

Candidate Questionnaire

1. The Santa Clara Police Officer's Association firmly believes that Santa Clara voters have the right to elect the Police Chief as enshrined in the City's Charter. Will you agree to sign the attached Pledge to Protect the Elected Chief of Police? Please offer your opinion on this topic.

I feel uncomfortable making a pledge as something so big as restricting voters rights from being heard whether they support elected or appointed. It is always a safe bet to put it on the ballot, so you can affirm the voters rights to vote and that should not be decided on by any councilmember, Mayor or police union. My position that it's up to the voters to decide, I won't use my position to try and influence the voters because that is solely up to the voters of Santa Clara. Just like this year we put a business tax on the ballot to make revenue....it is up to the voters to pass it, we simply put on the ballot the question.

We are the only city in the state that still elects our police chief which is unique however inconsistent with how other cities select the head of their police department. I have many concerns about succession should current Chief retire or not seek re-election down the road.

2. Do you have any events in your past that may be personally or politically embarrassing if they were to come to light? *Not that I can think of besides inflated and unethical accusations by my opponent and/or her ally Councilmember Watanabe. I suggest you read the following stories. Glad to answer further questions.*

<https://www.svvoice.com/significant-differences-becker-responds-to-gillmors-accusations/>

<https://www.svvoice.com/a-mayor-above-the-law/>

3. Do you have any pending investigations or lawsuits against you that we should be aware of?

No lawsuits and only phony FPPC investigations put on but those working with the current Mayor like James Rowen and other individuals. These investigations that are initiated are just to create a headline so it can be used in someone's mailer against me, which I hope the POA does not do knowing that they are false allegations as well as factual proof of no wrongdoing. So far of two FPPC investigations regarding me, the first regarding Paying for a ticket at a football game on an operations tour the FPPC said there was NO wrongdoing. As for the second the compliant is attending a World Cup dinner and luncheon which I didn't pay enough. I am expecting to be cleared of any wrongdoing in this matter to cause I have provided tons of receipts and evidence in my defense. These are political initiated complaints which trigger investigations. Half the time no one shows cleared of wrongdoing only rely on the word 'investigation' . I have included the letter of the FPPC clearing me.

4. The City of Santa Clara has a long-standing practice of choosing quality over quantity for our Police Department. This model is beneficial as it promotes the hiring of outstanding individuals and generally saves money since the department has fewer officers than comparable cities. The City has enjoyed several benefits with this approach:

The Police Department is traditionally better staffed than neighboring departments.

Response times are excellent.

The Department saves nearly \$300,000 for new officer training by hiring lateral officers from neighboring cities.

Experienced officers bring to the City years of training and experience that are immeasurable.

The City has reduced liability with more experienced officers who make better decisions and fewer mistakes.

Residents receive better service from experienced officers.

The City is able to support an NFL stadium with the smallest standing police force in the NFL.

Do you believe that this model is working? Are you comfortable sustaining this model?

Personally, I believe we need more officers, I like the fact that we save money by laterally hiring officers from neighboring cities, in fact I worked with one officer recently from a neighboring city and was so glad we got him on our force. I feel the model is working, yet always room for improvement.

5. The Santa Clara Police Officer's Association firmly believes that to prepare the Police Department for future challenges, the Police Chief's responsibilities must be enhanced and clearly defined. We believe the following changes are necessary:

serve on the City's Executive Management Team to coordinate at the highest level with major City departments.

be responsible for the police department's financial management working within policies and budgets established by the City Manager and the City Council.

have the responsibility to hire, manage, and discipline the top management positions in the Department following the City's testing guidelines and personnel procedures.

Do you support these changes in general and are you willing to work with us on more specific proposals for a Charter Amendment that would be presented to Santa Clara voters?



The fact is that the former City Manager from what I recall took away powers, and responsibilities basically turning the Chief of Police into a ceremonial figurehead role. I also had found out that they delegated the responsibilities to two assistant police chiefs. I agree that the Chief's role needs to be clearly defined. That is why I wanted to put the question on the ballot for the voters of elected or appointed because I feel the chief's duties should be reinstated and should be defined on the ballot.