* Name:Theo Ellington
* District: D10

Q2

Affordable Housing: How will you support infill development throughout the City along with affordability measures to keep residents in SF? How will you respond to pushback from your constituents regarding height and/or density? How will you support more compact walkable mixed-use neighborhoods as the City addresses its housing needs? (please limit your response to 250 words)

We should do all we can to encourage infill development in District 10 and throughout the city. Our district’s future, especially along our beautiful waterfront, depends on a public representation that vigorously protects our natural landscape. When development is necessary, we must build a robust advisory relationship between government, those who modify the land, and people living within the community. I will support legislation that encourages developers to develop in a way that reflects the values of the city. Walkable neighborhoods and mixed-use zoning opportunities are central to helping our community. We cannot build without also considering green spaces for our children to play, sidewalks that are safe and clean, and responsible residential growth near transit hubs.

Q3

Walkable and Bikeable Streets: How will you support safer streets? How will you help implement Vision Zero? How will you support walkable and bikeable streets in the City? Please include your thoughts about existing initiatives other than Vision Zero and what your response would be to opposition to better bike infrastructure in your neighborhood (such as traffic calming, bike lanes, bike and bike share docking stations?) (please limit your response to 250 words)

I support safe streets across San Francisco and District 10. All communities deserve safe streets, and the Vision Zero initiative provides policymakers, department heads, and the city with a platform for tackling road safety. I will support Vision Zero by actively seeking both public and private funding opportunities and actively take legislative action on bold ideas to realize Vision Zero. On the District level, we have several opportunities to implement preventative measures. For example: 1. Third Street: restricting parking in specific areas along Third St. to allow for bulb-outs at busy intersections to both calm traffic and make the corridor more walkable (explore widening sidewalk or requiring setbacks for new development projects). 2. Evans Street: restripe lane markers and provide barriers for two way traffic and bike lanes 3. Illinois: repave streets and remove unstable muni tracks and add a protected bike line (this street also serves as a truck route) 4. Blue Greenway: work with developers (Rec & Park and the Port) to provide immediate access to the southern waterfront. 5. Hairball: work with DPW to provide weekly cleanups and HSA for homeless services In light of opposition, I will use data to back policy decisions when necessary.

Q4

Reliable, Fossil Free Public Transit: How will you close the MUNI funding gap identified in the Mayor’s Transportation 2030 Task Force? How will you help fund vital new BART cars and station improvements? How will you address opposition to transit lanes in your neighborhood? Will you recommit MUNI to its fossil free pledge and ensure our future procurements eliminate diesel from San Francisco's public transportation fleet? (please limit your response to 250 words)

A great public transit funding tool, and one I have experience with from my time at the Warriors is tying transit improvement to private development and making companies pay for the infrastructure that their businesses depend on. When the Warriors built the Chase Center I negotiated: • A “lockbox fund” of $1,000,000 per year, that the Warriors give to the city and community to use for transit improvements. • The purchase of three new T-car trains. • Infrastructure improvements like installing crossover tracks and expanding muni platforms. We cannot have developers coming in to low density areas, building new housing, and then overloading our fragile transportation systems with thousands of new riders. Good public transit is public benefit for everyone. Transit lanes have been successful where they have been implemented across the city. Plenty of people in District 10 waste valuable hours each week sitting in traffic on the bus, when they should be home with their loved ones, or out making a difference in the community. Once we implement transit lanes, and people see the benefits, I believe that the results will speak for themselves. I support expansion of cutting-edge Ultralight Rail Transit technologies like those being developed by the city of San Pablo and CyberTran International (more info here: http://cybertran.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/San-Pablo-ULRT-Press-Release.pdf) Finally, I support an all-electric MUNI fleet. We must find a battery powered electric bus capable of handling all of the hills, and then begin replacing out diesel fleet. But additionally, we should improve our fossil fuel busses to increase efficiency (such as installing idle shut-offs on all busses). Things like this are easy and low cost. It is mind-boggling that they have not happened already.

Q5

Energy Efficiency: What should the City do to encourage energy conservation by residents, businesses, and the City itself? Please include your thoughts on how the City can work, or continue to work, with homeowners and landlords to improve overall housing efficiency with efforts to upgrade windows, insulation, thermostats, fuse boxes, refrigerators, etc. (please limit your response to 250 words)

1. Retrofit commercial multifamily properties with the latest environmental tech. 2. Offer educational resources to residential property owners, helping them simplify and expand their conservation practices. 3. Offer special financing packages to businesses who will take extra steps towards becoming environmentally conscious. 4. Move towards zero waste by increasing recycling improvements. 5. Increased efficiency reduces the bottom line for the homeowner. Educate them. 6. A special financing opportunity for new windows, insulation, thermostats, or other energy efficient upgrades-- PG&E or Clean Power SF provides a loan grant that can be repaid through property taxes, allowing the homeowner to borrow against future tax payments over an extended period of time. 7. Invest to expand Clean Power SF to include geothermal energy (for housing) and other renewable energy measures.

