

Downtown Management District Meeting
Downtown Forum Questions for
Thursday, March 3, 2005, at 5:30 p.m.

All Candidates:

1. In two minutes or less, what are the two or three most critical issues facing the downtown area and how specifically would you commit to addressing them, especially given the other issues and needs throughout the city?

Individual Questions:

1. At what level do you support continued funding of the Downtown Management District by the City of Corpus Christi? Why or why not?

2. Are you familiar with the South Central Area Development Plan? Do you agree with the action items prioritized in that document?

3. The Lichtenstein building, the Ward building, Sea Gulf Villa parking garage, Jose O'Malley's and the Ritz Theater are examples of long vacant buildings that detract from the aesthetics and the image of downtown. Would you offer the owners of these properties incentives to encourage them to improve their appearance? What sanctions should be applied to owners who fail to take corrective action? Would you support eminent domain condemnation as a last resort?

4. Voters approved a 1/8 cent sales tax increase for Economic Development which includes building the baseball facilities and \$500,000 allocated to affordable housing each year. In reference to the affordable housing, how much of that money has been devoted to downtown development? How much should be?

5. In order for downtown to survive, the current basic physical facilities (e.g. water, sewer, drainage, cable and communications) must be upgraded. What importance do you place on these infrastructure upgrades and how soon should we expect its completion?

6. What do you believe is an appropriate level of commercial development on the T-heads and along Shoreline Drive Downtown.

7. Give us your ideas on how economic incentives could be used to stimulate residential development in the downtown area.

8. Traffic congestion and a shortage of parking are issues affecting downtown business viability. Share with us your ideas on how we can mitigate these potential impediments to growth.

9. Within the South Central Area Development Plan, the Downtown Action Group proposes utilizing tax increment financing to fund needed downtown area improvements. What is your understanding of this mechanism? How should we go about implementing a TIF proposal? What projects should be financed with any TIF monies generated?

10. How important do you feel the Arts are to Corpus Christi (specifically downtown) and where do you see this as a budget priority?

11. In your opinion, how does Downtown relate to the overall success of our City? Do you believe we need a thriving Downtown to be a successful community?

12. How do you envision Downtown in 10 years and what can you do to aid in getting Downtown to that point? How would you prioritize Downtown in your list of “projects to accomplish”?