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I believe Greenville needs enthusiastic, engaged, and principled leaders focused on the future of our entire County. Leaders who are willing to study the issues and make informed decisions. Leaders who strive for excellence and put efficiency and effectiveness at the forefront of every decision. Leaders who are willing to listen and collaborate with others. Leaders who embrace change and have a vision for the future. I am running because I have a passion for our home, a call to civic responsibility, and a restlessness that comes with the knowledge that to whom much is given, much is expected.

I was elected to County Council in 2008, and the voters of District 24 have expressed their approval by re-electing me in 2012 and 2016. In addition, my personal, civic and professional experiences have given me the opportunity to understand the issues and build collaborative relationships. My tenure as Executive Director of Hands on Greenville and Meals on Wheels, as well as my board service on the Community Foundation, Peace Center and the Junior League, has given me experience in the areas of strategic planning, communication, critical thinking, problem solving and fiscal management, all relevant to service on County Council.

With a new Comprehensive Plan in place, one of the most significant achievements this coming year will be to enact the Unified Development Ordinance. The UDO should be developed with input from a diverse group of stakeholders and should be written in such a way to give property owners, developers, planning staff, planning commission and council members clear and consistent rules of engagement to ensure that we manage growth, reduce sprawl, conserve greenspace,
address affordable housing and improve the quality of life for all of the citizens of Greenville County.

Greenville County is home to nearly 500 nonprofits, ranging from small community centers to large institutions that provide health care, housing, food support, education, arts programming, and so much more. Most recently available data show that nearly 90,000 people in our state are employed in the nonprofit sector and one in three South Carolinians volunteer in a nonprofit organization. Nonprofits and the foundations, companies, and individuals that support them are vital to Greenville County.

Tell us about one of Greenville County’s non-profits that you think is doing important work in your community, and what have you done to support this organization’s mission?

I have worked in the non-profit sector most of my career, and have enjoyed my leadership positions with the American Red Cross and Hands on Greenville. However, Meals on Wheels will always have a special place in my heart. I had the privilege of serving the organization for more than six years as Executive Director and had the honor of serving as the national chair of Meals on Wheels America. Most importantly, I’ve served the organization as a volunteer. Nothing compares to the experience of seeing firsthand the impact a meal and a conversation can have on a homebound senior.

How could County Council and Greenville non-profit community better support one another in our shared goal of improving the lives of people in Greenville County?

Relationships are everything. Relationships build trust, accountability and understanding. They open doors for conversations, which lead to better understanding and effective change. The more time council members can spend with members of the non-profit community, the more they will understand the needs of the community. And the more time non-profit leaders can spend with council members, the more they will understand the process of effecting policy change. We need to seek opportunities for members of the non-profit community to regularly address council, and I encourage the non-profit community to seek opportunities to engage members of council directly in their work.

Housing

What would you do to encourage the production of more affordable homes for these families? What would you do to support local Affordable Housing developers, including community organizations and private developers (e.g., incentives such as density/parking bonuses, reduced fees)?

I supported the county’s investment of $5M for affordable housing to be used by the Greenville County Redevelopment Authority to develop additional units throughout the county. I have developed relationships with the Greenville Housing Fund, the Greenville Homeless Alliance, the Home Builders Association, the Greater Greenville Association of Realtors, Upstate Forever and the Greenville Chamber to help find innovative, public-private solutions to our affordable housing crisis. Through the county’s Comprehensive Plan and land development regulations, we can implement a variety of housing options and remove regulatory barriers to ensure an adequate supply of quality housing units at all price points.

Transit

Describe the role you believe transit plays in our community’s future growth and success and what role should County Council play in supporting public transit demands?

Our community needs to address transportation through planning, partnerships and resources. The county’s Comprehensive Plan outlines the need to improve street
connectivity, reduce sprawl and lessen the impact on our strained infrastructure. During my tenure on council, I have voted to increase funding for Greenlink from less than $500,000 to $2.5M. We need to implement the Transit Development Plan to expand service. We also need to work with groups such as the Upstate Mobility Alliance who are working to build relationships among stakeholders who understand the important relationship between transportation and quality of life.

**Growth**

**How will you balance the interests of private property owners with the community's broader vision for how to manage growth across the county (i.e. the future land use map)?**

The Comprehensive Plan was developed with input from a diverse set of stakeholders and citizens from across the county. We now need to follow the plan. The creation of the Unified Development Ordinance will give council the tools needed to implement the plan as well as give a clear set of guidelines to both land owners and developers. The best way to balance the interest of property owners and developers is to include both groups in the development of the UDO. Conversation and collaboration on an agreed-upon set of rules will ensure that our community prospers in the long run.

**Arts**

**How do you believe the County can further support the arts now – during our economic crisis – and in the future?**

In addition to providing more than $300K for arts organizations via the CARES Act, Greenville County has supported the arts with capital investments for The Peace Center, The South Carolina Children's Theatre, as well as funding for events such as Artisphere. This support comes primarily through accommodation and hospitality taxes. Unfortunately, those revenue sources have been severely hit by COVID-19. We need to make sure Greenville is open for business post-pandemic. Reviving corporate business travel and tourism traffic is vital to providing the resources needed to further invest in the arts.

**Municipalities**

**What steps will you take to ensure open communication between these diverse entities, many of whom are independent of Greenville County Council governance authority?**

District 24 is unique in that it includes both the City of Greenville and the City of Mauldin. Due to the nature of my professional and civic roles, I've had the opportunity to develop relationships with my counterparts on those councils. I speak to many of my municipal colleagues on a regular basis and appreciate their willingness to help me resolve constituent issues. It is important for the elected officials to have these relationships, but it also important for the staff members of the various entities to have relationships as well.

**Citizen Engagement**

**Greenville County Council represents more than 10% of the population of South Carolina. With that comes an incredible diversity of thought and experiences shared by our citizens.**

As a former non-profit executive, I understand the valuable skills and knowledge that non-profit leaders and board
Do you seek input from people with different perspectives? In what way and to whom do you turn for input? One of the priorities of the Greenville Nonprofit Alliance is an increased involvement of non-profit leaders and board members in shaping policy at the local level. If elected, how will you ensure local non-profit leaders have the opportunity to provide a voice in the decisions being made throughout the county?

members bring to the table. Not only do these leaders understand the problems, they are providing innovative solutions. As a member of the Non-Profit Alliance Advocacy Committee, I am actively recruiting non-profit leaders and board members to serve on local and statewide boards and commissions. This is a very effective way for the non-profit sector to be heard. It is impossible for council members to be experts in everything. It’s imperative that we seek input from a diverse set of voices.