

## Competitiveness/Open for Business

1. What is the most important thing that the next Mayor and Council can do to support economic growth in our city?

**Response from: Barry Dalrymple- Dist 1**

No Response

**Response from: Steve Streach- Dist 1**

No Response

**Response from :Laurie Cook - Dist 2**

I have reviewed the Greater Halifax Partnership's plan for HRM. This plan focuses too much on the core and pays almost no attention to the rural areas of HRM. We need to go further with community economic development planning, and consult communities more about what they would like to see happening. Again, I would like to see the community visioning process accelerated, starting with communities that are under the most pressure from growth.

**Response from: Will Gilligan- Dist 2**

I feel that creating partnerships across the board will support economic growth. Examples being partnerships with non-profit organizations, as they create needed jobs and help communities; partnerships with all levels of government; partnerships with businesses, schools and the people; and most of all partnerships within council.

**Response from: David Hendsbee – Dist 2**

No Response

**Response from: Jason Josey- Dist2**

I think the best way to support economic growth in our city is to keep the tax rate at a level that will not burden business to such a point that it is not feasible to operate. We should also encourage businesses to support one another in shared areas. It is important that we adopt a culture of supporting "local" whenever possible.

**Response from: Keith Leahy- Dist 2**

It is important for council to cease spending time debating issues that are of little or no

importance to the city's economic climate. As councilor I would work have council focus on sustainable economic development policies which would begin with working with GHP, provincial/federal development agencies and business to understand what they need from council in order to succeed. It is my opinion that council must work to implement policies that assist business rather than hinder it. This would include decreased wait times in order to process development permits and enhancing infrastructure in order to make our businesses more competitive on a global scale.

**Response from: Gail McQuarrie- Dist 2**

No Response

**Response from: Jackie Barkhouse-Dist 3**

We need to recognize the importance of our magnificent harbour and the economically strategic value of our geographic location and to work cooperatively with other levels of government and with private industry to promote Halifax internationally.

**Response from: Bill Karsten- Dist3**

No Response

**Response from: Jim MacDonald- Dist 3**

No Response

**Response from: Lorelei Nicoll- Dist 4**

We must encourage greater cooperation among all levels of government, academia, and the private sector.

**Response from: Barry A. Smith- Dist 4**

No Response

**Response from: Sam Austin- Dist 5**

Tax reform. The current tax system has a disproportionate impact on the urban core where the bulk of our independent businesses are concentrated and where the bulk of entrepreneurial innovation occurs. Every corporate giant started out as a small startup. Sobeys was once a single grocery store in Stellarton. Irving started as a car dealership and gas station in Bouctouche. RIM began in a second floor office above a bagel shop in Waterloo. Somewhere in our city's entrepreneurs is the next big Maritime success story. Our entrepreneurs are the future generators of wealth in our city and we should be encouraging them rather than stifling

their growth. Tax reform will allow them to thrive in the Downtown where they're most likely to succeed and grow.

**Response from: Ken Bowman- Dist 5**

Business development and growth. In order to increase density within the city we need a sound business proposal in which to bring both development and growth to HRM as a whole. In order to do this we need to have an excellent working relationship with the elected provincial government. We must work together to make sure that we "shop locally" whenever possible. We have an abundance of talented and very intelligent people here in the HRM and we must, both as a municipal and a provincial government, make every effort to spend our money here. If "Ships Start Here", then shouldn't we, both HRM and the province, say "Employment starts here"?

**Response from: Bryn Jones-Vaillancourt- Dist 5**

There are two things that I think are equally important:

1. The review of current taxation policy, to find a more equitable solution.
2. Improve our public transit system. How we can move people around the city in a fast, efficient manner has a direct impact on business.

**Response from: Sonya Dudka-Dist 5**

We must actively pursue greater economic diversity by supporting and championing emerging high potential sectors such as Information Technology and Bio Science Sectors and others, where we have a real chance to be globally competitive. Our city is far too reliant on public sector jobs and given the necessity for both the Federal and Provincial Governments to address their own deficit situations, now is the time to purposely move our city's economy toward much greater diversity.

**Response from: Gloria McKluskey- Dist 5**

No Response

**Response from: Kate Watson- Dist 5**

The most important thing we can do is make this city a place where our young people want to live. That means investing in transit and creating a walkable/bikeable city. It means bringing business back downtown and creating a vibrant urban core.

