

Community Check-in for 2020 Strategic Plan

July 13, 2020, 8:52 AM

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Community Check-in for 2020 Strategic Plan

How have recent events, including issues of racial equity as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, affected community perceptions and priorities for the 2020 strategic plan?

Survey Questions

QUESTION 1

Considering the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and community conversations about racial equity, do you think the above identified issues are still important? Please explain why or why not.

QUESTION 2

Is there anything you would add as a more significant challenge facing the community? (You can share up to five challenges)

QUESTION 3

What are the top action items you recommend the City take to address the community's current challenges?

(You can share up to five actions)

QUESTION 4

Please share any final thoughts you would like the City to consider for the 2020 strategic plan.

Community Check-in for 2020 Strategic Plan

How have recent events, including issues of racial equity as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, affected community perceptions and priorities for the 2020 strategic plan?

Individual Responses

Name not available

July 6, 2020, 11:00 AM

Question 1

No, the biggest issue facing the city is the city's pandering to small groups of activists and city leaders' lack of fortitude to stand up and not be bullied by the people who yell the loudest.

Question 2

- Lack of leadership
- Lack of vision
- Elected officials more concerned with aligning with national identity politics than what's best for the city

Question 3

- Commissioners and city managers office need to stop responding to everything, bending over backwards to use the most woke language, and have the courage to do what's best for the city instead of the most politically popular on facebook

Question 4

100k people live in this city, but you spend 95% of your time trying to pander to 50 people who sit on the floor at city commission meetings or post on the LJworld. Grow up. The city is divided and the responsibility for that lies at your feet. You allowed criminals to destroy this city under the guise of the first amendment because you were scared they would call you names. You should be ashamed of yourselves. Please remember that the "mayor" in Lawrence holds 0 additional authority over the rest of the commission. No matter how much Jennifer thinks she's in charge, all she gets to do is recommend an agenda for commission meetings. She doesn't get to unilaterally make policy decisions without a majority consent of the commission.

Name not shown

inside City Limits

July 6, 2020, 11:02 AM

Question 1

Yes, I believe All above items should still be in a ongoing conversation and production plan.

Question 2

- I think we need to continue to evaluate and address any implicit bias in our municipalities.

Question 3

- Sidewalks and streets are of most importance I. Our family because we have a young driver and a bicyclist.

Question 4

No response

Name not available

July 6, 2020, 11:19 AM

Question 1

Yes. Hopefully the pandemic will run it's course and things will get back to some kind of normal.

Protests are fine but don't let people block a major street for 5 days. And the street was left trashy looking with all the graffiti.

Question 2

No response

Question 3

- Help people who have to pay for sidewalk maintenance.
- Maybe help with mental healthcare

Question 4

No response

Name not available

July 6, 2020, 11:28 AM

Question 1

Yes especially affordable housing.

Question 2

- Better trained police

Community Check-in for 2020 Strategic Plan

How have recent events, including issues of racial equity as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, affected community perceptions and priorities for the 2020 strategic plan?

- Mental health services

Question 3

- Homeless services
- Street and sidewalk maintenance

Question 4

No response

Name not available

July 6, 2020, 11:40 AM

Question 1

I think those issues are still relevant because they are areas where racial disparities can make the inequalities of access even more pronounced. Anti-racist policies should not be purely a separate focus but integrated deeply into all the work.

Question 2

- Moving funds from police to appropriate crisis emergency staff like social workers and counselors
- Implementing a progressive anti racist methodology to all city decisions
- Providing grants and funding resources for business in recovery
- Incentivizing the start of new businesses in town including providing reasonably priced access to vacant premises or encouraging small business start up hubs in them.
- A broader focus on social services

Question 3

- Move funding from police, jail expansion etc to trained crisis workers
- Make sure an anti racist and equality focus dictates where work starts on sidewalks and transit, and make sure that sidewalk violations etc are not disproportionately utilized against minority communities

Question 4

No response

Name not available

July 6, 2020, 11:51 AM

Question 1

I would agree with all of those except the traffic flow issue. Except for a few trouble spots, like 27th and Wakarusa, I don't think we have much serious traffic congestion in Lawrence.

Question 2

- Wages. If we can figure out how to raise wages, it helps address affordable housing and homelessness.
- Law enforcement changes. Our force is pretty good, but it could be better.

Question 3

- Review police department staffing and services--make the citizens review board a meaningful body.

Question 4

No response

Name not available

July 6, 2020, 12:02 PM

Question 1

Certainly, the above issues are still relevant. However, COVID and racial equity has not got to be a bigger part of the conversation.

Question 2

- Police transparency, communication and response to
- Tax revenue challenges due to COVID

Question 3

- Continue to seek out ways to help downtown thrive such as consideration of ways to close areas off to traffic and creating open space
- Funding for mental health issues and potential integration into police response when appropriate.

Question 4

Please keep doing these surveys!!!

Name not shown

inside City Limits

Community Check-in for 2020 Strategic Plan

How have recent events, including issues of racial equity as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, affected community perceptions and priorities for the 2020 strategic plan?

July 6, 2020, 12:20 PM

Question 1

Yes. Affordable housing is something that can be done to improve racial equity. Homelessness is still an ongoing issue in Lawrence, so it is still important. Future development is always important, though it now needs to focus on how the city is adjusting to the COVID-19 pandemic and the future choices it makes related to it.

Question 2

No response

Question 3

- expand transit system
- enhance street and sidewalk maintenance
- provide more services for the homeless
- DEFUND LAWRENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT and use the money to reinvest in other action items
- invest in community defenders rather than police for nonviolent situations

Question 4

While the police department's budget is a lower proportion of the budget than many other cities, the almost \$28M budget for 2020 is too much, and I assume increases are expected. Divest from the police department and spend money in ways that protect ALL individuals in the community (social services, community defenders, etc). There are better ways to manage communities. Also, stop with the jail expansion. Obviously the community does not want it, so why is the city going against the wishes of the community?

Name not shown

inside City Limits

July 6, 2020, 12:26 PM

Question 1

Affordable housing and homelessness continue to be an issue. However, I'm not certain how much effect the local government can have. Seems an issue for state/federal.

Question 2

- Transparency of LPD
- Power/transparency of Police Review Board

Question 3

- Police transparency/accountability/review board
- Affordable Housing/Houselessness
- Park Play area upgrades, including spray parks
- Street/infrastructure maintenance

Question 4

No response

John Ware

inside City Limits

July 6, 2020, 1:40 PM

Question 1

Yes, they are all important.

I would add, Policing and criminal justice policies and oversight to protect racial equity.

Question 2

- Potentials for white supremacy beliefs within the police department and criminal justice system.

Question 3

- Require police officers to use body and dash cams whenever they interface with the public, particularly in situations that involve infractions.
- Establish disciplinary policies for officer failure to use body and dash cams.
- Research other towns and create exemplary police department policies to protect racial equity in Lawrence.
- Publicly and regularly cite racial equity policies and report department performance.

Question 4

No response

Ruby Love

inside City Limits

July 6, 2020, 1:49 PM

Question 1

Community Check-in for 2020 Strategic Plan

How have recent events, including issues of racial equity as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, affected community perceptions and priorities for the 2020 strategic plan?

Yes, absolutely. I think that we need to be looking at these three issues through a racial and climate justice lens. Communities of color have been harder hit by job losses, housing instability, etc. during the economic downturn associated with covid-19. They have also fared worse in terms of contracting covid and facing serious health challenges. This is due to the compounding inequalities of environmental racism, economic racism, and racism in healthcare, etc.

Affordable housing is crucial - we must focus on building energy-efficient affordable housing that ensures equal access to communities of color, and monitors the racial impacts of new development and housing policies. The same goes for homelessness - we cannot continue to criminalize homelessness - we have to focus on the root problems of economic stability, racism, over-policing, and mental healthcare.

Future development cannot come at the expense of communities of color, low-income communities, etc. The city must be smart in its allocation of tax dollars - money cannot continue to go toward incentivizing above-market rate condos and expensive storefronts. Building outward instead of increasing density means higher carbon emissions and further disenfranchisement of folks who cannot afford cars. Investing in public transportation, projects that increase density, and projects that bring well-paying jobs to our community are all more important than ever.

Lastly, we must be more careful than ever with our city budget. This means stripping funding from our police department's bloated budget, and re-allocating funds to projects and institutions that ensure our community resilience and prosperity.

Question 2

No response

Question 3

- Defund the Lawrence Police department and re-allocate funds to social services.
- Expand the transit system and add bike lanes.
- Hire and retain a city Director of Equity and Inclusion - empower them to do racial impact assessments of city policies.

Question 4

I think that Lawrence is on the right track - the priorities identified in Feb/March of this year are even more important now. However, we can't treat issues of racial justice and climate impact as separate from our city policies - every single policy must have racial and climate justice woven in.

Name not available

July 6, 2020, 1:56 PM

Question 1

Sure. (No further comment)

Question 2

- Response (with authority) to civil unrest/protests. Perhaps negotiate but don't acquiesce to their demands. They will only keep making more.

Question 3

No response

Question 4

Please have the guts and consensus of the commissioners to speak in one voice and be consistent. Each commissioner speaking independently only gives those who challenge more opportunity to challenge authority, especially if there is a different opinion or viewpoint being expressed by different commissioners.

