Ann Arbor City Council



December 14th Work Session

Thematic Summary of Preparatory Conversations

10-Year Vision for Ann Arbor as a Community

1. Affordable, Desegregated Housing

10 mentions

- o Housing options are readily available across the spectrum of incomes
- Neighborhoods are economically and racially desegregated
- o People who work in Ann Arbor are able to live here if they wish
- Seniors are able to age in place or choose to relocate/downsize without leaving Ann Arbor

2. Robust Mobility System

7 mentions

 Well-designed, adequately funded infrastructure enables people to move around efficiently and safely how they choose (i.e., bike / walk / bus / car)

3. Leadership in Sustainability

6 mentions

- o A2 Zero has been achieved; the City no longer relies on fossil fuels
- o Ann Arbor has reclaimed a leadership position as relates to recycling

4. "A Great Place to Live" - Thriving Downtown, Vibrant Parks

5 mentions

- A quirky, distinctive mix of independent retail storefronts captures attention at street level
- o Ann Arbor is known for our distinctive entertainment venues / offerings
- o Recreational opportunities abound

5. Strong City Services

5 mentions

- Core infrastructure (i.e., water treatment/distribution, road system) is wellmaintained, operating at a level of service that meets or exceeds residents' expectations
- The City's professional culture is positive and empowered, comprised of valued employees making data-driven decisions
- The City continues to embrace an ethos of meaningful community engagement, respecting the expertise and opinions of residents
- The City's public safety model is compassionate and equitable, serving our <u>whole</u> community well
- The City engages in productive partnerships with other entities: state, county, federal government; DDA

Ways of Working Together

Respect

- Acknowledge the legitimacy of each other's perspectives and opinions
- Recognize the strengths and interests each CM brings to the table
- Avoid abusive language or pointed remarks

• Thoughtful Deliberation

O Listen to one another with an open mind so that each person feels heard



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- O Share "airtime" engage in more genuine, substantive dialogue
- o Ground our opinions and decisions in reason, data, and expertise
- Embrace complexity and nuance avoid black/white thinking

Collaboration

- Some sense of team; the ability to work toward a common goal
- o Coordinating with one another on constituent communications, events
- Seeking early input on ideas; inviting co-sponsors for resolutions

• Effectiveness

- Focus on the topic at hand, while keeping the best interests of the whole city in mind
- Restore trust in public institutions by modeling what a high-functioning public body looks like
- o Actively debunk conspiracy theories and condemn trolling

Trust

- Be generous with one another avoid the temptation to speculate about someone's intent or motives
- O Challenge ideas without disparaging the person
- Move past previous grievances; extend (and accept) olive branches

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Conversation Prompts

Welcome and introductions

- Introduce Kerry Sheldon of Bridgeport Consulting
- Share the purpose of these conversations and how the information will be used
- Discuss norms around confidentiality
- Welcome and respond to any initial questions, etc.

Interview prompts

- 1. Please share a bit about yourself and background.
- 2. At a high level, what do you see as the purpose of City government?
- 3. What are some of the key elements of your vision for what Ann Arbor should look like in 10+ years?
- 4. What are some of the ways we might know we're advancing toward this vision?
- 5. What barriers do you anticipate might impede progress toward this vision?
- 6. What's one word, phrase, or concept that describes how you'd like this City Council to work together and interact with one another?
- 7. What do you need from your colleagues on Council in order to help you live up to that concept?
- 8. How can I, as the facilitator, help you feel heard during the Dec. 14th session?
- 9. Any final thoughts, advice, or requests to share?