**Response from: Bill Zebedee- Dist 5**

One of the ways to help economic growth would be in response to question 1; find logical, equal ways of decreasing commercial property taxes. This can be based on tax rates from other jurisdictions and by having open dialogue with your organization, the Downtown Dartmouth Business Association, the Bedford Business Association, et al.

As Councillor for Dartmouth Centre, one of my priorities would be to personally visit each and every small, medium and large business in the District to see what HRM can do for them. For our downtown Dartmouth businesses we need to ask business owners what they believe can be done to help attract customers to do more than window shop or drive by.

**Response from: Darren Fisher- Dist 6**

No Response

**Response from: Jerry Pye- Dist 6**

No Response

**Response from: Mike MacDonell- Dist 7**

There are multiple answers to the question of economic growth some of which I have outlined already. For starters, the issue of increasing development by reducing red tape associated with it will be a major issue for me if elected. Also, a major focus to introduce a realistic approach to property taxes to allow for more expendable cash to be available to citizens of the city. Another major proposal that I have yet to release to the public is my commitment to Arts and Culture in the city, you'll have to stay tuned to the website for that, rest assured you will be very surprised. This includes the facilities available and needed for the production and showcase of the many talents that reside in this city and by looking to all possible partners both private and public to help fund the many projects needed we are entering a very exciting time in terms of our downtown community and the way it is developed for everyone.

**Response from: Wayne Mason- Dist 7**

HRM has accepted the Greater Halifax Partnership Economic Strategy. Since this acceptance critical senior staff from HRM, including the CAO, have not attended important SUP meetings, and HRM Council continues to review and pass projects, budgets and bylaws without placing these reports in the context of "how does this action move us toward our strategic goals.

**Response from: Dawgfather PHD- Dist 7**

No Response

**Response from: Sue Uteck- Dist 7**

As a community we need to start congratulating ourselves for our accomplishments and who we are. The new Central Library is a good example. The public came, participated and were heard. The result is a soon to be opened, state of the Art library that we all can be proud of.

We need to improve our tax and regulatory climate along with good customer service- this is a must. Developers need one stop shopping in a timely manner. If problems arise, all the partners (planning, utilities, etc.) must come together quickly to get it resolved.

**Response from: Gerry Walsh- Dist 7**

The new Council needs to send a clear message to business owners, particularly local businesses, that HRM will be responsive to their needs; will listen to their concerns; will minimize red tape; and do whatever they can to help these businesses grow and create new jobs.

**Response from: Karen Dempsey- Dist 8**

No response

**Response from: Doug Macdonald- Dist 8**

No response

**Response from: James Mackay- Dist 8**

Manage the city responsibly, and provide predictable directions for businesses, individuals, growth to travel along.

Ensure Halifax has affordable housing.

**Response from: Dawn Marie Sloan- Dist 8**

Tax Reform and the adoption of incentives for new development within the urban core for commercial retail.

**Response from: Jennifer Watts- Dist 8**

Support an effective and well funded sustainable transportation system – public transit, ferries, bicycle lanes, etc. focus residential development in the urban core encourage incubator business and small business development have a vision for economic development that champions our local resources and talent

**Response from: Giovanni (John) Abati- Dist 9**

## FAIR TAXES

### PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS

Completed: NOT YEARLY - Rather every 5-10 yrs or when the property is sold  
Based on a formula that combines (Municipal Services available / Lot Size / Structure size / Property value / Household income).

BUSINESS TAXES need to be CHANGED TO COMPETE with "Business Parks" such as Dartmouth Crossing and Bayers Lake. Sprawl, Eroding Infrastructure and Downtown abandoning are a result of our current system

#### **Response from: Richard MacLean- Dist 9**

I think the most important thing is for council to actually work together to do what's best for the city and stop squabbling over minutia that leave us unprepared and unable to deal with the bigger issues. Where there is confidence there is an opportunity for growth, where there is division and dissention there is none.

#### **Response from: Linda Mosher- Dist 9**

Council needs to ensure that the most recent Economic Strategy is followed and implemented by all stakeholders. As well all stakeholders need to be held accountable in moving forward the five-year Economic Strategy, "Planning for Prosperity-Together". There are five goals that support economic stimulation: building a **Regional Centre, Business Climate, Talent, International Brand, and Maximize Growth Opportunities**. The strategy ensures that we are an international city that is diverse, vibrant and sustainable. A city that people want to live, work and grow a business and capitalize on our strengths. The Economic Strategy is a comprehensive plan for our economic future that is a result of the collaboration of many volunteer coming from all sectors including but not limited to NGO's, government, business and the educational sector. It involved extensive consultation and stake holder by-in. We have the plan and must move forward more aggressively to achieve positive outcomes from the five areas.