Name not available

July 6, 2020, 2:04 PM

Question 1

Of course they are still important. The "backdrops" listed above are umbrella issues that are directly related to many of the issues identified above. Much of the pain caused by the pandemic directly correlates to affordable housing, city communication, homelessness and more.

Question 2

- Biased policing (favor white KU students over other members of community)
- community mental health resources
- SROs In USD497 schools

Question 3

- Defund LPD
- Affordable mental health services
- Services for homeless (NO temp housing sweeps)
- Public transit
- Construction of 'luxury apartments' that take away from community space and raise interest rates.

Community Check-in for 2020 Strategic Plan

How have recent events, including issues of racial equity as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, affected community perceptions and priorities for the 2020 strategic plan?

Question 4

Prove that we are the progressive oasis that so many claim we are.
Improve the community and it's roots, not its image.

Name not shown

inside City Limits

July 6, 2020, 2:08 PM

Question 1

Yes, all of these issues are still important because much work needs to be done. However, there are more issues such as transparency of information, the defunding of LPD, forgoing the jail expansion, and health equity for Black and brown residents.

Question 2

- Defund the police
- Transparency of information
- Forgo the jail expansion
- Health equity for Black and brown Lawrencians
- Expansion of mental health resources

Question 3

- Defund the Lawrence Police Department
- Do not expand the jail
- Create an equity coalition addressing health concerns of BIPOC in Lawrence
- Re-direct funding (From LPD) to mental health, housing, and other social services
- Forbid landlords from evicting residents due to non-payment during COVID layoffs

Question 4

Defund the police.

Thad Holcombe

inside City Limits

July 6, 2020, 2:13 PM

Question 1

Especially homelessness and future development - loosening restrictions on those who are homeless was correct. Future development is especially important since the 2040 Comprehensive Plan will be and was tested by

development initiatives. The KTen development attempt, which was defeated 10-0 is example. It is confusing as to why the City Planning Staff gave approval for this since it went against several aspects of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The plan, if approved, would have not only negatively affected environment, but future jobs in Lawrence. If approved, there would have been even less equity, since "cannibalism" of already existing business would most likely have occurred.

Question 2

- Continuing need to enhance climate change/disruption planning, especially regarding water runoff
- Downtown sustainability concern
- Cooperation with County on jail along with advocacy at state regarding possible ways to decrease criminal laws that result in low income folk having to pay and therefore risking homelessness - also results in racial disparities of incarceration, etc.

Question 3

- See previous answers regarding jail and unnecessary expenses and /or persons being charged for "minor" crimes -
- Police department transparency increased through citizen review board
- Increase "green" transit and plan regarding possibly fewer riders since KU enrollment will most likely be less than usual

Question 4

No response

Name not available

July 6, 2020, 2:16 PM

Question 1

Yes, as these issues are intertwined with the idea of racial equality and social justice

Question 2

- Hold police force more accountable
- Employ social workers to respond to non-violent crimes
- Police transparency

Question 3

- Open forum discussing LPD

Community Check-in for 2020 Strategic Plan

How have recent events, including issues of racial equity as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, affected community perceptions and priorities for the 2020 strategic plan?

- Consideration of rebudgeting police force to allow for better mental health and rehabilitation services
- For the love of God, stop forcibly pouring money into the jail! The community has already shared that they don't want that.

Question 4

No response

Caitlin Mcdiarmid

inside City Limits

July 6, 2020, 2:18 PM

Question 1

I think the Affordable Housing and Homelessness issue are still extremely important and should be looked at with a critical eye as far as racial justice and equity. I think I would also add to the list an overall review and investigation how Lawrence can better their courts/justice system; their city policies and procedures; their schools and first responders; and really all things they CAN have an influence in - to make them better SPECIFICALLY as far as racial justice and equity -- and if they are unclear what that means - I encourage the city to reach out to those who have worked in this area for a long time - for assistance.

Question 2

- Improve our court and justice system as far as racial inequities
- Improve our schools as far as racial inequities
- Improve our social programs as far as racial inequities
- Improve our governance as far as racial inequities
- Improve our quality of life as far as racial inequities

Question 3

- Look at the racial disparities in our community as far as stops, arrests, bail amounts, pre-trial holds, and sentences and improve upon them - all will go to reduction of jail population
- Look at the racial disparities in our schools; remove the police; hire more staff and teacher of color; teach a curriculum which is diverse and not white washed.
- Look at our social programs - and see where racial bias and equity come into play - make improvements to accessible affordable housing
- Encourage, foster, help people of color to get involved in local politics and serving on committees, commissions and governing boards. We need their input and knowledge.

- Provide better services especially those which support the poor. This includes better transit services, more services for the homeless and working poor. Make sure that we continue to review these through a lens of racial equity.

Question 4

No response

Name not available

July 6, 2020, 2:31 PM

Question 1

Yes, homelessness is important. We are in the middle of a pandemic. Local government must do whatever it takes to protect to most vulnerable people in our community.

Question 2

- Defund the police
- No, that doesn't mean spend more money trying to reform police. It means DEFUND.

Question 3

- Free public transit
- Allocate fund away from police and toward programs that help the homeless like the shelter or even domestic violence institutions.

Question 4

Invest our tax money into programs that lift our community members up. People are unable to work, feed their families, and pay rent. If you struggle to find enough funds to make a real change, here is the solution. Defund the police.

Name not shown

inside City Limits

July 6, 2020, 2:32 PM

Question 1

Lawrence listens seems to have adequately captured the important issues while the 2019 community survey seems to just be a laundry list of minor inconveniences that annoy people who are already housed and healthy. It seems silly to be repairing the streets when human beings are out there living on the streets. Poverty is the only issue that really matters. Anything

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which is done to improve the lives of housed and healthy individuals while other residents are sick and homeless is essentially an act of class warfare.

Question 2

- lack of access to healthcare
- lack of access to food
- lack of access to education
- lack of access to housing
- lack of access to employment

Question 3

- defund the police
- tax the rich
- raise the minimum wage
- cap rent
- support social services

Question 4

instead of constantly trying to scrape together money to help the downtrodden it would be more appropriate as a governmental body for the city to change the systems in place that enable the abusive actions enacted upon the poor by the rich. poverty is an unnecessary invention created to prop up wealth. stop allowing the wealthy to take advantage of our citizens. don't allow businesses to take advantage of their employees. don't allow landlords to take advantage of their tenants. you can't solve poverty with surveys and committees. lower rent, raise the minimum wage, and stop catering to the whims of the ruling class.

Name not available

July 6, 2020, 2:47 PM

Question 1

Both pandemic concerns and issues of racial equity of course are still important. The pandemic is killing people and sickening many more. We can't let up on that being a top priority. Likewise, the race issues brought to the fore by recent events can't be allowed to fade into the background just because the news cycle moves on. Now, when so many are focused in our police culture and systems, is the time to look at alternatives. Partial defunding, with more money being spent on safety-net measures, mental health and homelessness services, etc. would make for a safer community. I'd like to see a system in place that armed police officers are never the ones we call when someone requests a wellness check or someone is having a mental health crisis. I'd like to see systems in place that ensures that police are not buying in to so-called warrior training, but

ARE being trained and retrained regularly on issues of implicit bias and racism, how to handle sexual assault cases in a way that is both fair non-traumatizing to victims, and how to deal with those in the community cognitive impairments or mental illness. Partial defunding and restructuring of the police department is the only solution if we want a department that "serves and protects."

Question 2

- Police defunding.
- Lack of compliance with pandemic mitigation measures.
- Lack of training by police in dealing with sexual assault victims. Untrained police should not be interrogating victims or investigating sexual assault cases. Untrained police should not be making judgement calls as to whether a victim meets their erroneous notions of acting like a victim.

Question 3

- Enforce greater compliance with pandemic mitigation measures.

Question 4

No response

Jake Little

inside City Limits

July 6, 2020, 3:06 PM

Question 1

They are still important.

Question 2

- Homelessness
- Expand Mental Health services
- Defund the police

Question 3

- Homelessness
- Expand Mental Health services
- Defund the police

Question 4

I think we should defund the police and take those extra resources and put them towards homelessness and mental health services.

Community Check-in for 2020 Strategic Plan

How have recent events, including issues of racial equity as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, affected community perceptions and priorities for the 2020 strategic plan?

Name not shown

inside City Limits

July 6, 2020, 3:16 PM

Question 1

Affordable housing, homelessness, and future development are all still key issues. However, as a teacher, I now understand access to internet infrastructure, which most of us take for granted, should also be considered. One of the most difficult aspects of teaching during distance learning was not only making sure all students had an internet connection, but that they had a reliable connection. Students who lived in apartment complexes seemed to have the most difficulty with internet reliability. Students of low SES also had difficulty getting internet at all. Students who are ELL often have the most need for teacher contact, as well as the most difficulty accessing internet. That being said, all of the above identified issues MUST be looked at through the lens of equity. Many of the issues listed above feel like far-west-Lawrence issues -- the wealthier, white community. When making decisions, we need to ask, "Who will this impact? Who needs these changes the most? What are the needs of other communities?" Planning needs to focus on creating multi-racial, multi-economic communities. Code enforcement is an issue that impacts the quality of people's lives, especially those living in less expensive housing. I'm not sure traffic and congestion should be a primary focus. We need to focus on what will genuinely impact the lives of all citizens.

