



Magnolia Chamber of Commerce City Council Questionnaire

Seattle City Council Candidate Name: Robert Kettle

Seattle City Council District: 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 believe that it's important for all City Council members to be able to come to the table and work together to address the needs of the city, and I'm looking forward to working with the D6 representative to ensure that we're meeting the needs and concerns of our constituents. Specifically, I have often said as a council member I may only represent one part of Magnolia but will advocate for all of Magnolia. This will be across all the issues facing Magnolia to include public safety and infrastructure.

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?

I know that the citizens of Magnolia are dealing with a number of public safety concerns, such as break-ins in residential areas, but also commercial break-ins in Magnolia Village. That's why I'm advocating for hiring of additional police officers, to staff the force to address both violent crime but also property crime.

As someone who's served as a civic volunteer, particularly for the Queen Anne Community Council but also organizations like the Queen Anne Block Watch Network and the West Precinct Advisory Council, I know that having an open-door policy for my constituents is critical to make sure that I'm accurately representing their issues and concerns. I'll be working downtown at City Hall but will look to do so periodically in the District 7 neighborhoods too, and I'll continue to make myself accessible to my constituents at community events, in small group meetings, one-on-ones, and other types of contact. I will also advocate for at least a District 7 Council of community councils and similar organizations where the various District 7 neighborhoods can come together in one place to discuss the issues facing our district.

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 hope to join the following committees: Public Safety & Human Services; Transportation & Seattle Public Utilities; Land Use; Economic Development, Technology, and City Light. I will be an advocate for activating Downtown and small businesses generally across our entire district. Small businesses are key to our community, and their survival and success is what makes Magnolia such a distinct community.

For example, when we improve public safety, we improve foot traffic along small businesses, which in turn increases competitiveness. There are also the basic government functions, such as parking enforcement, that need to be accomplished. Magnolia Village needs to have parking for the businesses customers and the rotation of those parking spots.

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?

As a civic volunteer with the West Precinct Advisory Council and the Queen Anne Block Watch, and before that as chair of the Queen Anne Community Council's public safety committee, I know first-hand that our current public safety posture is poor and the City Council, particularly that our District 7 incumbent has utterly failed with respect to public safety in our city to include Magnolia. The recent City Council vote that failed to pass about prosecuting open drug use in public spaces is only the latest example of that failure. Property crime in our district has gone up, and property

damage makes our community feel unsafe and prevents our small businesses from thriving. One of my first goals on council is to pass Mayor Harrell's policing proposal and staff the SPD up to 1,400 officers, instead of our current 950. With more officers on the street, we can also encourage other individual tools leveraging Block Watch tenets, such as physical infrastructure improvements, adding more lights, security cameras, and other measures. Small changes can have big impacts for public safety, and I'm looking forward to meeting with all stakeholders to identify solutions and put them into action.

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?

The Biden Administration and federal government have provided avenues for the City of Seattle, and Magnolia more narrowly, to apply for funds to serve their current needs. In particular, I'll be happy to coordinate with the Office of Intergovernmental Relations, the Magnolia City Council, the Magnolia Chamber of Commerce, and other local stakeholders to increase awareness of what programs are available and work closely with residents and businesses to apply for specific programs, such as greenifying infrastructure or affordable housing.

There are several programs within the Inflation Reduction Act that would actively benefit Magnolia, such as State and Private Forestry Conservation programs (to invest in more green spaces), the Assistance of Latest and Zero Building Energy Code Adoption (to assist local communities to meet the newest energy codes), and the Low-Carbon Transportation Materials Grant (to provide incentives to use low-embodied construction materials).

I look forward to working with Magnolia residents and businesses to access these programs.

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?

The City Council was happy to finish the repairs to the West Seattle Bridge when it was clear that the West Seattle Bridge was on the verge of catastrophic failure. If they had acted more quickly, the repairs could have been finished more quickly without requiring the bridge—a critical route for residents of West Seattle—to be shut down for such an extended period of time.

What this means to me is how necessary budgeting for these exact scenarios is before they become the next disaster. That's simple good governance, especially for a city of connecting islands, where investing in infrastructure like streets and bridges is crucial to the public safety of our citizens.

I know the Magnolia bridge is in need of maintenance repair along with the other bridges across Interbay. I, as your Councilmember, in partnership with my District 6 counterpart, would absolutely advocate and vote for setting the necessary funds aside in the budget for repairs and maintenance to keep the bridges and other key infrastructure in good working order. Funding public infrastructure is an important part of public safety to include emergency vehicle access, and an integral part of good governance.

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?

Increasing the amount of currently-serving police officers; taking leadership on reducing the amount of homeless encampments; and encouraging and developing local Magnolia residents and small businesses to utilize our new government programs to help them succeed.

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.