



# Logan Square Neighborhood Association

**REIMAGINE** Logan Square,  
Avondale, and Hermosa

## ALDERMANIC QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

### Education



### Economic Development



### Housing



### Health and Wellness



### Immigration



## 1st Ward Answers

### Daniel LaSpata

#### 1. What resources or relationships do you uniquely have to support our economic development strategies?

My previous work in community organizing, urban planning, and public policy education, and relationships with LSNA member organizations and the Logan Square Chamber of Commerce will aid in me in promoting and supporting local, small, and immigrant-owned businesses in our ward. Throughout my time at UIC's College of Urban Planning and Public Policy (pursuing my Masters' degree), I learned a variety of economic development strategies that preserve equity and connected with a network of individuals already doing this work throughout Chicago. I worked on teams creating a community/ economic development plans for both Chatham and Roseland. Among many strategies, I believe establishing a community-led zoning process to increase community benefits agreements and the number of local hiring requirements; conducting market studies to attract and promote local business, and prioritizing locally-owned, immigrant-owned and women-owned business in TIF subsidies will be the first steps needed to be taken. If we utilize these policies and procedures, we will accomplish the Quality of Life Plan's goal of establishing anti-displacement community strategies for businesses, increasing local control in neighborhood shopping and connecting local business with local hires.

#### 2. How would you encourage local hiring and adopt anti-displacement standards we set?

To encourage local hiring and anti-displacement standards, I believe in coalition building, community benefits agreements for new businesses, and promoting the Small Business Improvement Fund. I believe the ward office needs to establish greater collaboration between the Logan Square Chamber of Commerce, the Bucktown Chamber of Commerce and the Wicker Park Chamber of Commerce who deal directly with new businesses, so that the office can serve as a liaison between residents looking for jobs and the current and future businesses in the ward. We can work cooperatively with the 26th, 32nd, and 35th ward alderman to make TIF programs for workforce development and small business improvement more accessible to low-income and local entrepreneurs. Additionally, I will encourage community benefits agreements established through community-led zoning processes to help residents negotiate for increased and sustainable wages.

**3. LSNA's immigration proposal is to beautify a corridor along Armitage Ave. in Hermosa. Our project will uplift and celebrate our immigrant community. What are specific ways you will support this project?**

While not in my ward, I will work closely with LSNA to promote this area as an immigrant safe space. I believe I can support this project by promoting the immigrant butterfly symbol in my office and in my ward, to help residents see the impact immigrants have throughout our community. We may see in the future of this motif and ethos can be extended east into the 1st Ward's stretch of Armitage.

**4. How will you strengthen the city's Welcoming City Ordinance, particularly in regards to the gang database?** First off, the gang database needs to be abolished as it has and does racially profile Black and Brown people. Secondly, we need to remove the four exceptions to the general rule in the current Welcoming City Ordinance that essentially empowers Chicago Police to work hand-in-hand with ICE. If we rewrite the Welcoming City Ordinance so that police cannot arrest or hold anyone based on an ICE warrant or hold request, then we will be making the goals of the Welcoming City Ordinance a reality.

**5. How will you get the funding to make CPS High Schools a viable option in our neighborhood?**

I believe the first steps in making CPS High Schools a viable option will be in pushing to recalculate funding formulas for CPS and creating a democratically-elected school board that will work to make sure all our schools are fully-funded. Currently, our state relies too heavily on property taxes, which has resulted in inadequate funding for our local schools over the years. I will advocate for shifting school funding to the state (ideally funded by a progressive income tax), while also advocating against using CPS money for charter school vouchers. I also believe that every school, regardless of its current enrollment, must have the foundational funding for school maintenance and staff (nurses, librarians, social workers, creative arts) that restore faith in its quality. This will have to happen through collaboration with parents, teachers, NGOs, and state-level elected officials.

**6. Schools and housing are inextricably connected. As an alderman, how are you going to influence city council to push forward community-driven initiatives such as the 606 Ordinance and the Emmett Street Affordable Housing Project both of which will create greater equity in our gentrifying communities and increase student enrollment in our neighborhood schools?**

We know that housing insecurity and under-enrollment in CPS are not problems exclusive to our ward. I hope to work closely with other progressive aldermen to make connections where we can vote mutually to support affordable housing in each other's wards. While we as residents, families and working people understand the necessity of these initiatives, data always helps. I believe that in using data from Metropolitan Planning Council's "Cost of Segregation" that details the loss economic and human potential of segregation, we can build even more support for affordable housing projects and politics.