Question 2

- Internet availability for all -- especially homes with LPS children in them.
- Policing - Creating a community-focused approach with multiple ways to respond to a call. Lawrence should be the pilot program for the rest of Kansas. If Police have any militarized weapons, vehicles, etc., they should get rid of them.
- Financial relief during COVID-19 for music venues. Lawrence has a long and important history with the local music industry, and the vast majority of these places are mom-and-pop-type businesses.
- Police should have to go through equity training; this is available through LPS.
- Encouraging grocery store development in North Lawrence and East Lawrence so we do not wind up with "food deserts" as the city grows and expands.

Question 3

- #1 Crucial: Police engage in Courageous Conversations equity training, which they can join through LPS. This should start with the highest-ranking officers so a new culture can be created top-down.
- Continue to make COVID-19 testing available to residents.

- Invest money into existing community-based social services, which will allow them to help more people.
- Provide financial relief to music venues/bars.
- Sponsor voter registration events. Continue to allow mail-in voting.

Question 4

In terms of "future development," I really hope the city invests in "inner city" development, rather than continued western expansion. This should include a plan to maintain the integrity of the city's history, meaning, stop high-rise buildings from taking over Mass. Street. I would love to see run-down neighborhoods be revived (without dislocating residents) with grants and loans to homeowners who struggle to make repairs. If these are landlords...maybe they shouldn't own property they can't maintain, and should sell to first-time homebuyers. I would also like to see the city invest in future businesses to be owned by people of color.

Name not available

July 6, 2020, 3:40 PM

Question 1

Yes.

Question 2

- Downtown traffic flow, and parking.
- More support for our first responders.

Question 3

- Firm, but fair policy for ALL.

Question 4

Fill the empty commercial properties around our town.

Steven Wilson

inside City Limits

July 6, 2020, 3:54 PM

Question 1

No, they've been totally eclipsed. KIDDING. Of course they are important. Certainly issues like home affordability and homelessness are directly impacted by these newest developments.

Question 2

Community Check-in for 2020 Strategic Plan

How have recent events, including issues of racial equity as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, affected community perceptions and priorities for the 2020 strategic plan?

- Reconstructing policing. Taking fresh looks at how to best enforce the law and serve and protect citizens. The police are overly militarized and asked to do too much.

Question 3

- see above.

Question 4

No response

Name not available

July 6, 2020, 3:56 PM

Question 1

No. You've allowed the few *loud* minority to dictate policies and procedures.

I would first and foremost focus on disability bullying and access to services. Since the mask mandate several people have threatened to beat up disabled children for not wearing masks. We will now be forced to carry a weapon for our child's protection.

Question 2

- Disability rights
- Disability bullying
- Ableism
- Hate groups
- Racism

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Name not available

July 6, 2020, 4:39 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Name not shown

inside City Limits

July 6, 2020, 4:40 PM

Question 1

I think the top two issues are still important.

Rather than future development I'd like to see support to keep our LOCAL business going long term. In addition look at ways to make it more doable for BIPOC to start business in Lawrence.

Question 2

- Defund the Police - use that money for mental health, housing and more
- Housing First
- Food Security and Food deserts
- Expand Mental Health
- Climate Change

Question 3

- Defund the Police
- Expand Mental Health
- Housing First
- Food Security
- Climate Change

Question 4

No response

Name not shown

inside City Limits

July 6, 2020, 5:35 PM

Community Check-in for 2020 Strategic Plan

How have recent events, including issues of racial equity as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, affected community perceptions and priorities for the 2020 strategic plan?

Question 1

Yes for housing and homelessness, but I think the jail, social justice and the pandemic all trump development right now.

Question 2

- Covid
- Social justice
- The jail expansion
- Climate change

Question 3

- Redesign the roundabout on 19th and Barker - so dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians
- Reallocate much of the funding for the LPD to other social service providers

Question 4

Thanks for asking!

Name not available

July 6, 2020, 8:25 PM

Question 1

Only affordable housing and homelessness still seem important to me. It's almost embarrassing to read the other options they are trivial.

Question 2

- Systemic discrimination
- People won't wear masks!!
- Economic hardship during COVID
- Mental health during COVID

Question 3

- Continue to provide meals and services for those who need it
- Continue to not allow utility disconnects like before. And no evictions!
- Defund police. Reallocate some of their budget to other services.
- Do a better job training police! They are NOT military and we are NOT at war!

Question 4

No response

Name not available

July 6, 2020, 10:06 PM

Question 1

Yes . Those are necessary

Question 2

- Homelessness
- Shelter Needs for homeless
- Police Reform
- Defunding police
- Mental health facility

Question 3

- Mental Health
- Social Services
- Defunding police
- Stop jail expansion
- Police Accountability

Question 4

No response

Name not available

July 6, 2020, 10:38 PM

Question 1

Future development - which is a ridiculously broad concept - should be put on hold immediately. Affordable housing and homelessness should be managed through the lens of COVID. What is the city doing to help with rent relief? How is the city assisting our homeless in this pandemic? I'm willing to DONATE my time & skills. What do y'all need?

Question 2

- LDCPH is not doing contact tracing. This is horrible.

Question 3

- The Hawk & the Bull need to be closed. They are not an asset to our community.
- Yes! Provide more services for the homeless! Engage in serious partnerships with Habitat for Humanity and Family Promise.

Community Check-in for 2020 Strategic Plan

How have recent events, including issues of racial equity as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, affected community perceptions and priorities for the 2020 strategic plan?

Question 4

No response

Name not available

July 6, 2020, 11:13 PM

Question 1

Yes, as COVID disproportionately affects Black and Latinx populations which is what all the above issues also affect.

Question 2

- Taxes, especially on food
- Education and WiFi access for all

Question 3

- Another homeless shelter
- More funding for homeless shelter
- Allow camping for homeless

Question 4

No response

Name not available

July 7, 2020, 7:54 AM

Question 1

Yes but I would add funding fir mental health

Question 2

- Mental health funding
- Educating City employees and citizens about racial biases

Question 3

- Provide grants And low interest loans to promote businesses run by people of color
- Work with the University ti promote racial diversity

Question 4

Lets keep the momentum to create changes aimed at improving the

climate for citizens of color in Lawrence

Name not shown

inside City Limits

July 7, 2020, 9:36 AM

Question 1

Of course they are still important, as they always should be to city government. I do think the new issues (with regard to COVID and racial injustice) are being prioritized as they come up; which is a good thing, but should not mean that other issues will fail to be addressed. The city and county have made performative gestures to address both of these issues, but has yet to make any substantial changes that would truly help with either of those issues.

Question 2

- Removing SROs from the schools of 497.
- Redistributing some of the city's police budget to fund social services and mental health services.
- SHUTTING DOWN DINE-IN RESTAURANTS. I think it is unacceptable that bars were forced to close but restaurants were allowed to remain open. The specificity of that decree seems like an attack on Lawrence bar owners as much as a measure to keep people safe. If bars aren't safe, then how is a dine-in restaurant safe? YOU CAN'T EAT OR DRINK THROUGH A MASK.
- Elevating the voices of POC within our community. Emphasizing and discussing the history of this town. Good and bad.
- More free COVID testing.

Question 3

- Removing SROs from the schools of 497.
- Redistributing some of the city's police budget to fund social services and mental health services.
- SHUTTING DOWN DINE-IN RESTAURANTS. I think it is unacceptable that bars were forced to close but restaurants were allowed to remain open. The specificity of that decree seems like an attack on Lawrence bar owners as much as a measure to keep people safe. If bars aren't safe, then how is a dine-in restaurant safe? YOU CAN'T EAT OR DRINK THROUGH A MASK.
- Elevating the voices of POC within our community. Emphasizing and discussing the history of this town. Good and bad.
- More free COVID testing.

Question 4

Progress is more important than reform.

Community Check-in for 2020 Strategic Plan

How have recent events, including issues of racial equity as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, affected community perceptions and priorities for the 2020 strategic plan?

Name not shown

inside City Limits

July 7, 2020, 9:45 AM

Question 1

Yes. Especially the Affordable Housing piece.

Question 2

- Structure of city government. We need a real, elected mayor with mayoral powers, not a revolving cast of figureheads.
- Police are out of control, they are not meant to be a revenue stream, but a civil peace-maintenance force. Defund and demilitarize.

Question 3

- Defund and demilitarize the police force.
- Persuade KU to not conduct in-person instruction in the coming school year.
- Provide N95 masks to the community even if it means building a mask production facility. We can't have a productive economy without protection.

Question 4

Defund and demilitarize the police force. Make and distribute N95 masks. Real mayor.

Jennifer Van Nice

inside City Limits

July 7, 2020, 11:48 AM

Question 1

I believe affordable housing and homelessness are still pressing issues which tie directly into the pandemic. Future development should focus on bringing well paying jobs to our community.

Question 2

- Job Market
- Allocation of taxpayer funds - redirect from justice systems to robust social and support services.

Question 3

- Attract businesses with high paying jobs

Question 4

No response

Name not available

July 7, 2020, 12:22 PM

Question 1

Yes. Affordable housing, transparency in communication with the public, and more of our budget going to healthcare, social and rehabilitation facilities, instead of our DA, jail, and sheriff's department.

