

Robert Kiley

For Kingston City Council Trillium District #6

Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce Questions

- **What is the next step for moving forward on the intensification of the Williamsville Main Street plan and what will you do to demonstrate growing Kingston as a livable, sustainable city during your 4 years on Council?**

We need to realize the potential of the plan in question and not let it collect dust (which is true for other City plans). For example, page 9 identifies many under-used lots that could be further developed for residential and commercial units. Page 53 talks of greening the streets with more trees. Page 66 promotes roof top gardens. I will advocate for these things if elected. They are important for creating a “complete community”. Making the area walkable and/or wheelable is too (page 13). Indeed, beautiful, mixed-use space - with local shops and well designed buildings - that’s easy to walk and wheel in - increases quality of life for residents and businesses. It’s good for the economy and the environment. It also attracts tourists to support the community. This is good growth. And it is an approach that applies across the City. It is relevant to my District, Trillium, where we see a massive redevelopment of the old Nortel site: a new school, different density and cost of housing, access to shopping and park space, and safe and smooth roads are all key.

- **2018 rental housing vacancy rate is 0.7%, the lowest in Canada. What steps will you take to increase the supply of housing?**

Kingston needs to revolutionize our planning by-laws. We need to allow for secondary suites, lane way houses, and tiny homes. These measures will help increase the vacancy rate and drive down accommodation prices. Lower prices are good for those in need, for young professionals starting their careers, and seniors living on fixed incomes. These measures can also lead to more homeownership and sense of community. Both are good for Kingston. Finally, we need to foster a culture of respect and collaboration between residents and developers to avoid unnecessary local strife and provincial challenges. The goal is simple: new buildings that are in touch with the heritage landscape of the place, the lived experience of the people, and the future growth of the City.

- **What is the next step for moving forward on the Kingston airport expansion and what will you do to expand air service during your 4 years on Council? For example, Which is a higher priority, another Canadian airline to compete with Air Canada or an American airline to access new US markets?**

We need to get Kingston on the map. Literally. When I fly across the country, or around the world, I always marvel that Brockville appears on the inflight system but not Kingston. Not only will this put our City in the minds of travelers, it will be a small but significant way to build relationships with the airlines and aviation industry. It is a “nudge” that opens dialogue for bigger things such as extended and new service to/from Kingston.

When we get new service, we must be mindful of the noise pollution it could create and the emissions it represents. And we should work to lessen both in constructive consultation with the community and industry.

- **What is the next step for moving forward on the intensification of JCB corridor expansion and new bridge and its linkage to the Third Crossing....and what will you do to encourage that growth during your 4 years on Council?**

We need to ensure that the correct zoning exists for businesses to build as they see fit. Specifically, we need to work with current landowners who are not utilizing their property to spur new development. This can be done in many ways: perhaps by waiving development fees where appropriate or offering other tax incentives that will promote industry and commercial activity.

And in the case of the traffic generated from the Third Crossing, we need to ensure that - in the words of former Chief Planner of Vancouver, Brent Toderian - traffic is prioritized. First pedestrians, then human powered, then public transit, then the car. This is the way of livable, 21st century cities the world over.

- **What is your solution to the lack of parking inventory in downtown Kingston? What is your financial plan for creating new parking spaces to add to the City's inventory to promote local retail?**

A mix of new municipal parking garages; mostly mandatory underground parking lots for new development; continued expansion and promotion of express bus services; and connected and protected bike lanes (not simply painting a line on one segment of some roads) is key to the economic development of downtown.

Need the proof that this works? On the public transportation front look to Portland, Oregon or Cleveland, Ohio. On (real and reliable) bike lanes look to Minnesota. These things had massive returns on investments.

They are excellent examples of smart, sustainable development. They are principles that Kingston can, and should, use across the City.

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