessary to set a tone for the decade where this border arrangement will be active.

3. Celebrating a deal between the City of Seattle and the FAA to cede additional federal land to Discovery Park to increase the footprint of open space enjoyed by all visitors. This is a project I have been working on with Friends of Discovery Park for the past few years. I look forward to bringing it to fruition.

Please respond to this questionnaire by June 22, 2023, by emailing a .pdf file of your replies to Jason Thibeaux, Executive Director, Magnolia Chamber of Commerce, at Jason@discovermagnolia.org.

In addition, if you have questions or concerns, please call Jason at 206.618.1589 or Ann Goos, Magnolia Chamber Board member and Chair, Community Engagement Committee, at agoos@seanet.com or 206.465.5136.

The questions and your unedited answers will be featured on the Magnolia Chamber of Commerce website and in a newsletter to the more than 450 Chamber members representing businesses and residents of the 6th and 7th City Council districts. So again, if possible, please send your replies in a .pdf document so our members can easily access your campaign's positions.

Thank you for your participation and your candidacy.