Question 2

- Affordable housing
- Budget for Social Services
- Budget for Bert and Nash
- Higher wages
- Better cost of living

Question 3

- More money to social services
- More affordable housing (single family homes)
- Rent Control
- More money to homeless shelter
- More money to county clinic, bert and nash

Question 4

Affordable housing and specifically more affordable single families homes. Rent Control. I'm sick of these investors picking up every cheap house, flipping it, and making it unattainable for single income families. For a town that shouts for equal opportunity and upward mobility, we don't make it very attainable.

Name not shown

inside City Limits

July 7, 2020, 1:00 PM

Question 1

Affordable housing and decriminalizing poverty and homelessness are still important issues that need to be addressed immediately along with: ending systemic racism within all local institutions (especially in the criminal justice, education, and health care systems), reallocating funds from the police department to other social services in need (such as food

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banks, mental health, abuse recovery, etc), demilitarizing the police and banning the use of tear gas and choke holds for good), mandating body cameras for police whose data will be collected and monitored by an independent neutral agency, removing police from schools (SROs) and replacing them with trained counselors, and ensuring open and safe elections for all.

Question 2

- Decriminalize poverty and homelessness. Ensure affordable housing. Fund the food banks, public transportation, community shelter and mental health, addiction and abuse recovery services and defund the police!
- End systemic racism, especially in the criminal justice, education, and health care systems.
- Defund the police and hold them 100% accountable 100% of the time. Body cameras 100% of the time and not controlled by LPD. No qualified immunity. No blue wall of silence. Demilitarize, disarm, and ban choke holds and tear gas. Drop charges on all protesters and prosecute the people responsible for the vehicle attacks on protesters.
- Remove police (SROs) from schools and replace them with trained counselors. Police presence in schools has had no measurable benefits and feeds the school-to-prison pipeline.
- Defund the police and refund social services!

Question 3

- Expand public transportation and make it free. Expand service to better serve the disabled, homeless, and senior communities.
- The streets and sidewalks are not a major priority to me at this time. Just use common sense and don't block up traffic needlessly for long periods of time.
- Defund the police and decriminalize poverty and homeless. Fund social programs that serve these vulnerable populations.

Question 4

City leaders will be accountable for their actions and decisions. They will be held accountable by the public. We are watching and we are ready to vote them out if needed. We need true progressives in city government.

Name not available

July 7, 2020, 1:21 PM

Question 1

The first three above are a priority (Affordable Housing, Homelessness, Future Development) AND jobs. There are no jobs in Lawrence. And restaurant jobs are no jobs at all. They do not even secure housing with

the managements of the existing rental housing where intimidation and robbery of the deposit is the base of the relationship between property owners and the tenants.

Question 2

- Meaningful jobs. Restaurant and brewery owners make the full profit while the staff do not know what job security is. The pandemic came only to expose that.
- Restaurant jobs are starvation jobs. The City cannot rely on them to say 'we have jobs', 'we are attracting jobs' and the like. It's a starvation and continuous fear job.
- Common practice on a job is general manager's inclination and actual practice to give your shifts to someone else appeasing him/her.
- Lawrence on the whole does not have jobs. As for KU, a common 21st century employment practice: Whites give white students jobs and African-American departments give African-American Students jobs. Shameful. Same practice among Asian instructors.
- Lawrence is a deeply white city. Only the main racial group has a sense of employment security here. With employment security comes all the other everyday living securities. In Lawrence one even becomes deprived of a dentist visit let alone considering seeing other doctors.

Question 3

- Points 1) & 3) above are priorities... in addition to the already mentioned jobs. Employers do not offer full-time jobs and if you do there are 90 days 'trial' before they 'might' consider benefits which can also go completely ignored.
- Motorists are always the ones who do transit planning. They do NOT take into consideration or understand or EVEN KNOW how much a transit user walks to and from a grocery store and how it impacts commuters health and bones. How it impacts transit user with their ability to save time for work or research or study. The lack of mixed land use zoning means transit commuters losing a lot of time all the time while motorists get outraged over losing when sharing the road with a cyclist.
- Streets and sidewalks are not a big deal. Humans come first. There is barely anyone using sidewalks in a suburb.
- The homeless: I keep thinking for the need to design an intelligent program that creates and reserves jobs for the homeless. The City should intelligently come up with a program that ensure that the social contract with a homeless is NOT for life and COMPLETELY BROKEN.
- Have power over rental property owners. Cheat and intimidation is the order of the day in the world of the rental property owners. Not sure how the Department of Health let them get away with doing everything that a tenant moves into an uncleaned apartment. How the law allows them to grab the deposit. How mad and unlawful enrichment is allowed.

Community Check-in for 2020 Strategic Plan

How have recent events, including issues of racial equity as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, affected community perceptions and priorities for the 2020 strategic plan?

Question 4

1) Establish mixed land use in a way that does not compromise on air and sound quality. i.e. Ensure that there is a mile or mile-and-a-half maximum between homes (and transit commuters) and grocery stores. There is no other way to increase the number of transit ridership (or reduce traffic and CO2 emissions in Lawrence). The current walking distance to a bus stop from home or a store that is forced on transit commuters is torture.

2) Reduce the size of existing parking lots. Huge parking lots force transit users to walk long distances in heat islands with the weight of their purchase on their bodies.

3) Ensure new development or remodel existing development so that parking lots are behind store or restaurants and cafes.

4) Facilitate the connection between between Sprouts and Walmart (West Lawrence) for a pedestrian and biker through Wakarusa street.

5) Facilitate the connection between between Bob Billings rentals and Hyvee on the 23rd street THROUGH A FLAT LAND via Westbrooke St.

6) Close downtown from 11th St to 7th and redesign this section of the street using inviting natural features **such as those employed in the little garden on the right-hand side of the entrance to the Lawrence Public Library.** I strongly believe that this will enhance businesses DT beyond restaurants. This redesign will reduce the dominance of the automobile there and eliminate the stress experienced in this narrow corridor of the Mass street.

Closed street section using natural elements (local natural stones as benches/seats and vegetation) will provide calm, less stress, attract more people as well as allow to notice and enjoy the architecture of the buildings on both sides. All of this will contribute to nourishing an aesthetic and healthy street life and boost business along this section of the Mass St. One or two small grocery stores (if rents are not wild) will inject much life in the area. After all, the pandemic proved restaurants unviable especially to employees soon dubbed as unessential... which is the bitter reality all along because restaurant employees are disposable and without real rights.

This redesign will make using the transit a must in many cases. Will also further justify the current heat islands and aesthetically deprivation forced on the Vermont street to serve Mass street businesses with parking lots.

7) Consider designing programs to protect tenants who are employees in insecure restaurant jobs and the like. After all they are the majority of the jobs that Lawrence can offer.

8) Consider designing an intelligent comprehensive program to keep a social contract with the homeless through finding (City) employment and a sort of cooperative housing for them or change the image of the community shelter.

Adam Smith

inside City Limits

July 7, 2020, 1:26 PM

Question 1

Some of them, sure. Homelessness and affordable housing are at the top of that list. Everything about our lives has changed, we need our city to keep pace with our ever changing local environment.

Question 2

- COVID 19, duh.
- public health and safety
- protecting our service and low wage workers
- the city's response to the recent hate crime in SouthPark
- social justice issues.

Question 3

No response

Question 4

This survey feel totally tone deaf to the current climate in Lawrence. DO BETTER.

Name not available

July 7, 2020, 4:25 PM

Question 1

- The homeless can be reintegrated in society if the City designs some program that overcomes the acceptable state of affairs and tradition of sentence for life exclusion from the job market, economic productivity and housing. LISTEN to this story and how the turnaround came into being for one individual coming upon the right type of public office officer: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p08bppbc>
- It is absolutely healthy for a City / gov. to exercise austerity on itself in times of emergencies not only to expect the tax base to make sacrifices for the gov and senior employees. City senior employees should not seek to implement new projects during emergencies and sacrifice everything and everyone else because they want to put "success and giant projects" on their personal resumes.
- When the police annual budget is in the millions it was shameful to watch City commissioners taking a \$1000 from city charities to give it neighbourhood associations. It is really surrealistic. There are more unstable lives and precarious economic cases in Lawrence than there are secure and decent jobs.

Community Check-in for 2020 Strategic Plan

How have recent events, including issues of racial equity as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, affected community perceptions and priorities for the 2020 strategic plan?

Question 2

- - Encourage and develop sectors of the economy where workers and employees are not disposable.
- - Ensure that employers offer full-time jobs because employers avoid them to free themselves from the employee benefits obligation.

Question 3

- "Quality of planning and code enforcement" is important if it's objective is "expanding the transit system". The latter depends on the planning the city chooses.
- The priority of sidewalk maintenance makes sense in the case of planning which emphasizes the need to use them. So far the City is built for the automobile and the comfort of motorists not walkers.
- Reduce the distance to get food. Encourage more small/medium size food stores in a reasonable distance from homes while preserving quiet and healthy air quality.
- Close downtown to cars; encourage business diversity and their sustainability through reasonable rents and public need, including food stores.
- No more parking lots

Question 4

No response

Name not shown

inside City Limits

July 7, 2020, 8:41 PM

Question 1

Yes, all of the listed items above that were previously identified as priorities are still of highest importance. Many of our roads need more attention. There are still potholes among other issues in multiple areas. Flow of traffic is also of importance especially with regard to the areas surrounding the bypass. There have been multiple fatalities near the bypass so that is an area of extreme need. Code enforcement keeps our community appealing to those who are looking to settle here as well as for those who reside here. There are areas in town that could use more code enforcement and be revitalized.

