

**Downtown Surrey BIA
Questions for Council Candidates 2022**

JOHN GIBEAU, SAFE SURREY COALITION

1. Describe the skills and experience that you will bring to Council if you are elected?

As founder of Honeybee Centre, I created and built a 38-employee beekeeping company and visitor attraction in Surrey that continues to operate after 22 years. As a 16-year former police officer with the Burnaby RCMP and the New Westminster Police Service, I have worked in virtually every aspect of a police department from general patrol, administration, property services, major crimes, and homicide. My Master's in Business Administration project was on community-based policing.

To the role of councilor, I bring experience and expertise in all aspects of business management and policing.

2. Are you committed to a strong City Centre and the creation of a vibrant Downtown core?

a. Do you support an entertainment district in Downtown Surrey? **Yes, absolutely.**

b. What is your plan to attract investment - arts – culture – technology and community to Downtown Surrey? **The question is broad and best answered by confirming that I support a vibrant downtown Surrey with high density, Skytrain, an entertainment district, and an arts/culture presence.**

3. Councilors not only have to solve problems but also act as ambassadors for the City. In your opinion, what are the five top reasons people should live or work in Surrey?

The City of Surrey is a family friendly city with an increasing amount of middle-class affordable housing, three universities (KPU, SFU, and soon UBC), a growing industrial section with jobs in high-tech and other sectors, Skytrain to Langley, soon to be Skytrain to Newton, sports fields and swimming pools, and soon to be 60,000-seat multi-purpose stadium. Surrey is one of the fastest growing cities in Canada and offers a vibrant multi-cultural community where people can truly live, work, and play.

4. We know there is always a debate between perception and reality. Everyone wants a safe place to live and do business.

a. What is your strategy to deal with the root causes of crime? **Work with youth starting at a young age using our new community-based police officers and continue to add supportive housing for homeless and low-income people.**

b. Do you support the recent call by BIABC (speaking on behalf of 70 BIAs within BC) to make a commitment to support core funding that will mitigate main street issues through increased

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policing resources, street lighting, sanitation, and anti-graffiti programs, as well as stronger bylaw enforcement? I am not familiar enough with BIA funding and priorities to answer this question.

5. Now that the Skytrain to Langley is underway, what do you think is the next priority for public transit South of the Fraser?

Skytrain to Newton and where practical, rapid bus services connecting town centres.

6. Seniors, students, single parent families, one income families and people who are homeless are all looking for housing that is affordable. In June of this year, the CMHC issued a report that stated that the last time housing was affordable in Canada was in 2003.

a. If elected to Council, what initiatives would you support to deal with the housing affordability crisis and to insure a variety of housing types in Surrey to meet their needs?

Continue to add supportive housing, like Foxglove, for homeless people.

Significantly increase the new construction of apartments and where practical, offer developers incentives to include a portion of low-rent homes.

Significantly increase the new construction of townhomes and condominiums to provide affordable housing for the middle class.