

Councilman Frank Fannon IV's Answers submitted on 10/29/12:

- 1) Modes of transportation: Which modes of public transportation and ease-of-use solutions for private transportation do you support which will encourage local residents and visitors to increase their purchases from businesses in –**
a. By when?

Re: West End & Eisenhower Ave.

Twenty-four percent of all Alexandrians use public transportation to get to work. We have a very efficient bus system, and we just approved the use of new technology that will allow people to access from their smart phones when the bus will be coming. I voted for new transit lanes and the Beauregard corridor. The new Beltway entrance on Eisenhower Ave. has improved access to Eisenhower Valley businesses. I advocated for the new VDOT ramp near the Mark Center. As the population increases, this will allow for more efficient transportation.

- 2) Attracting new businesses: Which mechanisms do you support which will attract new businesses to and encourage them to locate in –**
a. By when?

Re: West End & Eisenhower Avenue: I will continue advocating that Alexandria has the lowest commercial tax rate in Northern Virginia. I will work with new businesses to speed up the opening process by reducing lag time and burdensome regulations. We must adapt quickly for them to open efficiently. We can do this by reduce lag time in the permitting process because each day that the business is not open costs money.

- 3) Master Plan: What timeframe do you support for the completion of a submarket Master Plan for –**

Re: West End & Eisenhower Avenue:

We hope to start on these two plans within the next 12-18 months and see completion of them within the next 3 years.

- 4) Small Area Plans: What initiatives and timeframes do you support for the completion of development for the:**
a. Beauregard Small Area Development Plan.

Re: West End:

We look forward to the rezoning coming forward in the near future, and we will be ready to move forward when private capital is ready to build.

- b. Landmark Shopping Mall**

Re: West End:

Sears who has been reluctant to get on board with the redevelopment plan owns 22 of the 55 acres that make up the Landmark Shopping Mall. We will continue to encourage them to become part of the redevelopment opportunity and advocate for the three property owners to come together, so that the property as a whole can reach its full potential.

- c. Eisenhower West End Development Plan: What is your commitment to maintaining the schedule of the City's Eisenhower West End Development Plan and, specifically, economic development in the Eisenhower Valley?**

Re: Eisenhower Avenue:

Once the Victory Center is leased, the demand for services will grow in the West End. We look forward to this being the next small area plan for the City.

- 5) Help for existing businesses: Which specific measures will you promote which will increase the growth, customer base, revenue, and expense minimization of businesses currently located in –**

Re: West End & Eisenhower Avenue:

I will continue to oppose a commercial “add on” tax. Of the 45,000 parcels of real estate here in Alexandria, 2,700 are commercial or industrial properties. With an approximate 15% commercial vacancy rate, adding this additional tax on our businesses would be harmful to our local economy. Industrial properties are important to our City, and they are major contributors to our tax base. Thus, the City cannot afford to be hostile to our industrial properties.

- 6) Developer Taxes: Will you encourage that taxes which are raised from developers be spent on (1) matters pertaining specifically to the developer's project or (2) City-wide infrastructure services?**

Re: West End & Eisenhower Avenue:

We do not have a commercial “add on” tax. Most real property taxes go to the general fund. Alexandria's requests from developers include contributions to affordable housing and the new art policy. However, it is important that these contributions do not discourage development in our City. I am always willing to discuss these projects on a case-by-case basis.

- 7) National Science Foundation: How do you plan to encourage the NSF's coming to Eisenhower Valley and selecting one of the three sites it is considering there?**

Re: West End & Eisenhower Avenue:

Regional competition is fierce in Northern Virginia especially with the growth of Tyson's Corner and the new Silver-line. I will continue to promote the convenience

and access of the Eisenhower Avenue Valley with two Metro stations, bus routes and numerous beltway entrances. This is a prime location for businesses to locate.

8) Victory Center: What are the tangible solutions you will implement to promote Victory Center for immediate tenancy and development?

Re: West End & Eisenhower Avenue:

I will continue to work with the Alexandria Economic Development Project and the private landowner. It is also important for the landowner to make sure they have a competitive, attractively priced business space.

a. By what date do you expect first tenant to assume occupancy in Victory Center because of those solutions?

After waiting 5 years, we hope to see the Victory Center with full tenancy soon.

9) Campaign Signs: What is your plan to remove all of your political campaign signs following the election? By when?

Re: West End & Re: Eisenhower Avenue:

We will have our campaign signs down within three days post election. My team and I already have a plan in place to see that this is taken care of in an expedient manner.

10) In 30 words or fewer, why should Alexandria business-owner voters vote for you?

As a lifelong Alexandria businessman whose family has worked here for five generations, I will continue to champion business interests and be your voice on City Council.