Question 2

- Additional patrol officers
- Maintaining school resource officers to keep our children safe

Question 3

No response

Question 4

We need more officers on the street. The departure of the Chief is a beginning for a fresh start at looking to add more officers with a different Chief and a new perspective. Lawrence is constantly growing, and the police are working to protect this community. Mentions of defunding frighten many community members, and threaten the safety of everyone who lives in Lawrence.

Name not available

July 7, 2020, 9:15 PM

Question 1

Yes I think affordable housing and homelessness will help address systemic racism. Infrastructure is very important as well and should stay as a top priority.

Question 2

No response

Question 3

- Address the staffing issues with LPD
- Do not defund the police - allow for more training opportunities

Question 4

I do not think defunding our police department will be beneficial to our community. They are already understaffed and limited on resources. I think we should expand the relationship between Bert Nash and LPD to have more case workers go along with officers on mental health calls. These types of calls can easily end poorly (and even fatally) for unarmed, untrained social workers. I think the best option for now is to have officers and case workers go together. We need to expand and fund a mental health unit rather than defund the police.

Name not available

July 8, 2020, 7:23 AM

Question 1

Not as important as defunding the police, using the money for affordable housing, social welfare, and public art. Defunding and decentralizing the police presence in Lawrence should be top priority. Defund campus police, use the money to fund counseling and anti racism, anti violence

Community Check-in for 2020 Strategic Plan

How have recent events, including issues of racial equity as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, affected community perceptions and priorities for the 2020 strategic plan?

and sex positive education.

Question 2

- Defunding the police
- Making police actions transparent
- Fighting racism and white supremacy
- Covid testing for underserved
- Access to healthCare

Question 3

- Defund the police
- Defund the jail
- Enforce anti-racist policies
- Public health access
- Covid 19 testing

Question 4

Defund the police, defund white supremacist-backed social structures, Prioritize anti-sexist, anti racist, anti transphobic education and policies. Promote policies involving underserved classes and communities. End racism in the judicial process. Free everyone incarcerated for not being able to pay bail, and for non-violent offenses, end racial profiling by police, defund the police, make Police union Contracts public, defund the jail.

Name not available

July 8, 2020, 8:51 AM

Question 1

Yes. In community conversations I have, the very top priority is cost of living. Until that is addressed, it will be the true lens from which all other things are evaluated.

Question 2

- A negative business climate
- the city's renewable energy plan - this will have a devastating impact on local cost of living

Question 3

- redirect tax-based incentives and funding mechanisms to focus services and development to the city's core
- stop planning the city for single car transportation
- prioritize space in thoroughfares for public transportation

- Paint is an easy way to temporarily adjust public areas like Mass St to see what people think. This was done in Denver's Union Station area with success.

Question 4

It seems "expand transit system" and "enhance street maintenance" are a contradiction. If you continue to improve roads, then people will continue to drive on them. The goal Lawrence seems like it wants is to have more people using public transportation.

Name not available

July 8, 2020, 4:45 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

I think carefully cutting spending should be a top priority. Non essential expenditures should all be pushed back until the COVID fallout becomes more clear. Relying on emergency funds is all fine and dandy until the terrible budget environment continues or expands beyond this/next year. Sooner or later they will run out and should be reserved for essential expenditures when the time comes.

Name not shown

inside City Limits

July 8, 2020, 7:38 PM

Question 1

I believe that access to affordable housing now is vastly more important than it was in February/March. There are a lot of people who need help, especially low income families who are renting. With high unemployment, not just in Lawrence, but everywhere, it's interesting how rents for the next year have increased despite stagnant wages. While, yes, many students who live here are supplemented by their parents in some capacity, there are a lot of locals, particularly in the service industry barely getting by the skin of their teeth.

Community Check-in for 2020 Strategic Plan

How have recent events, including issues of racial equity as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, affected community perceptions and priorities for the 2020 strategic plan?

Question 2

- Police accountability and transparency

Question 3

- Defund the police and reallocate the funds elsewhere

Question 4

No response

Name not shown

inside City Limits

July 8, 2020, 8:43 PM

Question 1

It's the old definition of madness: doing the same things over and over and expecting a different outcome. Strategic planning should envision a more resilient local economy and community life with investments in food security, neighborhood quality of life, locally-owned businesses, social services, clean and renewable energy resources, and clean water.

Question 2

- See above.

Question 3

- Protect class I and II soils and incentivize local food production.
- Make neighborhoods walkable and friendly with traffic calming, trees, parks, bike lanes, and strategies that discourage cars and trucks.
- Create mechanisms (tax breaks; grants...) to help locally-owned businesses recover.
- Subsidize homeowners' retrofitting homes with solar, geothermal, or other clean, renewable energy source.
- Develop a plan to assure clean water availability long into the future.

Question 4

Get off the treadmill of needing growth to pay for current needs, and then needing more growth to pay for the needs of newcomers. Stop trying to grow the population and the economy--that's a house of cards as covid has demonstrated. Instead, grow local businesses that meet local needs, especially small farms.

Name not available

July 8, 2020, 10:14 PM

Question 1

No. Times have changed. We need to reprioritize ASAP.

Question 2

- Lack of Police transparency
- The overfunding of police
- Lack of accountability of police

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Name not available

July 8, 2020, 10:16 PM

Question 1

Yes...Adding density to core neighborhoods is critical to lowering housing costs and building a resilient community. Residents that can walk to downtown businesses are critical to their survival. Single family zoning and parking requirements are stifling our ability to provide affordable housing and to afford necessary infrastructure repairs.

Question 2

No response

Question 3

- Abolish use based Zoning
- Eliminate Parking Requirements
- Legalize ADU's

Question 4

No response

Stacey VanHouten

inside City Limits

July 8, 2020, 10:49 PM

Community Check-in for 2020 Strategic Plan

How have recent events, including issues of racial equity as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, affected community perceptions and priorities for the 2020 strategic plan?

Question 1

I think recent events have pointed to the importance of racial disparity, police brutality leading to the defund the police, which means we need to turn our focus from funding our militarized cadre of officers and stop waging "war" on drugs, on crime, on people struggling to live in this place. Frankly we need to also get our priorities clear about what we want to see here. How is it that new developments that are opposed by many, many LFK citizens get approved or rejected with an invitation to apply again. Our community should work for us, it's citizens, not developers. Our new police station needs to include space for the new services that should be provided.

Question 2

- No to jail expansion
- Reform the police and take parts of its budget to support social, addiction, and mental health services

Question 3

- See above about police
- Encourage 497 to add a focus on racism - it's history, it's current impacts, and how we can better support our black, brown, red members of our community

Question 4

No response

Name not shown

inside City Limits

July 8, 2020, 11:01 PM

Question 1

I have no issues with traffic flow, personally. I think there are also fewer people on the road now, so maintenance could be de-emphasized during this time.

Question 2

- Supporting locally owned businesses
- Keeping business tenants downtown
- Safe housing to help the homeless and keep them healthy
- Police reform

Question 3

- Provide housing to the homeless

Question 4

No response

Name not available

July 8, 2020, 11:26 PM

Question 1

No because it won't matter anyway.

Question 2

- Protest don't belong downtown.
- It need to be stoped before it starts.
- Do you think people will continue to use the downtown area when they have to park in the parking garage. What about the handicap. Not real convenient for them..
- Parking garage is so dangerous. People hanging out destroying other people property.

Question 3

- Streets
- People allowed to sleep anywhere they want.
- Take care of the Shelter.

Question 4

Change the Mayor. Get someone who supports CityWorkers.

Name not available

July 8, 2020, 11:32 PM

Question 1

The Covid19 Numbers did not Warrant a Crisis. Lawrence Officials Politicized the Problem and Hurt the City of Lawrence.

Question 2

- Loss of Businesses needs Addressed.
- Property taxes are too high.
- Lawrence Homeless problem is getting worse.

Community Check-in for 2020 Strategic Plan

How have recent events, including issues of racial equity as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, affected community perceptions and priorities for the 2020 strategic plan?

Question 3

- Economic Development should be #1 priority
- Strive to get vacant Buildings all over town back open
- Lawrence Merchants Cannot Afford the Property Tax.
- Lawrence Residents cannot afford the Property tax.
- You will regret Changing the Downtown. We had the Best now it looks like a Ghost town. No reason to go there. The Merchants will be the ones hurt in the long run.

Question 4

Why mess with the best Downtown in Kansas?

Paul DeGeorge

inside City Limits

July 9, 2020, 2:56 AM

Question 1

Most of the priorities from the community survey seem like basic city function and because of the way these were identified (Importance Satisfaction Analysis), they are priorities extracted from data rather than directly articulated by individuals. I think we would struggle to find many citizens who would ever rate "Quality of planning and code enforcement" as a top priority. I'm not suggesting it isn't important, but in the context of this survey it seems much less important and pressing than addressing the effects of the pandemic and issues of racial equity.

On racial equity, many of these issues are still important because systemic racism can be battled by pursuing anti-racist solutions to these issues. I think that's particularly true with issues like Affordable Housing and Future Development. How can we ensure that we create programs that will distinctly benefit our minority populations?

