



## Magnolia Chamber of Commerce City Council Questionnaire

Seattle City Council Candidate Name: **Dan Strauss**

Seattle City Council District: **District 6**

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### **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*

Prior to being elected to city council, I served as Former District 7 Seattle City Councilmember Sally Bagshaw's Senior Policy Advisor and worked closely with constituents and stakeholders throughout Magnolia to understand and bring real solutions to Magnolia. With this knowledge, I am looking forward to serving the people of Magnolia and working alongside my District 7 counterpart to support this community.

During my first four years on City Council, I have worked with all of my colleagues to address problems facing our city and will always seek out coordination and cooperation to best serve all of Seattle's communities. I have always enjoyed working with D7 electeds' and community members, I am excited to have a more formal role again.

## **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 am excited for the opportunity to represent Magnolians again and I believe the redistricting commission got the changes completely wrong. Looking at the changes to the districts Crown Hill and Ballard are intimately connected as are Queen Anne and Magnolia. To disconnect Crown Hill from Ballard and Queen Anne from Magnolia demonstrates a lack of understanding of the fabric of our communities and the connectivity between neighborhoods in our district.

I started my campaign by launching a listening tour in Magnolia and am making it a priority to hear directly from the people I represent. My team and I are already attending every (okay, we missed one) meeting of the Magnolia Community Council, and meeting people where they live and play is important to me. I will continue to host weekly office hour meetings to meet with residents, community groups, and stakeholders at times and places that are convenient for them. I work half the week at my City Hall office downtown and half the week at my D6 District Office at the Ballard Library. I work from my D6 District Office because you shouldn't have to go out of your way to have your voice heard at City Hall.

## **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?*

Throughout my time on City Council I have worked very closely with Mayor Harrell on projects ranging from public safety, to homelessness, to transportation, to electrical grid infrastructure. I have fully supported his proposed funding levels for our police department as well as funding for increased officer recruitment. I have also been working closely with Mayor Harrell to protect our maritime industrial lands and support our economy- a problem that has plagued our city for years that we are finally resolving. I have also launched audits on our permitting process - this process is too long and too cumbersome.

D6 and D7 have received the first expansion of our homelessness response teams into neighborhood based teams, in part because of my proven track record of partnership and success at Ballard Commons and Woodland Parks. I am proud of my great working relationship with Mayor Harrell and will continue coordinating with his office to improve Seattle.

## **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?*

In District 6 I have stood up Public Safety Task Forces that implement real-time solutions by connecting small businesses, residents, and the departments that can meet their needs whether it be the police, homelessness response, or the fire department. I am excited to expand this work to Magnolia. My team helps organize community members, residents, and small businesses, and then acts as a hub to get responses from the correct people in city government. Each task force is different depending on the neighborhood and needs:

- Greenwood: Sidewalks and Safety
- Ballard: High Needs Case-Conferencing
- Brewery District: Blockwatch and Business Security

In Ballard, I funded a Public Safety Coordinator that the Ballard Alliance hired in order to scale up this work. This is a position I would like to see replicated throughout the city and District 6. You can [see me discuss this work at the KOMO Town Hall](#) in April of this year. We use my office to connect with you in the community and make sure your issues are resolved by City Hall.

Yes, “defund the police” was a mistake and I support fully funding the police with critical alternatives. Today we have Community Service Officers patrolling our streets, Park Rangers in our parks, Health One responding to emergencies. It was my amendment that brought the Council’s budget into 99% alignment with Mayor Harrell’s SPD investments and fully funded the officer recruitment plan.

I am looking forward to partnering with small businesses, residents, and community members to work together and use my office to help you navigate the city bureaucracy to get you the help you need.

## **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?*

I was the lead staff for Sally Bagshaw and stood up the Ballard Interbay Transportation Corridor (BIRT) workgroup. I also worked with then State Rep. Gael Tarleton to secure funding for the BIRT. As representative Tarleton has transitioned into the Office of Intergovernmental Relations Director for the City of Seattle, I have witnessed first hand her prowess to seek and receive grant funding from many different sources. I retain a great relationship and partnership with OIR which enables me to ensure projects in our community get attention.

The Ballard Interbay Regional Corridor has had success because we brought together all jurisdictions that have a stake in Interbay to share their own plans, identify conflicts and issues, and then work together to solve the transportation issues. This included elected leaders and department staff from the State, County, Sound Transit, Port, and City. Each entity was required to own action items and responsibilities. This is how we have been able to secure multiple rounds of funding from the State and we must hold the city accountable to spend this funding quickly and strategically.

We must have the Magnolia and Ballard Bridges eligible for Federal funding as soon as possible so that we don't miss any more opportunities.

## **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 format of partnership I and CM Bagshaw used in setting up the Ballard Interbay Regional Corridor as I mentioned above is the same framework I bring to all the projects I work on. This is how we were successful resolving encampments at Ballard Commons and Woodland Parks without sweeps, how we have addressed public safety, and how we have made improvements to Ballard Avenue. Through my committee assignments I have already partnered with Seattle City Light on power issues at the West Point Treatment Facility and through office hours I was able to bring new streetlights to a dark street in D6.

In these projects we have identified both short-term and long-term solutions because it is important to make quick noticeable change because the long-term lasting solutions take longer to germinate. This is the same approach I will bring to working with Magnolians.

**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- The Magnolia Bridge 1:1 replacement is on track or eligible for federal funding
- 2- The completion of the community proposal to increase outdoor sitting and commercial space in the Magnolia Village
- 3 - Parks: Smith Cove Park construction underway, Magnolia Trail work underway between 32nd Avenue and the Marina,

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](mailto: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](mailto: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 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 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.