Q6

Renewable Energy: What specific changes would you make to CleanPowerSF to expand residents’ awareness of the program, affordability, and environmental impact? (please limit your response to 250 words)

CleanPowerSF is a fantastic program, and something I will undoubtedly champion as Supervisor. In fact, I am a proud CleanPower SF customer at my home in the shipyard. To expand people’s awareness of the program, believe more should be done to explain to people that their service will not change. Many people I have spoken with believing that CleanPowerSF is separate from PG&E. I think more needs to be done to show how easy it is to switch. As far as affordability goes, we should mandate that new housing developers pay for SuperGreen power, especially when building affordable housing units. San Franciscans should not have to choose between saving the planet and putting food on the table. San Francisco has always been on the cutting edge. I would urge the PUC to create and institute branch of CleanPowerSF, where we can research and discover new and improved power generation and transmission technologies.

Q7

Water Sustainability & Conservation: How will you ensure the City sustainably manages its water supply, wastewater, and stormwater runoff? How will you enhance the City's water resiliency and reduce its reliance on imported water through efficiency programs, recycling, distributed and green infrastructure, regional coordination, and/or stormwater management? (please limit your response to 250 words)

Our water supply is crucial to our success as a city. In order to solidify our water supply, we should 1. Diversify water sources a. Legalize/expand uses of grey water. b. Smart ground water usage. c. Continued use of the Hetch-Hetchy but without selling it. 2. Advance water efficiency 3. Increase water reuse 4. Reduce inflows to sewer system . Additionally, we may need to retrofit parts of our sewer system so that it can function with less water. If water use drops too much, our sewer system will have a solids percentage that is too high for everything to flow. 5. Environmental trainings for SF Water staff 6. Increase funding to watershed and environmental improvement program 7. Explore the idea of a desalination plant, to ensure water independence into a likely drought-stricken future.

Q8

Zero Waste: What specific actions would you take to ensure the City meets its Zero Waste by 2020 goal? Have San Francisco’s recent steps to meet its goal, including banning styrofoam containers, some bottled water sales, and plastic bags (and potentially soon plastic straws) been successful? What’s next? (please limit your response to 250 words)

Zero Waste is an outstanding program, both because of its impact on climate change in the grand scheme of things, and its impact on keeping our streets clean right here at home. As Supervisor I would work closely with Recology to develop ways of recycling/safely disposing of more products (such as the recent additions of curbside battery and plastic film disposal). I believe most people in San Francisco want to do what is best for the environment; we need to make it easy. I firmly support the implementation of a partner responsibility program, encouraging corporate partners to create products with minimal waste impact--utilizing recycling and composting whenever possible. Also, to be clear, that partnership program would include unequivocal support for a ban on plastic straws and other especially harmful forms of plastic. I would also strive to implement solutions around the Zero Waste Textiles Initiative, encouraging multi-unit owners to provide educational opportunities and clear plastic bags for their residents interested in recycling and reusing scrap cloth.

Q9

Combating Climate Change: How would you update and implement San Francisco’s Climate Action Plan? How would you push City departments to meet their Climate Action Plan goals? Would you support divesting from fossil fuel investments? (please limit your response to 250 words)

One of the most critical items in the SF Climate Action Plan is the goal of making 50% of our journeys in the city without a car. Efficient, safe, and reliable public transit is a cornerstone of an environmentally conscious city, as well as an essential tool for making San Francisco more affordable. It's long past time to make an all-electric MUNI fleet a reality. I support 100% divestment from San Francisco’s reliance on fossil fuels. It’s a long-overdue move for this progressive city, and one small step towards a much larger goal of mitigating the crisis of climate change. As a city with robust diplomatic, cultural, and historical ties to the world’s number one polluter -- China, we are uniquely influential position as a potential progressive model for clean climate action. Tangibly, we must… 1. Develop and invest in renewable energy, including funding innovative ideas around the more efficient capture and use of power. 2. Discourage driving and encourage public transit. 3. Invest in faster, cleaner transit options, and more public transit along the East-West lines of District 10. 4. Implement punitive consequences for those who dump construction waste (especially prevalent in Bayview) instead of disposing of it properly.

Q10

Your Environmental Priorities: Why should the San Francisco League of Conservation Voters endorse you? What will your top environmental priorities be in office? If you are an officeholder, please highlight the environmental achievements you are proudest of. (please limit your response to 250 words)

Our top three issues are: 1. Building housing that’s reflective of our community’s needs, including responsible development initiatives for residents and the environment 2. Addressing the environmental justice travesty at Hunters’ Point 3. Taking a leadership role to address transportation concerns proactively. My top priority is housing. Rebuilding public and affordable housing, supporting eco-friendly infill development of new homes, and making sure that our families can have a safe and affordable place to call home. Our district contains the Naval Shipyard, a blight on San Francisco’s otherwise progressive environmental reputation. We must commit fully to rectifying and restoring the land in Hunters Point, for the ecosystem and for the residents who were misled by faceless corporations like Tetra Tech. Better transportation options can eliminate traffic deaths in our city. We must extend reliable public transportation so our families can rely on it in the mornings as they go to work, and in the evenings when they come home. They will help us clear traffic, which restricts our economy and does irreparable damage to our city’s ecosystem.