



Logan Square Neighborhood Association

REIMAGINE Logan Square,
Avondale, and Hermosa

ALDERMANIC QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Education



Economic Development



Housing



Health and Wellness



Immigration



35th Ward

Amanda Yu Dieterich

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

I have deep ties to the community and an aptitude for forming relationships with people in order to move things forward. I am a small business owner; my job is to help other small businesses launch. I am a community organizer; I rallied my neighbors to confront violent crime in our area, and have helped others do the same when their blocks have been threatened. I also work with my neighbors to build community and make our communities safer by throwing three large block parties each year. I am a mom; I am an administrator of Chicago Parent Swap, a Facebook community of almost 10,000 members that helps parents buy/sale/trade children's items throughout Chicago. I was a trust ambassador for Chicago Community Trust where I formed relationships with various non-profits in Chicago. Lastly, I am a supporter of union values and labor, which is why I have been endorsed by building trade unions including LiUNA Chicago Laborers' District Council, the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 399, the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters, the Plumbers Local 130, and the IUOE 150.

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

We should begin with shifting the culture of hiring. We can start to do this by asking all in our community to commit to supporting our local economy, reframing the "Shop Local" campaign to "Commit Locally: Shop, Hire, Work." We need to work with our local Chambers of Commerce, and ask that they work with the broader community to build a culture of hiring locally. We need to expand partnerships with the workforce agencies in the City to train our residents and work together to place applicants in our local businesses. And we need to strengthen partnerships with our local neighborhood groups and schools to expand ESL training in conjunction with job training programs, growing the opportunity pool for the immigrant population.

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?

We must work to make our communities welcoming and inviting, and beautification is a key component of achieving that goal. I will work with neighborhood groups to identify and apply for grants available through non-profits, as well as pursuing sources of city funding. I will also work with local stakeholders including businesses, property owners, and elected officials who can commit resources to the beautification of the Armitage corridor. Broader awareness of the project can help draw volunteers and contributions, and so I will engage the arts community to be part of our beautification efforts.

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

The gang database must be eliminated, and I will fully support legislation to do just that. I also believe that we need to remove all carve outs from the Welcoming City Ordinance, in order to protect our vulnerable undocumented population.

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

Every child in Chicago deserves a quality high school education. CPS should be allocating funding equitably across schools to ensure this is the case. This means changing our funding formulation to focus on need instead of using a per-pupil model. We must fight for a fully elected school board that is representative of our communities. Furthermore, we need to bring in a sustainable community schools model across the city that supports not only the students but also families. To do this, I will assist in seeking out grants from non-profits as well as state and federal government funding.

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?

Housing is a human right, and it breaks my heart when I hear that my sons' friends are leaving their school because their parents can no longer afford to stay. I pledge to bring 50 new units of affordable housing to the ward in my first year in office. In the last four years we have seen no new affordable housing developed, even while neighboring wards have seen growth. But it's not enough just to increase the number of affordable units if not enough are being built to accommodate families. A developer just broke ground on a 44-unit affordable housing complex, but only sixteen of those units are larger than one-bedroom. We are at a crisis point with regard to housing, and housing for families especially.

My comprehensive Housing Plan of Action consists of:

- Bringing low-equity co-ops to the ward, allowing families to put down roots;
- Legalizing ADUs like coach houses, which will increase housing stock while giving homeowners a new source of income to offset rising property taxes;
- Supporting equitable mid-density Transit Oriented Development so that people don't need to own cars in order to access the rest of the city;
- Managing existing housing by creating a landlord/renter matching program that would work across ward boundaries to help find housing for people immediately;
- Identifying affordable housing resources for undocumented immigrants who are ineligible for housing paid for by federal funding, including creating a liaison position in my office to connect immigrants with housing opportunities;
- Working with local neighborhood organizations to secure land grants to purchase abandoned homes, do repair work, and sell them to families at an affordable price;
- Requiring that any new housing built in the ward fulfill the Affordable Requirements Ordinance on-site or within the ward, rather than paying into the "in-lieu" fund;
- Maintaining a transparent and open process with the community when considering zoning changes and housing plans throughout our ward.

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?

Healthcare is a human right. We need to expand mental health care in all of our communities so that there’s access in every part of Chicago. We need to have mental health professionals working in our police departments so any mental health calls are addressed with a professional on site to assist with de-escalation. We need to provide ongoing professional development for our police so that they are trained in how to interact, intervene, and de-escalate situations involving people experiencing mental health problems. Lastly, we need to fully implement pre-arrest diversion so that people experiencing a mental health episode or suffering from addiction are taken to treatment instead of jail.

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 35th Ward successfully voted for a program to re-open a mental health clinic in the last election. We must look to replicate this success in other parts of the City. We must also redouble our efforts to partner with existing health care systems like Cook County Health System, which has the mission to provide quality healthcare to all county residents. My goal would be to use their existing efficiencies and infrastructure to expand access across Chicago so that every community has access to quality mental health care. We must avoid the pitfall of privatizing our health care with taxpayer money.

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?

Hermosa was the 3rd most over-assessed neighborhood in Chicago. In the last four years, Logan Square has been the fastest gentrifying neighborhood in the city. We must take immediate steps to stop the displacement happening in our communities. We need to approach displacement from different angles simultaneously. We need to make our ward affordable by pursuing my housing platform as well as fighting to raise the minimum wage to \$15/hour and tying it to inflation, creating good paying neighborhood jobs by supporting small businesses and particularly women and minority-owned businesses, and implementing workforce training programs in partnership with businesses and agencies for job placement. Declining population is a citywide issue. We need a citywide affordable housing plan that provides for affordable housing in all fifty wards, as well as a \$15 minimum wage tied to inflation, access to transit, and direct investment in our crumbling infrastructure.

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 require all affordable housing units to be built on site that would accommodate at least a family of 4 or 5. Under my proposal to legalize Accessory Dwelling Units, I would require property owners or developers with holdings of more than 10 units to include ADUs in their total, so that they are subject to the ARO as well. I would work to build additional monitoring and compliance reporting into any affordable housing plan that I will support in City Council.