

Written Responses to LSNA

1) What resources or relationships do you uniquely have to support our economic development strategies?

As an incumbent alderman, I have a deep knowledge of how the city's Department of Planning and Development, TIF funding, and related programs function. I have also built relationships with many organizations throughout Logan Square and Hermosa, as we have worked together to push forward 100% affordable housing developments on the northwest side. I have also worked to build a grassroots independent political organization - United Neighbors of the 35th Ward - which has worked in the past to provide organizing support for affordable housing initiatives. I also have a strong working relationship with area and county elected officials which can assist us in our efforts - State Senator Iris Martinez, State Senator Omar Aquino, State Representative Jaime Andrade, State Representative Will Guzzardi, State Representative Delia Ramirez, and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle.

2) How would you encourage local hiring and adopt anti-displacement standards we set?

I would encourage these standards in the same manner I have throughout my tenure as 35th Ward Alderman, using my position as 35th Ward Alderman and our Community-Driven Zoning and Development process to work with new businesses and developers to ensure they are working to include affordability on site, good living wage jobs, and local hiring.

3) LSNA's immigration proposal is to beautify a corridor along Armitage Ave. in Hermosa. Our project will uplift and celebrate our immigrant community. What are specific ways you will support this project?

I have already met with LSNA leaders and pledged my support for this initiative. While I have been critical of TIF dollars being used to build luxury apartments and reward political campaign contributors, I believe that using TIF funds to implement this project would be an appropriate use of TIF public dollars. I will also reach out to area electeds to garner their support and I will work with small businesses and stakeholders with whom I already have a relationship to move this project forward.

4) How will you strengthen the city's Welcoming City Ordinance, particularly in regards to the gang database?

I believe in removing the carve outs to the Welcoming City Ordinance and ending the gang database, and am proud to have been on the of the leading sponsors of these measures, working closely with grassroots organizations to move these measures forward.

5) How will you get the funding to make CPS High Schools a viable option in our neighborhood?

I am proud to have the support of the Chicago Teachers Union for my track record on school issues - I have fought, and will continue to fight to fully fund our public schools by reforming our TIF program, I will support community school initiatives to ensure our schools are community anchors with wrap around services, and I will continue to fight for a fully-elected representative school board.

6) Schools and housing are inextricably connected. As an alderman, how are you going to influence city council to push forward community-driven initiatives such as the 606 Ordinance and the Emmett Street Affordable Housing Project both of which will create greater equity in our gentrifying communities and increase student enrollment in our neighborhood schools?

I'm proud to sponsor the 606 ordinance and to have worked diligently over the last four years to get 100% affordable housing at the Emmett Street parking lot. I have scheduled multiple meetings between stakeholders and the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) to move Emmett forward. I will continue to champion this project and the 606 ordinance in my second term.

7) Juan has schizophrenia and he has an altercation with the police – he's visibly agitated. It doesn't end well. What is your response from a public health perspective?

I have been fighting to reopen shuttered mental health clinics and was the sole vote against the cop academy, arguing we should spend \$95 million on mental health services, after school programs, jobs, and education - not a new shooting range for cops. I will continue to advocate for a holistic approach to public safety that centers the need for fully funded public mental health services.

8) With the closure of the 6 mental health clinics, our communities have experienced instability. What funds and resources are you planning to invest in mental health?

As 35th Ward Alderman and Democratic Committeeman, I supported the mental health clinic referendum for Logan Square, Avondale, and Hermosa, and led a canvassing effort through my political office in the weeks leading up to election day. Working with the health professional of AFSCME, I've introduced ordinances that will reopen and fully fund our mental health clinics. I will continue to champion these efforts in my second term.

9) 20,000 Latinx have been displaced in Logan square since 2000. How do you plan to prevent further displacement in Logan Square, Hermosa and Avondale?

I am fighting hard to get 100% affordable housing developments built in Logan Square, I have informed DPD and CHA that I want as many Lathrop replacement units as possible built in the 35th Ward. I will continue to fight to build this housing, and I will continue to champion lifting the ban on rent control to ensure we are taking steps to stop displacement and keep families in their homes. I also support the Here to Stay proposal from LSNA to promote homeownership of working class Latinx residents.

10) What will you do to support and champion a strong ARO that has a higher percentage of affordable units, requires more family size units and builds in more monitoring?

I believe the ARO must be amended to ensure 25% of new developments are affordable units - no exceptions! I also believe we must work to ensure the units being built under the ARO are truly affordable and family-size units for residents facing displacement.