**7. Juan has schizophrenia and he has an altercation with the police – he's visibly agitated. It doesn't end well. What is your response from a public health perspective?**

The alderman can be a conduit for reconciliation, healing, and restorative justice. I or a member of my staff could meet with Juan to understand the conflict and connect him to the mental health services he needs if he isn't currently getting care. We can similarly meet with the officer to understand how and why the conflict escalated, and potentially provide connections to conflict de-escalation training. We may also work to understand what other conditions informed the conflict (substance abuse, racial bias, poverty) that may necessitate further assistance from other non-profits or service providers.

**8. With the closure of the 6 mental health clinics, our communities have experienced instability. What funds and resources are you planning to invest in mental health?**

I fully supported through canvassing and outreach the The Coalition to Save Our Mental Health Centers as they worked to open a Logan Square/Hermosa/Avondale Community Mental Health Center. With many transit stations within the 1st ward, we could work to identify possible locations for the clinic that would be very accessible for the broader community. There is the potential for both TIF and aldermanic menu money to support the physical construction of the clinic. We can also use the resources of the ward office to communicate the availability of services, particularly to those under-served by our current healthcare system.

**9. 20,000 Latinx have been displaced in Logan square since 2000. How do you plan to prevent further displacement in Logan Square, Hermosa and Avondale?**

I plan to create policies and procedures that will help long-term residents (renters and homeowners alike) stay in the neighborhood. I believe this can be done in by establishing rent control citywide, increasing the number of land trusts (like implementing Hermosa Here to Stay), and help alleviate the burden of rising property taxes through property tax appeal advocacy and property tax abatements for long term residents. Other policies include property tax relief for landlords who keep rents stable and affordable; passing the 606 Impact Ordinance; reforming the Affordable Requirements Ordinance to incentivize deeply-affordable family-sized units; and fighting for equitable access in CHA programs for Latinx households.

**10. What will you do to support and champion a strong ARO that has a higher percentage of affordable units, requires more family size units and builds in more monitoring?**

I will support the wisdom and experience LSNA has given me by requiring developers to build on site and increase the percentage of affordable housing within the ARO. As of now, there is no minimum requirement of family-sized units, which I support establishing. As for monitoring, I believe my office has a duty in following up with property managers to ensure that ARO units are being leased properly after the first year, which they are required to and serving as a resource for individuals seeking out affordable units. Additionally, I believe if we create a citywide open portal/ listing for available ARO units, then there will be increased transparency and monitoring of ARO units between my office, residence, and property owners.

## **Joe Moreno**

**1. What resources or relationships do you uniquely have to support our economic development strategies?**

I have always championed developing locally-owned businesses, the backbone to a strong, local economy. Small businesses tend to hire locally, whereas larger businesses' outreach is seldom locally-concentrated, though I have pushed the big-box businesses to hire locally. I have tried to expand this practice city-wide as Chairman of the Committee on Economic, Capital and Technology Development to ensure that residents of Chicago are not exploited by companies and that under-represented residents receive a fair chance to work in an environment where they earn a living wage and are not a casualty of new businesses moving in. Also, the City's Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection's (BACP) Small Business Center (SBC) offers seminars to aid small businesses succeed. The Small Business Improvement Fund helps existing owners modernize their establishments and make sure they are up to code on municipal regulations. I will work with the local chambers of commerce to frequently bring these resources to our communities.

**2. How would you encourage local hiring and adopt anti-displacement standards we set?**

Encouraging local hiring is, in and of itself, an anti-displacement standard, but first we must make sure that businesses provide a living wage. I was a co-sponsor of legislation that raised the minimum wage to \$13 per hour and have recently introduced legislation to raise it to \$15 per hour. Small businesses already know that hiring locally is a best practice. It is our duty to make sure large businesses also see the benefit in hiring locally. We already legislate MWBE requirements for large businesses, I believe we should also consider having local hiring requirements, either through legislation or incentives. As Alderman, I have required large-scale developments to prioritize the leasing out of their commercial spaces to locally-owned businesses. For the Congress Theater project that was recently approved, the developer agreed to and is bound by an agreement to lease out 80% of its commercial spaces to locally-owned businesses.

**3. LSNA's immigration proposal is to beautify a corridor along Armitage Ave. in Hermosa. Our project will uplift and celebrate our immigrant community. What are specific ways you will support this project?**

Since Hermosa is located outside of the 1st Ward, I cannot have a direct impact on this effort. I will, however, support efforts to leverage TIF monies for schools, parks, and restoration/beautification projects in the neighborhood. I have previously worked with local artists to fund murals in the ward, and I will continue to work with local artists to beautify 1st Ward neighborhoods, and I will be specifically working with them on a very significant 606 Walls mural project.

