

2009 SPPACE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Susan Burgess
Charlotte City Council At-Large**

1. **What are the top three issues our community needs to address? How would you propose to tackle these issues?**
 - a. The economy: diversify/grow energy/environment, biotech, other high growth sectors, shore up financial services.
 - b. Transportation: reduce congestion, work to meet conformity of the EPA ozone standards lest lose federal funding for roads/transit.
 - c. Crime: Supporting Chief Monroe's request for more officers. Crime has dropped 25% under his leadership.

2. **Do you support the adoption and use of transfer taxes and/or impact fees as a way to overcome budget shortfalls? Why or why not?**

No. These increase the price of housing and other development.

3. **How do you believe Charlotte should fund school capital costs, parks, roads, transit, police and fire protection needs for the city? Should purchasers of new homes be responsible for funding these services for the entire city? Do you believe that these types of proposals are a fair way to pay for required services to existing taxpayers?**

The City funds roads mostly through bonds, transit mostly through half cent sales tax, and police/fire from the General Fund. (The County funds schools and parks.) I believe these sources are appropriate.

4. **How would you encourage our community's economic growth while including a variety of housing types and prices?**

We are fortunate to have partnerships with the Housing Authority, CM Housing Partnership and private developers to work with the Housing Trust Fund to build affordable/workforce housing. I would consider voluntary density bonuses and other strategies for incentive based affordable housing.

5. **Recently adopted ordinances and policies have increased development costs and as a result will increase prices for office, industrial and retail space, as well as housing. What could be done to lower development costs in order to prevent families and businesses from relocating across county lines?**

Until we have experience in developing with the recently adopted ordinances and policies, we don't really know the effect. I am not unreasonable and would re-visit.

6. **Charlotte's City Council sets priorities but staff controls work flow. How would you ensure that staff remains, per city code, focused on Council goals and provides a wide variety of solutions to address Council's priorities?**

The Council hires the City Manager and holds him accountable to carry out Council policies and actions. We monitor staff progress mostly through committee work, manager's memos, and dinner briefings. We gain input through stakeholders groups to gain a variety of options

- 7. Would you support a cost/benefit analysis for existing and proposed land use regulations in order to ensure that the purported benefits outweigh their negative impacts on economic development and housing affordability?**

Yes, and I believe these are underway.