



Logan Square Neighborhood Association

REIMAGINE Logan Square,
Avondale, and Hermosa

ALDERMANIC QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Education



Economic Development



Housing



Health and Wellness



Immigration



33rd Ward

Katie Sieracki

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

For the last six years, I've worked at a small business that brings together municipality officials with solution providers from all over the country to solve their city's most pressing issues. The two unique set of relationships that I bring are: a) connections and experience with entrepreneurs that can provide the resources and networking that local residents need to start and develop successful small local businesses; b) connections with public works officials from around the country so that I would not have to rely on whatever expertise the mayor deigns to share with City Council.

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

First, I believe that any tax incentives given to a business based on claims of creating local jobs should be subject to strict local hiring requirements, and that the business should be audited for compliance with local hiring standards. Second, I want to encourage and support local small businesses, which are far more likely to hire from the community than a large corporation with no roots here.

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?

This project is just outside of the 33rd Ward, but is still important to our residents. I will work with the aldermen of the 1st, 26th, and 32nd Wards to secure funding for the beautification project. LSNA can count on my support in council and advocacy to the appropriate city departments in support of the proposal. If the aldermen of those wards will not step up to lead on this project, you can on me to speak up and be a leader, and will use my office to publicly promote the project.. I will participate in planning events while encouraging residents of the 33rd Ward to become active supporters of the proposal.

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

For many reasons, Chicago needs to get rid of the gangs database. It's based on an outdated model of how gangs operate, and serves only to promote discrimination and violations of civil rights rather than public safety. Beyond that, I support Alderman Ramirez-Rosa's proposed amendments to the Welcoming Ordinance clarifying that Chicago should not be doing the job of the federal government in enforcing immigration laws, and that no resident of Chicago should face discrimination because of citizenship status.

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

There are really two issues here. One is that CPS needs more revenue. This requires action by Springfield. I will work with our community's legislators to promote and pass a progressive income tax which will increase revenue that the state can use to increase its share of school funding. The other issue is a more equitable distribution of resources within CPS. The best way to ensure equitable resources is to have an elected representative school board, and I will work my hardest to make this happen. I will also oppose transferring any more resources from attendance-based schools to charter schools and support a moratorium on new charter schools because we need to invest in our existing schools.

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?

While the 606 Affordable Residential Area Preservation Ordinance does not extend into the 33rd Ward, I will co-sponsor the ordinance. I am in support of using additional permit fees for demolishing or modifying affordable housing in rapidly gentrifying areas as a way to preserve currently existing affordable housing. In the 33rd Ward, I support a program using similar fees to help families with low and moderate income to buy existing 2-4 flat to be used as owner-occupied housing with the extra units rented out at affordable rents.

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 scenario describes the intersection of public safety and social and health services. Currently, in every encounter with a person creating a potential threat to public safety, police officers have only two choices: detain the person or let the person go. There needs to be a third option of connecting the person with the services they need, whether they are health, mental health, or social services. The Chicago Police Department has a pilot program on the West Side that diverts jail inmates to drug rehabilitation services. We need to expand this pilot to cover all of Chicago and include more services, such as mental health treatment for conditions like schizophrenia.

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?

The six mental health clinics closed by Rahm Emanuel, including the one in Logan Square, must be reopened. Our \$3.8 billion corporate budget can support reopening these mental health clinics.

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?

Keeping residents in their neighborhoods involves several elements. First, we need to draw the line on property taxes. Our property tax increases are driven by underfunded state school grants, which will require action by Springfield to pass a progressive income tax with new funding for schools. It's also driven by a continually increasing pension liability which needs to be resolved through a level dollar reamortization funded by a dedicated revenue source. Second, we need to strengthen and strictly enforce the Affordable Requirements Ordinance (ARO) and make certain developers include affordable housing in their projects instead of paying to avoid the requirement.

Last, we need to make it possible for families in our communities to own their homes. We have a large stock of 2-4 flat buildings, and I support a program that provides assistance to low- and middle-income families in purchasing these buildings. The building would have to be owner-occupied in one unit, and rent the other units at affordable rents. This keeps families and residents in the neighborhood because they are building equity while still preserving affordable rentals.

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 sponsor an ordinance that strictly limits the ability of a developer to make a payment in lieu of actually providing affordable housing units. I also will sponsor an ordinance that includes a mix of unit sizes that must be affordable under the ARO so that a developer must provide family-sized affordable housing units. **3**