**4. How will you strengthen the city's Welcoming City Ordinance, particularly in regards to the gang database?**

The Welcoming City Ordinance does not have a causal relationship to the gang database. Strengthening the ordinance will not fix the problems caused by the gang database. However, I do believe that the database is severely flawed and deserves to be scrutinized more closely. It disproportionately affects the economically disadvantaged, which tend to be our black and brown youth. We need to implement stringent guidelines as to who is added to the database and why they were added. Guilt by association should not be a reason to be added. Presently, all names on the list should be re-examined and people without convictions for gang-affiliated crimes should be removed.

**5. How will you get the funding to make CPS High Schools a viable option in our neighborhood?**

I have worked, and will continue to work, to bring needed resources to our high schools. I have successfully leveraged different funding sources such as TIF's and Open Space Impact Fees to provide new athletic fields to both Clemente and Wells High Schools. I have also supported the bringing of an IB program to Clemente HS, which helped bring it out of probation for the first time in 14 years. I also am ready to support local mentoring programs not only for high schools, but also for elementary schools. Mentoring programs have shown to increase the 5-year graduation rates of high school students involved. Additionally, we need to identify students who are in danger of falling behind academically. This has to begin at the elementary school level, once students reach high school, their study habits have already formed and it becomes more difficult to instill the habits necessary for success. At this time, many schools also lack full-time social workers, nurses and counselors. We must find a way to gather resources for these support services, whether it be through public-private partnerships or grants.

**6. Schools and housing are inextricably connected. As an alderman, how are you going to influence city council to push forward community-driven initiatives such as the 606 Ordinance and the Emmett Street Affordable Housing Project both of which will create greater equity in our gentrifying communities and increase student enrollment in our neighborhood schools?**

Schools and housing are inextricably connected. As an alderman, how are you going to influence city council to push forward community-driven initiatives such as the 606 Ordinance and the Emmett Street Affordable Housing Project both of which will create greater equity in our gentrifying communities and increase student enrollment in our neighborhood schools? I have been a strong proponent of creating, and maintaining, affordable housing in the 1st ward, having created the second-most ARO units in the entire City during my tenure as Alderman. I have also already successfully worked to bring a 100% affordable, 88-unit, LGBTQ-friendly building on Milwaukee Avenue, which is currently under construction. I will be supporting any and all efforts to bring more affordable housing to Logan Square through the Emmett Street Project and will continue to support maintaining affordable housing along the 606, such as when I successfully advocated for the \$1,000,000 for the 606 Bloomingdale Trail Grant Program.

**7. Juan has schizophrenia and he has an altercation with the police – he’s visibly agitated. It doesn’t end well. What is your response from a public health perspective?**

This situation should incorporate two responses: a) Providing sufficient training to our Chicago Police officers, so they are able to recognize and appropriately react to individuals with mental health issues and b) Making sure Juan is provided access to mental health care service to ensure that he is receiving proper treatment and medication for his condition.

**8. With the closure of the 6 mental health clinics, our communities have experienced instability. What funds and resources are you planning to invest in mental health?**

I am fully supportive of any efforts to increase, both public and private, funding for mental health services in the Logan Square and Hermosa communities. Mental health services should be considered an integral component of overall health care services that are made available to our communities, so I pledge to support calls for additional public funds to include these mental health services in the overall public health offerings.

**9. 20,000 Latinx have been displaced in Logan square since 2000. How do you plan to prevent further displacement in Logan Square, Hermosa and Avondale?** I have supported the funding for the 606 Bloomingdale Trail Program and will be requesting an additional \$1,000,000 allocation to help fund homeowner repairs for qualifying properties located by the trail. I also pledge to work to secure seed-funding for a Logan Square Community Land Trust, which will support the acquisition of land/properties to be sold and maintained as long-term affordable homeownership opportunities. Lastly, I will continue to work with housing not-for-profit partners to develop additional affordable housing units on the few remaining city-owned lots in the 1st Ward.

**10. What will you do to support and champion a strong ARO that has a higher percentage of affordable units, requires more family size units and builds in more monitoring?**

I have been a City leader in the efforts to create ARO units in my ward, requiring developers to provide these units on-site and creating the 2nd most ARO units in the entire City. I have also successfully implemented higher on-site, ARO percentages through the Milwaukee Corridor Pilot Program, which nearly encompasses the entire 1st Ward. Moreover, for newer development projects, such as the 1750 and 1700 N. Western projects, I have asked for and have received more three-bedroom affordable apartments. Regarding placement and monitoring efforts, I have successfully advocated for the City’s Dept. of Planning & Development to this year release a Request for Proposal for a north-side housing advocacy group to be selected and paid to conduct outreach, to help screen and to place neighborhood applicants to fill the ARO units and to help monitor compliance.