With regard to the pandemic, it will have major effects on our local economy - likely for the next several years. During that time, we'll need to focus on saving our existing businesses, but we'll also need to get creative about how we add new businesses and that gives us an opportunity to incorporate racial and economic equity as a part of the development equation.

Question 2

- Public Health - the country, our state, and unfortunately even Douglas County has rushed to reopen. The state did not leave sufficient time for evaluating the success of each phase change and moved too rapidly to Phase 3. Now cases are spiking and this will worsen our health outcomes and prolong the economic impact of the pandemic.

- Local Business - it's going to be hard for lots of our businesses to survive the pandemic - particularly retail, restaurants, bars and clubs. These are some of our major employers and the core of what makes our Downtown such a great place.
- White Supremacy - none of the protests in Lawrence have been dangerous. What has been dangerous has been the white supremacist response which includes four separate instances when lives were endangered by drivers who deliberately drove through protesters. Police attempting to clear the Mass Street Occupation (6/29) instead of protecting the protesters is another example (this was fixed later in the day when Police erected better barricades). These are just examples from the last 2 weeks, but white supremacy has toxic effects throughout our community on a continual basis.
- Systemic Racism - it's a part of everything: our laws, our criminal justice system, our civic engagement infrastructure, etc. How are we working to dismantle it?

Question 3

- To improve racial equity in city decision making, a deliberate attempt should be made to recruit minorities onto city advisory boards. If there are economic reasons that prevent minorities from holding these positions, special accommodations should be made to entice participation. Maybe free child care during meetings? Stipends for serving?
- Institute a vacancy tax on commercial properties downtown. Vacancy was already a problem before the pandemic and it will be exacerbated by inevitable business closures. Several properties held by developers have sat vacant for years in wait of tenants to pay their exorbitant rents. A vacancy tax would incentivize property owners to fill their buildings, likely at more reasonable rents. If that proves too burdensome for the few people who own the majority of the vacant buildings, maybe more of these properties would return to the market which would also help to diversify our ownership downtown and maybe even allow some business owners to build some equity downtown (a key to creating long-lasting businesses and decreasing turnover).
- Business incubator spaces: for relatively small financial investment, the city could play a lead in helping to kickstart new businesses, particularly in the downtown. This could be a public-private partnership where the city helps subsidize rent on commercial spaces for new retail/restaurant ventures. A well-administered program could prioritize giving opportunities to people of color and would also be an opportunity to diversify our downtown business ownership which is overwhelmingly white.
- Defund the police. Let's re-envision how our law enforcement works - how and where they interact with the public. How many of the things now done by police can be done by people who don't carry weapons? This can make our community safer. Let's also give some teeth to the Community Police Review Board.

Community Check-in for 2020 Strategic Plan

How have recent events, including issues of racial equity as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, affected community perceptions and priorities for the 2020 strategic plan?

- Lawrence New Deal - we may be faced with high local unemployment over the next several years (especially with local businesses already starting to close and possible cutbacks at KU). We could have an ambitious local response. Lawrence has a great credit rating. Let's borrow money and put people to work on ambitious projects. Let's flood money into the arts and turn Lawrence into a major cultural destination in the midwest. Let's do infrastructure work. Let's build green energy for the city. Let's build a first class sculpture park along the river near Burcham Park. Being timid in our recovery efforts will mean prolonging the damage.

Question 4

No response

Name not shown

inside City Limits

July 9, 2020, 3:12 AM

Question 1

Affordable housing is even more relevant than ever. I've had two friends evicted due to Covid-19 unemployment in the past two weeks. People are not going to come back from our economic losses quickly, if at all, and the City of Lawrence is unprepared for that. The slow response to provide basic hygiene areas and safety for our homeless community members at the beginning of the lockdown was absolutely shameful. It definitely showed that at the most crucial moments, the City fails to protect the most vulnerable.

Question 2

- Social Services
- Racial Equity
- Police Transparency and Funding
- Unemployment

Question 3

- Further defund the LPD and move funds to social services
- Expansion of social services
- Rent and bill forgiveness programs for those affected by Covid-19
- Focus on affordable single family housing rather than tax credits and grants to developers of apartment complexes which are not suitable for families or as safe during pandemics with airborne viruses
- BIPOC-owned small business support

Question 4

No response

Name not shown

inside City Limits

July 9, 2020, 8:36 AM

Question 1

Of those issues, I think affordable housing, homelessness, street and utility maintenance, and effective communication are important. It's horrific to think about future development when we can't even care for those experiencing homelessness, and the development of the jail is infuriating.

Question 2

- Mental health care
- Racial discrimination
- Police corruption
- Reversing the jail expansion

Question 3

- Expand the community shelter

Question 4

Reverse the jail expansion and defund the police department.

Steven Nowak

inside City Limits

July 9, 2020, 12:02 PM

Question 1

Yes--the economic crisis resulting from the pandemic makes these issues more urgent.

Question 2

- Sustaining Lawrence's arts and culture organizations through the long-term financial crisis caused by the pandemic and economic shutdown.

Question 3

- Include representatives of the arts and culture sector in strategic planning efforts.

Community Check-in for 2020 Strategic Plan

How have recent events, including issues of racial equity as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, affected community perceptions and priorities for the 2020 strategic plan?

Question 4

Thanks. The current crises we face present opportunities as well as challenges. I hope we can bring people, government, business, and organizations together and come out of this period of uncertainty a better and stronger community.

Name not available
July 9, 2020, 2:15 PM

Question 1

I support all of these issues, but think one BIG one is missing from the list. The economic base in Lawrence is weak. It has been for many years (Lawrence did not grow at the rate of the national economy in the decade following the 2008 recession). However, our economic base is now particularly weak, resulting from the pandemic, job losses and business closures. To afford all of the things "on the list" in the strategic plan, we must FIRST strengthen our economic base --- more job opportunities that pay a living wage AND growth in tax revenues (NOT tax rates).

Question 2

- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Question 3

- Develop and implement an ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT plan. Why are other cities in the state and region able to attract new employers but Lawrence has been unable to?

Question 4

No response

Name not available
July 9, 2020, 4:57 PM

Question 1

Yes - they all still affect daily life in Lawrence

Question 2

- Don't lose green space to development (like south of Lawrence) - once it is gone you can't get it back.

Question 3

- Don't develop south of the bypass. Leave it green.

Question 4

No response

Name not shown
inside City Limits
July 9, 2020, 7:26 PM

Question 1

Yes. I do think the above issues are still important. Homelessness is a HUGE issue within Lawrence. Especially downtown and by Marys Lake.

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Name not shown
inside City Limits
July 9, 2020, 7:41 PM

Question 1

y

Question 2

- Speed limit enforcement. The streets have turned into raceways with drivers totally ignoring "speed limits." Especially on Kasold.

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Community Check-in for 2020 Strategic Plan

How have recent events, including issues of racial equity as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, affected community perceptions and priorities for the 2020 strategic plan?

Name not available

July 9, 2020, 7:57 PM

Question 1

Yes, they are still important; however, I feel that issues of racial equity and transparency of police activities should also be added to the discussion. Also, re-establish If only 3 top issues can be considered, I would add in racial equity and remove Future Development. Another option would be to adopt the viewpoint that future development MUST include and address racial equity. Clearly, now that COVID-19 has had such a tremendous impact on the economy, schools, and local business, I feel that strategies for supporting and building local businesses and supporting the safe opening of schools must be added to the list of priorities.

Question 2

- Safely re-opening schools in light of COVID-19.
- The economic effects of COVID-19 closures and slow-downs, as well as on KU.
- Police transparency and equitable treatment of all citizens.
- Racial inequities in governmental and community organizations.

Question 3

- Working with the school district to support safe re-opening of the schools.
- Supporting local businesses as they re-open and rebuild following the COVID-19 closures.
- Reviewing and revising policies designed to ensure fair, dignified and equitable treatment of all citizens by police. Specifically address racial equity issues.
- Work with KU to safely reopen and bring students back to town.

Question 4

I think it would make sense to build plans to address the original areas identified as needs and priorities, but develop a new timeline. It's now critical to address the problems businesses, schools, citizens, and KU are facing as a result of COVID-19. Also, we need to take advantage of the opportunity to develop policies to address long-standing racial inequities while the issue is in the forefront of national, regional, and local conversations.

Name not shown

inside City Limits

July 10, 2020, 6:26 AM

Question 1

Yes. I particularly see the need for more affordable housing options to be developed and provided, particularly for senior citizens on low, fixed incomes like those offered through Douglas County Tenants to Homeowners.

Question 2

- Additional funding for Tenants to Homeowners.

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Name not available

July 10, 2020, 10:07 AM

Question 1

yes--but the whole BLM thing is a lie and does nothing but promote racial division and allowing the downtown to be covered in politically divisive vandalism is wrong.

Question 2

- I live in a 30 mph zone in west Lawrence and routinely have cars blasting past my house at 60+. I do not think a few over is bad- but no enforcement?

