

Second Council District Candidate Questionnaire

Please return by June 1. No limit on the length of responses.
If helpful, feel free to include links for further information.

South of Union Square/Tech Hub

What is your position on the commercial upzoning approved by the City Council at Councilmember Carlina Rivera's direction for the Tech Hub on 14th Street? Do you believe, as was stated by Councilmember Rivera when she ran for office in 2017, that without comprehensive neighborhood protections, it would increase development pressure on the directly adjacent East Village and Greenwich Village neighborhoods?

What is your position regarding the deal brokered by Councilmember Rivera for the Tech Hub upzoning as it regards protections for the neighborhood to the south? It included the proposed landmark designation of seven non-endangered buildings out of 193 requested for designation (a historic district) or about 3.5%, and no zoning or tenant protections whatsoever as promised at the time of passage. More progress within the Second Council District on landmark designation was also promised, but never materialized. Do you think campaign promises were broken? Do you think the only and best opportunity to force the City to grant those protections to this neighborhood was sacrificed with that deal?

South of Union Square/Tech Hub (continued)

What would you do to help push for comprehensive landmark protections for the area South of Union Square and its many civil rights, social justice, and architectural and historic landmarks, as proposed by Village Preservation and supported by community boards, elected officials, community groups, etc.? How would this differ from what you have done in the past three years since the approval of the Tech Hub? Have you written to the Mayor and the Chair of the Landmarks Preservation Commission stating that you support this proposed historic district, and urging them to move ahead with designation?

Zoning

What is your position on the proposed SoHo/NoHo rezoning, which the Mayor and leading Mayoral candidates have said they would seek to replicate in other historic neighborhoods with median incomes above the city average, such as those throughout the Second Council District? Do you support the approach in the plan or any elements of it? If so, which? What is your position on the SoHo/NoHo community alternative plan? Do you believe that upzonings increase pressure for demolition of existing rent-regulated housing and create a huge amount of new and very expensive market-rate housing, which has the opposite effect of the purported increase in affordability and diversity?

Do you support the City's current mandatory inclusionary housing program, and if not, why? (And be specific: Do you oppose all mandates for affordable housing? The fact that it requires a very large upzoning? The breadth or depth of affordable housing it requires?)

Zoning (continued)

What sort of changes to zoning in Council District 2 would you support or advocate for? Would you support upzoning (i.e., increasing the allowable density of development as compared to current rules), and if so, where and/or under what circumstances? Would you support contextual rezonings (i.e., limiting the height of new development and limiting the transfer of air rights) or downzonings (i.e., reducing the allowable density of new development as compared to current rules), and if so where and/or under what circumstances?

Would you seek zoning changes which would require new affordable housing in parts of the Second Council District, and if so where and under what conditions (upzoning? subsidies?)?

In general, are there changes to our zoning and planning system you would seek to implement or support, and if so, what are they? What is your position on the City Council's proposed "Planning Together" framework?

Small Businesses

What sort of measures would you support or propose to help small businesses? Do you support the implementation of zoning restrictions on chain stores in certain locations, and if so where? Do you support the Small Business Jobs Survival Act? Any other measures?

The City has implemented a plan to make permanent the outdoor dining allowed during the pandemic. Do you agree with this move? If not, how would you seek to change it, and what system and allowances for outdoor dining would you support?

Landmarks

Would you like to see more buildings or areas landmarked in City Council District 2, less, or would you keep it as is? If you would like to see more or less, where would you expand or decrease landmark designations?

How would you evaluate the job the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) has done in regulating District 2? Have they done a good job with approving or not approving changes to existing buildings? With approving or not approving proposed demolitions and new construction? In considering and approving new landmark designations?

Landmarks (continued)

If there are changes you would like to see with the LPC, how as a City Councilmember would you help effectuate that?

What would you tell a property owner who was opposed to their property being landmarked, given that you as City Councilmember must ultimately uphold the landmark designation when it comes before the City Council?

Name _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Thank You for Your Answers
