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Council at-Large
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I would prefer to come on April 9th at 6:00 pm.

1. I do not believe the ten-year tax abatement should be abolished because I do feel it has stimulated good development and brought people into the city. However, it was never intended to be forever. One possible modification that I could support is reducing the amount of abatement for the school portion of the tax. This will provide additional needed funds for the School District.
2. I would favor reassessments being done every three or four years in stages around the city, instead of annually. I believe it's been proven that attempting to reassess annually results in many mistakes and this leads to many appeals, confusion and frustration.
3. I favor reduction in the wage and business taxes. However, I would not support a major shift in real estate taxes until there is a study on the effects of homeowners and hopefully (and this would take at least a couple of years) the state allowing us to tax commercial property higher than residential.
4. I am hesitant to totally turn over collections to a private entity without being comfortable that low-income taxpayers will have a fair opportunity to make reasonable agreements that will not result in losing their homes.
5. I think City Council handled the PGW situation correctly. Rather than having hearings on a plan that clearly had little support in Council (including myself), we need to look forward toward the future, as we are doing with recent hearings on the subject, and come up with ideas that benefit all concerned-the customers, the workers and they city as a whole. I believe the concept of a public/private partnership is the goal we should be working towards. Unlike the UIL plan, all entities-the Administration, the City Council, the workers and the general public-should be fully involved from the beginning of the process.
6. We need to find a stable, recurring funding stream producing hundreds of millions of dollars annually, going directly to the pension fund. This will help stabilize the fund in both the short and long term, and accelerate the time it takes to get a fully funded status. I believe the City Council plan to dedicate a portion of the sales tax increase to the pension fund was a possible vehicle. However, the plan was not accepted by the state.
7. The longtime homeowner has worked hard to maintain their properties and raise their families often in difficult circumstances. I believe government has a role in protecting these people so they are not displaced from their community that perhaps generations before them established. I am open to remedies that protect such individuals.

8. I think every proposal should be considered on its merits individually. Any Council ordinance has to have a public hearing where all voices are heard. I would decide based on that public input.
9. After working for many years, Council, the Administration, and the different community organizations came together to produce the best law possible. I would not support eliminating the Council involvement. Council members are elected by the citizens and understand the needs of the community.
10. I believe the city has a number of offices that perform similar duties of the Inspector General, including the elected City Controller and Chief Integrity officer. I believe that some of the duties overlap and need to be flushed out before an Inspector General's office is made permanent. The finances and resources that come with making an office permanent under the Charter need to be taken into consideration as well.
11. I believe the redistricting process currently works as it is and the last time City Council redistricted, it was the intention of Council to create a Latino district, to best meet the needs of the Latino community. I don't know that an independent commission would take that into consideration and it would be unfair to disenfranchise the Latino vote. City Council members know the City well and what populations need and want representation and independent commission may not be as familiar with those voter needs.
12. I believe the City Commissioner's hold one of the most important jobs in the City as they are in charge of elections, and the democratic process. I believe the Commissioners need to be accountable to the public through the electoral process. An election administrator that reports to the Mayor is only held accountable to the Mayor and not the people.
13. No, I do not support the abolition of the Sheriff's office, I believe the Sheriff's office should be held accountable through the electoral process.
14. I believe the role of the community has been greatly expanded under the current zoning code through the creation of Registered Community Organizations (RCOs). Under a bill that Council approved, District Council members must meet with RCOs during the zoning process. As Chair of the Rules Committee, which hears zoning legislation, I have met with many members of the Community who have shared the needs and concerns of their neighborhood and my door is always open. I also believe that the Planning Commission should continue to work with RCOs to hear feedback of ways to better improve the process.
15. During the budget process, Council will be looking at a number of ways to increase funding for schools. I do not believe the City should commit to a certain number as I believe the state has a responsibility to the district to do more. A fair funding formula needs to be created to ensure the needs of the district are met. The City's budget changes based on the economic situations facing the country and committing to a specific number every year would be too difficult. I believe if we are using public money there should be at least some agreement with the school district on how the money will be spent.
16. I believe we need to find a place for the homeless and have advocated with the City to find a permanent place for the feedings on the Parkway. It has been difficult to find such a place as many neighborhoods do not want such a facility. A fine line that has to be walked so as to protect the

community but not infringe on the rights of the homeless. I did vote to support a bill sponsored by Councilman DiCicco which dealt with sidewalk behavior and aggressive panhandling which passed Council in 2011.