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Name not shown

inside City Limits

July 10, 2020, 10:59 PM

Question 1

Yes, I believe that the top 3 identified issues are still important. What I

Community Check-in for 2020 Strategic Plan

How have recent events, including issues of racial equity as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, affected community perceptions and priorities for the 2020 strategic plan?

think is critical to identify is how each one relates to racial equity, because often times, solutions are implemented without taking this into account. How is affordable housing going to specifically aid the people of color in our community? What measures can be taken to protect the homeless that are Black and trans-inclusive? Are there going to be considerations for mental illness among the homeless community, and are there people specifically looking at the correlation between violence against mentally-ill people of color? What plans for future development help the local Black community? Now is the time to begin considering that not all needs will be the same, but all should be met. I encourage the city to engage with local Black leadership to best identify inclusive paths forward on any and all major issues.

Question 2

- The jail expansion needs to be halted and overcrowding must be addressed with a different solution, preferably non-incarceration options for lower-level crimes.
- Racial disparity within local law enforcement and incarcerated populations.
- Lack of convictions for campus sexual assault cases
- Defunding the Lawrence Police Department and re-routing funds to non-violent dispatchers for mental illness or other low-level offender calls
- Premature opening of the Lawrence schools before COVID has been safely eradicated from the community

Question 3

- Fix jail overcrowding by offering non-incarceration options for lower-level offenses (probation, community service, etc)
- Increase accountability measures for local PD including dash and body cams
- Consult more sexual assault and trauma experts when engaging with the related legal cases
- Divert funding away from the PD and increase resources for root problems; mental illness services, domestic violence-trained social workers, homeless solutions
- Keep the schools closed / online for protection of students and staff until there have been no new local COVID cases for at least 14 days

Question 4

I think racial equity is a major public health issue that must be addressed in every facet of city planning. I think one way to do this is to consult with experts on the matter, not just in issues of race but in all issues, in order to reduce the unintentional consequences for communities of color. Make a point of seeking out citizens of color when making critical decisions that may affect them. Does public transport need to be expanded? Do we have a local housing crisis? How are these affecting our community of color?

And the call to defund the police may sound radical and strange, but I highly, highly encourage the city to open its mind to a new, more positive future. What if there were lower rates of incarceration? Less incidents of police/citizen violence? Police as an entity do not address root causes of many of the issues that they instead criminalize, and this only leads to a prison system that becomes increasingly hard for low-level offenders to escape. If Lawrence can begin to address root causes, I believe we can become a role model for the rest of the state, if not the country, in looking towards a more peaceful, healthier future.

Name not available

July 11, 2020, 4:05 AM

Question 1

These are members of our community. This is your job. Why am I taking a survey asking you to do your jobs unless you're looking for permission to do less than you're asked?

Question 2

- Internal Accountability
- Community Accountability

Question 3

- free transit for homeless and youth
- Build a second homeless shelter
- We voted against a second police station. Police antagonize the homeless, per their job description.
- we voted against police expansion.
- Build a second homeless shelter, improve the current, if you want to decrease crime rates.

Question 4

Go outside of city hall - conduct speeches specifically for public relations, introduce yourselves to members of the community, especially those who may not support your beliefs. Growing up in this city, Cromwell was the only local elected leader whose name I knew. In the Trump, post Trump era, government anonymity is deemed suspicious. This is especially true to the disenfranchised, including the homeless, but also immigrants, black and Hispanic peoples. Is city hall an ivory tower? Our are jails dungeons? In truth, how do you see yourselves, collectively?

Name not available

July 11, 2020, 6:35 AM

Community Check-in for 2020 Strategic Plan

How have recent events, including issues of racial equity as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, affected community perceptions and priorities for the 2020 strategic plan?

Question 1

Yes, still important. I think we need to add racial justice as its own priority, as well as recognizing that issues of racial justice are embedded in the challenges identified earlier.

Question 2

- Racial justice

Question 3

- Implement 8CantWait and re-allocate some police funding to other services and trained professionals
- Continue looking for creative ways for people to live and work safely in an environment with active COV-19 transmission (the Mass. St. re-org is a good example of this). Mask policies, outdoor retail, less-than-100% occupancy caps, etc.

Question 4

No response

Heather Hein

inside City Limits
July 11, 2020, 6:45 AM

Question 1

Yes, housing cost, and homelessness are my number one concerns for myself, and others in the community. Rent is too much for the average wage earner I know to do anything other than have roommates even as older adults to be able to survive.

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Christopher Howard

inside City Limits
July 11, 2020, 6:47 AM

Question 1

Yes, these are still important. Racial justice and COV-19 intersect with these issues, while also being important issues of their own.

Question 2

- Racial justice
- COV-19 response

Question 3

- Implement 8CantWait and redirect funding from police to other services and emergency professionals (housing, mental health, etc.)
- Continue developing and implementing COV-19 response measures (Mass St. re-org is a good example). Mask policies, building occupancy policies, outdoor retail, park access, outdoor+distant events, work from home incentives, etc.

Question 4

No response

Name not shown

inside City Limits
July 11, 2020, 11:53 AM

Question 1

Yes. They affect everyone.

Question 2

- Evaluation and training of all police officers to weed out racist cops.

Question 3

- Evaluation and training police force.

Question 4

Make Lawrence a Livable Community as recommended by AARP. Please investigate this model.

joshua spence

inside City Limits
July 11, 2020, 5:27 PM

Community Check-in for 2020 Strategic Plan

How have recent events, including issues of racial equity as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, affected community perceptions and priorities for the 2020 strategic plan?

Question 1

Yes, I don't feel the city really listens or really will change as I have not seen any thing done that can move the city forward in a better Light

Question 2

- Better ada compliance and enforcement
- Disability rights
- Lgbtq rights and equality for all
- Better help for service dog handlers
- 2 and 3 below

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Sansara Owens

inside City Limits

July 12, 2020, 9:16 AM

Question 1

Yes, affordable housing and houselessness are absolutely important, increasingly impacted by Covid-19 and racial inequity. Future development could focus on a people-centered approach, to mitigate those two concerns with a response towards securing safety and accountability for the people in our community who need it most (instead of on traffic flow and congestion, which affects individuals a minimal amount). There are many government capacities (such as the police) that take up a significant amount of the budget (43%) that could be diverted to education, housing, public transportation And/or any other program and social service with evidence-based responses to taking care of community members.

Question 2

- Lack of transparency in police department
- Police in schools
- Schools returning to physical space before a safety plan regarding Covid is in place
- Houselessness
- Lack of mental health services and programs

Question 3

- Divert funding from police budget to address houselessness
- Divert funding from police budget to community mental health centers
- Support educational staff to not have to choose between their jobs and potentially contracting Covid-19
- Listen/learn research about racial inequity and the school to prison pipeline and remove police and zero tolerance policies from schools
- Review research and data about how responses to Covid are affected by racial biases and prejudices and take an anti-racist approach to be on the right side of history

Question 4

It is unfathomable to me that traffic diversion and sidewalk maintenance are priorities before taking care of individuals experiencing houselessness, responding to mental health needs (that have been dramatically underfunded), and supporting the BIPOC individuals who are repeatedly shown to be over-policed, overly affected, and overly denied. Especially Now during an active pandemic, Who is our city and school district prioritizing by sending young people back to a physical school?

Andrew Nussbaum

inside City Limits

July 12, 2020, 9:16 AM

Question 1

Yes, actual and applied affordable housing and houselessness are extremely important. Future development is also important in regards to prioritizing the two issues above and mitigating continued gentrification!! However, these issues must be connected to how systemic racism, classism, and ableism define our city. Only when we DEFUND police and reprioritize our budget (\$\$) to actually reflect the above issues will we experience a community that reimagines safety and well-being!!!

Question 2

- Police department taking up huge amount of city resources
- Gentrification
- Police in schools
- De facto housing segregation
- Lack of mental health resources and programs

Question 3

- Divest from policing budget and invest in housing, public social services, and housing.
- Stop construction on new police headquarters

Community Check-in for 2020 Strategic Plan

How have recent events, including issues of racial equity as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, affected community perceptions and priorities for the 2020 strategic plan?

- Discontinue MOU agreement with USD497 and take police out of schools
- Expand social service resources and access to community members
- Acknowledge that Lawrence is rooted in systemic racism and actively work towards ensuring responses to: COVID, return to schools, housing market, city hall decisions are made through a critical lens of anti-racism

Question 4

DEFUND police and REIMAGINE safety!!!

Name not shown

inside City Limits

July 12, 2020, 10:13 AM

Question 1

No, I think the most pressing priorities are ending evictions, housing homeless people, utility relief, and NO in person schooling in the fall.

Question 2

- Virtual schooling
- Ending evictions
- Access to food
- Utility assistance
- Homeless community

Question 3

- End evictions with past due rent being waived due to covid
- End utility shut offs, with past due bills being waived due to covid
- Housing homeless people in the hundreds of vacant apartments in Lawrence
- Releasing people jailed because they can't afford bail
- Do not force people to send their kids to school in the fall, rather incorporate existing home schooling programs with the schools curriculum and maybe form a contract to work with existing technology for homeschooling

Question 4

Keep your citizens safe. These are basic human rights, to food, to shelter, to sanitation, to safety.

Jackie Carroll

inside City Limits

July 12, 2020, 10:33 AM

Question 1

Yes. We need to provide affordable housing and it's even more important as people can't safely share enclosed space. Lawrence definitely needs to do some serious work on finding the balance of comfortable/respectful growth paired with instead density and environmental sustainability. We certainly need to get up to mentioning our infrastructure. The city needs to find ways to include marginalized voices in its feedback methods.

