

20 September 2005
Williamson AM Candidate Questionnaire Response

Ward Four
Daniel B. Klatt
214 Third Avenue South
Age 54 (1/23/51)
Occupation – Self-employed Graphic Designer
Married nearly 36 years to Denise, three children, three grandchildren

1. What the biggest issue facing the city? Your ward?

Managing growth in ways that preserve our community character is our greatest challenge, and greatest opportunity. Responsible growth requires us to be good stewards of the land by balancing land conservation with development patterns, protecting water quality and our environment, and continuing to create and implement growth management tools. Traffic concerns, affordable housing and infrastructure improvements can all be addressed with innovative land use regulations, but we must be willing to educate ourselves about the impact our decisions have on the quality of life for Franklin. Building a sustainable community requires leaders who are willing to do the work and have the political will to make informed decisions about where development is appropriate and where it is not, and understand how density considerations effect the cost of and pressure on infrastructure, service delivery, land conservation, and air and water quality.

2. Where is the biggest traffic issue in the city, and how would you propose fixing it?

A major contributor to traffic congestion in Franklin is through-traffic and workforce traffic – single occupancy vehicles traveling to and through Franklin from the south and west in the morning, and returning in the evening. TDOT prioritization of the Mack Hatcher Parkway Extension and improvements to the Goose Creek Bypass / I-65 Corridor will certainly help, eventually. But just adding more lanes of asphalt will not fix our traffic issues. We should be carefully measuring how our land use decisions impact traffic. Until we are willing to provide workforce housing options in our community, giving workers the opportunity to live near their jobs, we will continue to add to the commute.

3. What is the role of the city in preserving land? How do you propose the city maintain the several hundred acres it acquired in parkland in the past two years?

Land conservation, the preservation of agricultural view sheds, and environmental impact concerns should be very high on our priority list, but government must have permission from the voters through referendum prior to spending general fund

revenues for outright land purchase. Innovative land use reform methods should insure that development growth in built areas contributes to preservation of open space in other areas. All of us should participate in these initiatives that will influence and preserve our community character, but the burden should be shared. The City of Franklin Parks Department will oversee the design, implementation and maintenance of the Park at Harlinsdale and the Battlefield Park at Carnton as city parks for the enjoyment of all. We have made these commitments, and now must fulfill them. The fact is, even with these two purchases, we are woefully behind in land conservation efforts and need to work diligently as a community to catch up.

4. City leaders have spent the past several months debating personnel issues, and the management of the city. What do you think an alderman's role is in the day-to-day operations of the city?

The Mayor is the Executive Branch of our local government with direct responsibility for the daily operation of the city in conjunction with the City Administrator. Aldermen are members of the Legislative Branch. The role of an alderman is to listen to the community, and to the Mayor, and write and adopt policy legislation that defines and establishes priorities and direction for the city moving forward. Once policy is in place, it becomes the responsibility of the Mayor, City Administrator and Department Directors to carry out these policies. Aldermen should also collectively set clearly defined and attainable goals for the City Administrator. If we as aldermen focus completely on our job and do it correctly, there should be no need to interfere in the management of the city. We should leave the day-to-day operations of the city to the professionals who have been hired to do just that.

5. The 4th Ward has its share of diverse housing options – from historic mansions to more affordable options like those in Hardison Hills. How can you sustain housing and price diversity in the ward? How would you blend various uses and different housing types?

Sustaining economic diversity in housing has not been addressed as policy in the city of Franklin. We have been talking about it for years, but have been unable to take meaningful action, politically. There are many ways to address this serious issue: 1) Redevelopment districts that include incentives for affordable housing components, 2) Inclusionary zoning regulations for all residential development applications, 3) Belief in and support of our Land Use Plan to allow higher density where it is appropriate, 4) Stop stripping all affordable components from new development proposals as a political decision at the Board of Mayor and Alderman level, and 5) Create neighborhood enhancement opportunities for reinvestment in our older neighborhoods. I am not a proponent of economic segregation, which is what we have perpetuated across our city. I believe we should give greater consideration to mixed-use, mixed income development — patterns that create sustainable neighborhoods that are not automobile dependant.