

Chaundra Bishop for Urbana City Council

Join our newsletter

Name

Email



Chaundra's Priorities

Accountable Policing

It is obvious there is a real need for a complete overhaul of the police system in this country. It is increasingly obvious that not every community is policed equally. Whether you want to call it defunding, divestment, reform, change or accountability, the fact is we have to do significantly more to make sure that every single person in the City of Urbana feels comfortable and content that their Police Department works for them.

As a Black woman, I am intimately familiar with the nerves that take over my body whenever a police car is behind me even though I have done nothing wrong. So many people in this community feel the same way. This is no longer acceptable and it's time for change.

There are things we can act on right away:

- Invest more in the community in order to reduce the need for the police.
 - Put substantial money in grassroots organizations that work on youth engagement and education to start.
- Invest in racial, economic equity and justice programs.
- Create community-based alternatives to address violence and harms.
 - Support for the city to implement the One Door policy, the collaboration with C-U At Home to utilize a crisis response team that will act as co-responders with police, and also provide the capacity for evaluation of mental health and substance abuse issues. This is an important first step and should be evaluated for success.
- Work directly with public health officials to document all law enforcement contact, violence and injuries.
 - Create surveys for people that have had contact with the police to encourage more accountability.
- Make police disciplinary records completely transparent.
- Completely review, update, and overhaul the police department's use of force policy. Then make sure the police are actually held accountable to follow the new use of force policy.

The fact is we have to do something different to make sure that every single person in this city knows that their police department works for them, protects them, serves them!

Safe and Vibrant Neighborhoods

One of the few positives of the current pandemic is the creative thinking that cities have had to undergo in how we utilize our public spaces. I am firmly in support of efforts to make our city more walkable and create more outdoors options for individuals and families to enjoy.

There are policies that I would like to see put into effect as soon as possible to allow our neighborhoods in ward 5 and city-wide to be as vibrant and safe as possible.

- Maintain a sense of community in our neighborhoods.
 - Where neighbors share a sense of community, residents are more likely to feel safe and secure and have a lower fear of crime than where there is no sense of community. People living in connected

Affordable Housing

First, we should make 10% of all large multi-unit housing complexes required to be affordable housing. If we are going to have giant development companies building in Urbana, at the very least the community should be able to utilize those resources to help our neighbors.

Second, we need to continue to push for a \$15 minimum wage. If people have a higher wage, they are more likely to be able to afford housing. No one should be punished into homelessness because they don't earn enough in their job(s).

Third, we need to ensure fair housing policies for people that have convictions. There are many people that have trouble acquiring housing because of mistakes in their past. We have seen how laws can change and people punished for something that is now legal, like possessing marijuana. This isn't fair, it isn't just, and we can do better.

As always, this is just a start but I feel compelled to let you know where I stand. I will work with all my neighbors, community groups, and the city administration to come up with new ideas, strengthen current policies and make sure that no one without a home in our community.

Protecting the Urbana Free Library

- Libraries across the Country are under attack, slashing budgets, reducing hours and services and eventually shuttered in an endless quest for privatization by the Republican Party and their corporate friends. We cannot allow that to happen here.
- The Urbana Free Library is treasure and we have to be proactive in protecting it. Post COVID-19 budgets are sure to be constrained and we should not be looking to reduce anything to the Library. If anything, we should be expanding services and investing more to help our community in this trying time.

Neighborhood Preservation

The many benefits of historic preservation include economic development, civic identity, aesthetics, tourism, education, and environmental sustainability. The cultural and historic resources of a community tell the story of its past and make any single community distinct from other places. These resources provide tangible connections to the people and events that have shaped our communities and our collective histories. Preserving the physical reminders of our past creates a sense of place and community pride.

Communities can benefit from historic preservation. But when preservation hinders homebuilding and drives up rent, those who suffer are the low-income people forced to leave their communities in search of cheaper homes. Historic preservation has generally been criticized for its association with the negative consequences of revitalization and gentrification such as displacement of longtime residents, decreasing the affordable housing stock through strict development and design regulations, high cost of renovations and maintenance for homeowners, and a lack of diversity in what gets preserved and inequitable benefits.

In Urbana, I'd like to see historic neighborhoods that are equitable, mixed-income communities where residents and stakeholders are active participants in planning for high quality, affordable housing opportunities and the preservation of historic character and sense of place that makes these communities unique and valued by residents.

- Create a rehabilitation grant program with affordability covenants to aid low income, cost-burdened homeowners and property owners of market affordable housing with the upfront costs of rehabilitation.
- In favor of the creation of an Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
- Set up a new collaborative program with a focus on bringing neighborhood residents and stakeholders together; with engagement regarding the intersection of housing and historic preservation.
- Implement housing rehabilitation loan programs to assist either low-income homeowners or owners of multi-family buildings with many low-income renters to maintain their properties and make essential repairs and improvements.

Public Health

- Many cities and counties around the country have large planning departments or other bureaucracies that regulate land use and buildings. These frequently include urban planners, architects, lawyers, economists, transportation engineers, environmental scientists, and demographers. They rarely include public health officials. This may reflect a broader phenomenon of the increasing isolation of public health officials within government. Nonetheless, public health officials can add an important voice to the decisions that shape the built environment and offer guidelines to help public health professionals be effective advocates in political decision making.

neighborhoods feel healthier and are happier about their lives and are more likely to vote and recycle and to help others

- Preserve historic character in Urbana
- Restoration of sidewalks for better accessibility and safety of our residents
- Resolution of all air pollution issues affecting local residents. More Charging stations for electric vehicles
- Investment in our local art community
 - Invest in the visual aspects (murals, sculpture, art walks, rotating exhibitions).
 - Create more arts and culture programs and performances for children and families.
 - Make a city-wide arts and culture guide for our community and visitors to Urbana.
 - Ensure non-profit access to funding and simplify grant requirements
- Make Improvements so Urbana is the best Small City for cycling.
 - Make roads safer for cyclists
 - Information campaigns on cycling safety for drivers and cyclists
 - Create more bike racks with innovative designs to free up space

While these are what I would like to get to work on immediately, I am fully committed to listening to and working with all my neighbors in ward 5 to resolve issues affecting them and co-govern in an open and productive way.

[Home](#)

[About](#)

[Chaundra's Vision](#)

[Priorities](#)

[Spread The Word](#)

[Contact](#)

Paid for by Citizens for Chaundra

[Donate](#)