

2019 Candidates Questionnaire - City Council

Response for: Anonymous

Completed: 8/27/2019 4:14 PM PDT

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Thank you for your interest in serving our community as an elected official. The Greater Federal Way Chamber of Commerce extends the invitation to all candidates to complete its Candidate Questionnaire. The questionnaire and your answers will be shared with the community via our website, fedwaychamber.com. In addition, completed questionnaires will be compiled and distributed to our Membership in a special publication. To meet production, deadline is 4 p.m. on September 4, 2019. About the Questionnaire. There are four sections to the Questionnaire. Please limit your answers to no more than 200 words max for each question.

1 Full Name:

Mark Koppang

2 Position you are seeking:

Re-election to FW City Council, Position 5

3 Education:

1. Bachelors in Theology, Pacific School of Theology
2. Business Degree, WGU (In process)
3. Leadership, Klemmer and Associates
4. Four years service on the Park & Recreation, Civil Service, and Independent Salary Commissions (member and Chair for all three).
5. Two years as member and Chair for both PRHSPSC and LUTC Council Committees.

4 Current Mailing Address:

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7 Website:

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Business and Economic Issues

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Industrial Realty Group estimates that its Woodbridge Corporate Park will create 3,100 mixed-spectrum employment opportunities. Do you support IRG's economic plan to develop approximately 30% of its property for such job creation? Why or why not?

Early in my tenure on the Council I spoke out clearly that I didn't want Weyerhaeuser Way to become Warehouse Way. While I was not against development of any kind, my preference was to see business development that blended into the park as opposed to overwhelming it. During my time on the Council I have observed the developments at the former Weyerhaeuser Campus, now referred to Woodbridge Corporate Park, very closely. I have also come to understand that as a member of the Council my personal support of IRG's economic plan is irrelevant. What I want to see though is development that brings jobs, as long as it is done in an environmentally responsible way that preserves the key environmental characteristics of the campus overall and includes the Rhododendron Garden, Bonzai Museum and the West bank of North Lake, which I would like to be a City park once it has been purchased from IRG.

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Given the diverse nature of our business community and its workforce, do you support an external, independent oversight committee to review the use of force issue by the Police Department? Why or why not?

Regardless of the diversity of our community, having civilian oversight of our police department has been and remains a priority. I am proud of the Federal Way Police department and believe they are doing a great job creating understanding and connection in the community. They are also a great example of accountability as a police agency. Getting to the question of an independent oversight committee, while the instances of use of force are rare in Federal Way, having trusted oversight in place when use of force occurs is important. The "how" is the bigger question. Having civilians with no police experience passing judgement on the actions of police officers responding in the most stressful of situations is problematic. On the other hand, only using law enforcement could create questions of credibility for some. The bottom line for me is that whatever we do it must be credible to both the community as a whole and the officers who put their lives on the line daily to protect us.

10

Chamber members have identified Permitting as the 2nd most challenging issue facing our business community. As a Councilmember, how do you propose to address this issue?

I appreciate the partnership of the Chamber and their willingness to ask the tough questions. Concerning permitting, the fact that permitting is listed as the second most challenging issue facing our business community is encouraging considering the myriad of challenges small businesses face and the ability the City has to create a positive change in our staffing and processes to eliminate or reduce this as an issue. The current permitting challenge, as I understand it, is caused by two constraints, staffing and technology. Concerning staffing, traditionally lower Federal Way salaries have led to attrition and difficulty in hiring. We are working to resolve the salary/staff issue next year. The other issue is technology. While there are technology solutions within reach, implementation is a challenge, due again to staffing in both CD and IT. Pending these coming solutions, the hard working CD staff continues to work to enhance their processes and have successfully done so already.

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Political Engagement

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Have you sought elective office before? If so, please describe the office, the level and outcome.

Yes. I have been honored so serve as a member of the Federal Way City Council for the last three years and nine months. On the Council I have served on the Park & Recreation, Human Services, and Public Safety Committee as both Chair and as member. During my tenure as Chair I lead the effort to form the Violence Prevention Coalition Steering Committee and spearhead adoption of their recommendations. I have also served as a member and now Chair of the Land Use and Transportation Committee. During my tenure as Chair I lead the effort to increase the Council's engagement in Airport issues, made sure policies were put in place so DaVita remained in FW, and made wineries, breweries, and distilleries accepted businesses in Federal Way. In addition to these official Council Committees, I led the formation of a collaborative co-committee, initially with Liz Drake and later with Geoffrey McAnallo, to build a stronger partnership between the the City and School District.

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Do you have any previous experience with the local government office you seek? If yes, please describe.

I have extensive experience based on the last three years and nine months of service as a member of the Federal Way Council and the four years previous as a member and Chair of the Parks & Recreation, Independent Salary, and Civil Service Commissions respectively.

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How has your Campaign positively impacted the business climate in the South Sound?

Until now I had never considered that my campaign could have any impact, let alone a positive one, on the business climate of the South Sound. As a member of the Council I believe I lead both by example and rhetorically. I have been and remain an enthusiastic proponent for the potential of Federal Way and have worked hard to listen to and understand the needs of the business community.

There are two examples that specifically come to mind of my leadership on the Council that led to a positive outcome. The first is my advocacy for making breweries, wineries, and distilleries, without size limitation, an approved class of business within Federal Way. The second was in advocating for the rerouting of 324th on the Comprehensive plan. Doing so gave DaVita the assurance that they could build on their property and not face condemnation of their building sometime in the future if 324th is actually built on the East side of I-5. I am confident other major employers will eventually follow.

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Campaign Activity and Finance

14 What is your campaign budget, how much have you raised, and what are your primary sources of funding?

My budget is \$20-25,000.
Money raised or on hand ~\$13,000.
My campaigns primary sources of funding are businesses, business advocacy groups, and Federal Way residents.

15 Please share your major endorsements from the South Sound region (This scope should include the surrounding South King area in addition to Federal Way itself).

Federal Way Police
South King Fire & Rescue
South King County Realtors
Jim Ferrell - Federal Way Mayor
Martin Moore - Federal Way City Council
Jeff Stock - Business Owner
Jeanne Burbidge - Former Member of the Federal Way City Council
Dana Ralph - Kent Mayor
Matt Mahoney - Des Moines City Council
Rob Back - Des Moines City Council
Tracy Buxton - Des Moines City Council
Bob Baggett - Auburn City Council
Len Englund - Lakehaven Water & Sewer
Many others have endorsed me as well.
*NOTE While requested numerous times to interview for endorsement by the Democrat Party (the Republican Party didn't make any request) I have maintained that I will not be seeking any political parties endorsement. I believe partisan politics have had a corrosive impact on politics in general and believe the City Council should remain free from imposition of values held by any political party. Every decision should be based on what is best for the City and not what is best for a political party.

16 Have you contracted with a firm or individual to manage your campaign? If so, please provide the name and address of the firm/individual. If not, what are your plans regarding management of the campaign?

I have created a collaborative advisory committee that serve as desired and provide insights and assistance upon request. They are well known and respected members of the community that have served the City for years.
I have also enlisted my friend Steve McNey as a media consultant and adviser.