



Candidate Inquiry re Hilltop Library

Kristina Walker <walker4tacoma@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 23, 2019 at 10:10 PM

To: Tacoma Hilltop Library Planning Committee <tacomahilltoplibrary@gmail.com>

Good evening, Tacoma Hilltop Library Planning Committee,
My answers below. Looking forward to seeing you Thursday. I may be arriving a little bit late.
Kristina

1. What can the city do to provide quality equitable library services to members of all ages and circumstances in the Hilltop?

First and foremost, the city needs to listen to the people of Hilltop to understand what quality equitable library services mean to them. I look forward to working with the Hilltop Community to find a home that meets the needs of this group.

2. What kind of library facilities do you envision for the Hilltop? (For instance, remodeling an existing neighborhood structure, new construction, or leasing ground-floor space in a new housing project.)

It is important that the Hilltop neighborhood's vision for library services is what is implemented, not my vision. Remodeling an existing structure or leasing a space in a new project is going to be more cost effective and allow project funding to be spent on delivery of services, rather than the brick & mortar, and I believe there will be ways to provide quality, equitable library services without new construction.

3. What steps will you take to ensure a library is placed in the Hilltop?

Making sure there is access to quality, equitable library services is important and I look forward to working with you to ensure success. As a Tacoma City Councilmember, I can and will continue to bring this project to the forefront and make sure that the city is listening to the Hilltop community when it is making decisions.

4. What is the most important challenge facing the city in building a library in the Hilltop?

Lack of access to library services in the Hilltop underscores that historic disinvestment in this community. While funding is always a challenge, I believe there is momentum and energy that can support access to library services in the Hilltop. It is time to reinvest in our community.

On Mon, Sep 9, 2019 at 10:48 AM Tacoma Hilltop Library Planning Committee <tacomahilltoplibrary@gmail.com> wrote:



Dear Ms. Walker,

We are writing to you and your fellow candidates running for positions on the Tacoma City Council to assess your support for a public library in the Hilltop neighborhood. We believe that public libraries continue to provide important resources to small business owners, educators, students, parents, and the general public. The wide range of benefits to communities helps ensure that Americans have access to the resources they need to improve their lives and become healthy and productive citizens. Some key benefits of libraries include the following;

Libraries connect millions of Americans to the resources they need to free themselves from poverty such as employment training, skill-building classes, financial courses, and adult education.

Libraries help entrepreneurs take their businesses from idea to reality through freely available materials on copyright and patents, marketing, manufacturing, legal issues, and access to high-quality market research databases.

Librarians help people navigate and understand the information available in an increasingly digital world in a space that provides access to high-quality information through books, databases, and high-speed Internet.

Libraries provide early childhood literacy initiatives and instruction to our nation's youth that ensure their success in all levels of education.

We would love to see you support these great institutions and make sure that our citizens have the resources they need to improve their lives. Please tell us how you--if elected--can restore library services to the Hilltop by answering the following questions. **Please respond with your answers no later than Friday, September 20.**

1. What can the city do to provide quality equitable library services to members of all ages and circumstances in the Hilltop?
2. What kind of library facilities do you envision for the Hilltop? (For instance, remodeling an existing neighborhood structure, new construction, or leasing ground-floor space in a new housing project.)
3. What steps will you take to ensure a library is placed in the Hilltop?
4. What is the most important challenge facing the city in building a library in the Hilltop?

Please respond with your answers no later than Friday, September 20. We will share your responses at our next monthly committee meeting on Thursday, September 26, to which you are invited. We will then make your responses available on our website at tacomahilltoplibrary.org,

publish a press release alerting the media to your responses, and promote both through social media and word-of-mouth.

Sincerely yours,

Tacoma Hilltop Library Planning Committee

contact@tacomahilltoplibrary.org

The Tacoma Hilltop Library Planning Committee is committed to getting library services returned to Tacoma's Hilltop neighborhood. Please join us at our monthly community meeting on the fourth Thursday of the month, 6-7 p.m., at the Community Room of the Hilltop Regional Health Center, [1202 Martin Luther King Jr. Way](#) in Tacoma. All are welcome.

tacomahilltoplibrary.org | PO Box 5032, Tacoma, WA 98415-5032