Question 2

- Defunding the police
- Climate change resiliency

Question 3

- Funding mental health services
- Funding food security - food banks, planting fruit trees in public spaces & ensuring harvest & distribution, funding to make CSAs from local farms free or affordable
- Funding building efficiency efforts like insulation retrofits and energy audits and HVAC/water heater upgrades
- Free public transportation
- Close the coal plant

Question 4

No response

Name not available

July 12, 2020, 10:42 AM

Question 1

They are important but may not be the most pressing issues any longer. Ensuring racial equity and keeping the community safe during the pandemic have become more important.

Question 2

- ensuring racial equity
- improving police relations with people of color
- pandemic response

Question 3

Community Check-in for 2020 Strategic Plan

How have recent events, including issues of racial equity as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, affected community perceptions and priorities for the 2020 strategic plan?

- shift money from the police to mental health services
- add teeth to mask requirements
- end qualified immunity

Question 4

No response

Name not shown

inside City Limits

July 12, 2020, 11:29 AM

Question 1

Yes they are still important issues, but it is imperative we refocus at this time with the momentum our community has created to drive change that addressed systemic racism within our community systems. It also affords an opportunity to look at the aforementioned issues and uplift voices to understand how we can INCLUDE racial equity in those conversations.

Question 2

- Over funding the police
- Under funding mental health
- Regulations around housing and lack of adequate affordable housing
- General accessibility

Question 3

- Defund our police and reallocate to mental health programs
- Reduce incarceration rates
- Increase measures for officer and judicial accountability
- Improve transit system

Question 4

No response

Name not available

July 12, 2020, 11:52 AM

Question 1

the issues about homelessness, affordable housing, and city communication with public are important. things not listed that need to be addressed immediately are racial equities in our community and justice system. these problems need to be solved first before anything

else can be done. we need to fix the large scale problems before we can even think about the smaller things.

Question 2

- defund the police
- defund the police
- defund the police
- redistribute funding to schools
- redistribute funding to help marginalized people in our community

Question 3

- homelessness
- affordable housing
- racial equity
- defund the police
- defund the police

Question 4

defund the police. redistribute to schools, community health center, community-led organizations

Name not shown

inside City Limits

July 12, 2020, 6:12 PM

Question 1

I believe these items are important regardless of the current situation or not.

This city has a distinct lack of affordable housing. Our 'affordable housing' is based on the high prices of homes in this town as well as the fact that we have a college / university here and that always drives up housing prices. If I am looking to rent a house for myself and my family (for example), why should I have to pay the same as college students? A 3-bedroom home in Lawrence is outrageously priced... anywhere from about 800-900 per month and up (and I've seen advertising as much as over \$2,000.00 per month). How is someone who is a 'resident' and not a 'student' able to afford those prices?

And for those who aren't even able to work for more than minimum wage, they have very little choice but to use public housing, and that's only if they can get in.

Do you realize that the annual income of someone who works minimum wage is only (approx.) \$15,600.00? That's before taxes, food, insurance,

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etc.

For a family of 3 (father, mother, and child), If you figure about 15% - 20% for taxes, that's about \$4,680.00 to \$6,240.00, so their income drops to between \$26,520.00 and \$24,960.00. Add in food (family of 3) is going to be between probably \$300 - \$500 per month, so that cuts the monthly income that much.

If you then add in vehicle / transportation expenses, insurance, utilities, etc. these people are lucky to have any money left at the end of the month. How can they afford \$800+ per month for rent?

As far as any other situations currently affecting Lawrence, I'm not going to comment on them at this time. We will see if this city survives the coming 'onslaught' when it hits full force. I'm not sure that I want to be living here after that.

Question 2

- Letting the 'protests' be anything but that... if they are not peaceful then start arresting the ones who do anything to anyone/anything/anyplace, including statues and monuments. This is so far out of hand it's ridiculous.
- Massachusetts Street... when we first moved here (about 5 years ago), it was a lot more 'welcoming'. However, with the number of businesses that have closed / opened / closed, etc. it's getting to where it's not worth going there any more. Something needs to be done about 'rent / lease' prices so businesses have a chance to prosper... some type of rent control.

Question 3

- 'Sidewalks'... the City 'owns' (right-of-way) up to 60' from the center of the street, but refuses to be responsible for repairing what's in that 60'. Sidewalks need to be maintained by the City, not the owners.
- The transit system we have I've used, but I feel that it definitely needs some overhauling / upgrading, especially for people who use it at night. It's near impossible to get night rides unless you call a week in advance, and then you can't be guaranteed a ride even then (or a specific time).

Question 4

Please put the 'people' first, not the 'powerful companies / people' who try to run the city. If you make this town appealing to people, they will be more likely to come shop / rent / buy / etc. At this time, it definitely doesn't look like this is the goal of the leaders.

Name not shown
inside City Limits

July 12, 2020, 8:42 PM

Question 1

Absolutely not. The issues were determined before Covid. Covid has proven a devastating financial catastrophe for the majority of Americans and especially for local residents and yet there has been no motions by the City of Lawrence to provide the financial aid residents desperately need. As it currently stands, Lawrence residents will experience massive homelessness, bankruptcies, and devastated health the likes of which are too monumental to fully comprehend if the City continues to twiddle their thumbs pursuing issues that very obviously have been made irrelevant by Covid-19.

Racial demonstrations across the country but especially in Lawrence have demonstrated how enormous our own police and governing corruption has become. The demonstrations should have also provided a clear and irrepressible understanding that residents are both aware of the significant racially charged corruption occurring in Lawrence, but that we won't stand for it to continue, pandemic or none. We know the names of Black and Brown men unlawfully imprisoned in Douglas County Jail, we know how insultingly massive the police budget is compared to housing, mental health, medical, and educational services in Lawrence and we have been demanding the reprioritizing of the city budget for weeks.

Instead of re-surveying Lawrence again and again concerning bogus "issues" that have no urgency or relevance to the needs of residents, how about the City gets going on ripping up the police budget and creating Covid Financial Aid packages for each Lawrence Resident under a certain income threshold. Make no mistake, the poorest of Lawrence residents are preparing to die over their financial hardships. Working class residents are preparing to lose family homes and their lives as the pandemic stretches. It is working and poor class residents who have been exposed to Covid the entire time, being low-income essential employees, and they have been abandoned by their public servants and do not expect to ever see the help they need. It is the responsibility of the City of Lawrence to protect and support every vulnerable resident.

Question 2

- Reprioritizing the City Budget to reduce Police Funding
- Covid-19 Housing/Financial Relief
- Rent Cancellation in Lawrence for the Duration of the Pandemic
- Keeping USD 497 CLOSED for Fall 2020
- Reclosing Lawrence non-essential businesses and providing financial support to local businesses. Perhaps out of the police budget.

Question 3

- Cut Police budget by at least half and use that money for Covid Relief

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- Use local taxes to fund Covid Housing and Financial Relief for Lawrence Residents (REGARDLESS OF CITIZENSHIP STATUS)
- Cancel Rent and Nullify Eviction Applications filed after March 15th to prevent residents being unjustly removed from their housing during the pandemic
- Order the Closing of USD497 Schools for the Fall Term. Teachers and Students will die if schools are allowed to resume as normal after the steady incline of the last two weeks.
- For God's sake, SHUT DOWN NONESSENTIAL BUSINESSES. Provide financial aid to local businesses out of that massive police budget.

Question 4

Lawrence is in desperate and immediate need of immense financial aid in the wake of this devastating pandemic. Hundreds are projected to lose their housing by August 1st due to Eviction applications that began immediately after Quarantine in March due to the lack of rent cancellation or assistance. Lawrence/Douglas Co Covid cases are rising exponentially due to the continued operation of nonessential businesses, especially in bars like Bullwinkles and The Hawk. With the massive leap in Covid cases, we are now in a much worse place than we were in March when everything shutdown, yet USD 497 still plans to resume as normal, risking hundreds of lives under the direction of Betsy DeVos, a woman lacking any education credentials. The Federal Gov is looking like it will not be supporting citizens through the crisis and yet we are desperately in need of additional stimulus funding just to retain our houses and care for our families. The Police Department's ridiculous and excessively extravagant budget for 2020 is the best place to source these desperately needed financial aids.

Name not available

July 12, 2020, 9:47 PM

Question 1

I think our community wants the issues of a pandemic and racial revolution addressed first. I've lived in Lawrence my entire life, and the roads have always and will always suck. Construction lasts an entire year, then potholes are back within two years. I would absolutely prefer that we address the disproportionate number of Black people in our county jail, or the corrupt police on our force, or protecting our students and faculty during a pandemic, or decriminalizing traffic crimes that result from lack of money or just a lapse in noticing (no insurance, broken light, etc), or any other issues that truly cause harm in our community, rather than "planning" or "flow of traffic." I do agree with homelessness and affordable housing being of top priority, as our homeless and sufferers of mental illness/addiction are often punished or stigmatized. Let Lawrence be a leader in progressive programs that take care of our citizens.

Question 2

- Overpopulated jail
- DTL businesses being neglected/rents being raised
- You have to have a car to get around in a timely manner
- School Funding (for arts and clubs, not just sports)
- Kids going back to school while cases are still rising

Question 3

- Defund LKPD (seriously)
- Legalize marijuana/decriminalize addiction
- Look at cities of similar sizes to move forward with better public transit

Question 4

No response