

NORTH CHARLESTON CANDIDATE SURVEY

NAME: Aaron Hicks

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PRIORITIES: What are your top three priorities and why?

The top three priorities: Public Safety, Economic Development, and Education. I believe poverty is the mother crime. District 10 has been considered a low-income community for over 20 years, due to lack of resources and development. If we can develop the area with small businesses, which then provides local jobs in the community, which now allows them to be able to afford the workforce/attainable housing provided.

GROWTH: Charleston is experiencing overdevelopment that is pushing people into North Charleston. What is your plan to accommodate growth while keeping neighborhoods intact in North Charleston?

I believe one of the keys to this accommodation is developing what's already established. In District 10 we have more abandon dilapidated homes than all the other nine districts put together. If we develop the homes that are already established that allow communities to be enhanced not displaced.

SAFETY: North Charleston has been ranked one of the nation's most violent cities in recent years. While the crime rate has come down, what will you do as a city council member to make the city safer for families?

I would work directly with whoever is elected Mayor to potentially start a zero-tolerance task force to organize, strategize, then infiltrate the highest crime rated areas first. Amongst other things establishing effective neighborhood watch organizations in our communities. I believe public safety is not just the police issue, but a city issue.



COMMUNITY: If you had an extra \$100 million to spend over five years to make North Charleston a stronger community, what one thing would you invest in and why?

As a councilman I would use a lot of those funds to create affordable workforce housing.