

## Mayoral Candidate – Desirée Charbonnet

1. How would you describe the current role and potential for Downtown?

**Downtown currently serves as the tourism and economic hub of the city. A large share of the revenue that this city produces through taxes comes out of downtown. My administration will work to continue the growth of this area as well as expand the economic opportunity that we see downtown across other areas of the city while connecting communities to downtown. We must improve infrastructure, focus on economic development, and transportation to ensure that the potential of downtown is fully met.**

2. What do you feel are Downtown's most pressing challenges and how would you approach working with the DDD and Downtown stakeholders to address them?

**Downtown's most pressing issues stem from infrastructure and accessibility to the area. My administration will work with contractors, DDD and stakeholders to ensure that interruption of business activity and tourist transportation is minimized as we work to improve our city's infrastructure. My administration will work with DDD and downtown stakeholders to see where they feel the issues lie and how we can avert those problems.**

3. Things like getting asked for money when walking home at night, or encountering drunk people engaged in a verbal or physical altercation, create a sense of disorder that negatively impacts our stakeholders' perception of safety and livability. The DDD public safety team addresses these issues to the best of its ability, but especially in the Canal Street corridor significantly more City resources are needed to address the problems. How do you plan to address quality of life issues Downtown?

**While the DDD public safety team addresses what they can, it is our police forces job to protect and serve the community. Quality of life issues and public safety go hand in hand and my 5-year Comprehensive Crime Plan addresses crime and public safety with a holistic approach that includes both immediate action items and directly addresses the long-term root causes of crime.**

4. How do you propose to address and prioritize the need for additional public infrastructure investment Downtown, such as crosswalks, sidewalks, and streetscape improvements, which is critical to grow the New Orleans' economic & the job engine? Do you believe property owners should be required to repair sidewalks?

**The city has received \$2 Billion dollars from FEMA to fix our roads and infrastructure and there are more projects coming online that will increase revenue across the board. My administration will use the pavement study that was released in 2016 in coordination**

**with reviewing what work has already been done to prioritize projects, Downtown repairs are a priority. Property owners should be responsible for the sidewalk in front of their business and help with sidewalk repairs.**

5. What short term and long-term strategies do you propose to address concerns about Downtown's homeless population? How do you plan on working with the DDD as a partner to support the expansion of the Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC) on the second floor of the former VA hospital site and the successful coordination and operation of the Low Barrier Shelter?

**As a judge in municipal court I saw first-hand the challenges that many of our homeless citizens face everyday and worked to avoid incarcerating non-violent offenders. The most important part of this equation is making sure that the DDD, Mayor's Office, and existing non-profits like the UNITY Collaborative to find solutions. My Administration will work with DDD as a partner to expand our cities resources so that the homeless of the city have a place to go to shelter and receive wraparound services.**

6. The DDD has worked with the City to craft sound sanitation, zoning and other city codes. However, the DDD still hears complaints that existing sanitation, zoning and other regulations are not routinely enforced and that permits are sometimes improperly issued to businesses which are non-compliant. Do you commit to enforcing all sanitation, zoning & building codes? Do you support giving a City Sanitation Ranger, paid for by the DDD, full authority to issue citations for code violations.

**One of the biggest issues our city has right now is enforcing the ordinances that are on the books. I commit to enforcing all sanitation, zoning & building codes, I want to shift many issues with ordinance violations to municipal court, increase efficiency, and get more results for our citizens. My administration will work with the DDD and other stakeholders to determine the needs of the City Sanitation Ranger and we determine that such a position is needed, that position will be filled.**

7. Offering housing at a variety of price points is important to the economy of Downtown. Imposing requirements that the market cannot bear, however, can chill investment and constrain supply even further, exacerbating the affordability problem. How do you propose to encourage more affordable housing development in a way that will encourage developers to participate?

**Currently, it is not financially feasible for majority of New Orleanians to live downtown, even those that work in the area, and we must work diligently to fix this problem. My administration will prioritize the development of safe, healthy and affordable rental units and homeownership near jobs and essential public services. I want to incentivize developers with tax credits tied to affordable housing requirements. These requirements need to be firm, and I will work with the DDD to find a balance to make sure that we are**

**creating inclusive developments without chilling the market. In order for our city to be successful we must have a trained workforce, to fulfil jobs, and that workforce must be able to live where they work.**

8. What improvements to transit (including a Downtown transit terminal), bike & pedestrian facilities, on-street parking, and other elements of a comprehensive mobility system do you propose?

**The City's existing transportation system needs to be more efficient, frequent, and on time. Investing in and expanding RTA is essential. My administration will work with transportation experts, RTA, and DDD to determine where our existing needs are and work to fix them.**

9. Recent investments in state of the art medical facilities and the presence of Tulane and LSU medical schools Downtown create a rare opportunity to make the New Orleans' Academic Medical Center a pillar of the economy by attracting patients from outside the region to leading edge medical care. How would you support the development of an Academic Medical Center in New Orleans?

**My administration will work to attract research facilities and biomedical instrument companies to invest in the corridor to connect Tulane and LSU medical schools Downtown as well as making it affordable for medical students and staff to live in the area.**