We also need to ensure that the agencies that we have to promote Halifax have clear roles and responsibilities and work together and not duplicate efforts and maximize their resources. Examples are Greater Halifax, Nova Scotia Business Inc. and Destination Halifax.

#### **Response from: John Wimberly- Dist 9**

No Response

#### **Response from: Russell Walker- Dist 10**

I believe it should be easier and quicker to put building applications and development

agreements in place. HRM needs to look at hiring more staff to facilitate this.

**Response from: John Thibeau- Dist 10**

Continuing to increase development in our commercial centers is essential to our economic growth. Making it affordable and attractive to prospective businesses is paramount to increasing funding into development. Increased funding into development is a great start to creating the necessary space for economic growth; but those developments will remain empty if it becomes too expensive to operate or the area becomes over-developed. Council can help to ensure that tax and other public costs to businesses do not rise to the point of making it unaffordable to do business.

Ensuring that the HRM continues to attract new jobs, new employers and new employees is essential to any successful economic growth. Outside of developing land, we must continue to create a positive and attractive social infrastructure for our city. Libraries, recreational facilities, public green spaces, parks, and trails are all examples of socially responsible development. The council must continue to work with developers to ensure the preservation of some of these public areas and work towards using land it currently owns to develop for public usage as well.

One important key to a strong economy is to invest in local and Canadian made products and services. By using our power of choice as consumers, we can continue to support our local economy and our local workers by spending funds on services and products made locally or nationally. Continuing to raise awareness about buying local is an investment into a sustainable, prosperous and growing HRM.

**Response from: Steve Adams- Dist 11**

No Response

**Response from: Peter Grabosky-Dist 11**

No Response

**Response from: Jim Hoskins- Dist 11**

No Response

**Response from: Tom Lavers- Dist 11**

No Response

**Response from: P.Rano Khokar- Dist 12**

No Response

**Response from: Reg Rankin-Dist 12**

It would be of course to support the full implementation of the Regional Growth Policy. And with the growth of population downtown, it will produce the expected dynamic of a vibrant downtown city.

**Response from: Mary Wile-Dist 12**

HRM is fortunate to have a number of organizations that focus on increasing economic growth, including the Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Business Association, Greater Halifax Partnership, the Port Commission, Waterfront Development Corporation, along with private developers. This results in an excellent effort by these groups but I feel the general public isn't fully aware of the various initiatives. We are on the right track but we need to do a better job of keeping our citizens are informed. If our citizens are confident and feel we are doing a good job, our economic growth will be significantly increased. A good example is the positive reaction and excitement of citizens surrounding the successful Ships Start Here project. How am I going to ensure Halifax is open for business? I take every public opportunity to promote HRM and what we have to offer. When I served on the Board of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities I regularly spoke of HRM and its potential, advantages and people and a great place to do business. In today's global economy, we have to be competitive with other municipalities and countries and provide meaningful incentives to entice investors.

**Response from: Bruce Smith- Dist 12**

I believe I answer this question in question 3.

In addition, the council will need to focus all developing economic opportunities outside of the City Core.

In conjunction with construction of a Transit Terminal in Clayton Park West, dedicated bus lanes, improved Active Transportation routes, I believe the planned expansion for the Bayers Lake Business Park provides an ideal opportunity to create a Business Town Centre. A centre that would attract businesses that do not require a City Core presence. By creating an environment to meet of the needs of companies and their employees we could reduce the traffic pressures into the City Core while reducing employee transportation costs and travel time ...and that's just the beginning of the benefits! But we must apply vision and planning to successfully accomplish these objectives.

**Response from: Peter Lund- Dist 13**

No Response

**Response from: Doug Poulton- Dist 13**

No Response

**Response from: Matt Whitman- Dist 13**

No Response

**Response from: Brad Johns-Dist 14**

No Response

**Response from: Laurier Sauers- Dist 14**

Develop and revitalize the downtown area. Vibrant companies want to be in a downtown core not in an industrial park. Residents who love living in the middle of it all want to be downtown in a stylish condo, not in suburban areas. We need the world to feel Halifax is open for business not ready for retirement.

**Response from: Steve Craig- Dist 15**

Be decisive in its application of policy and create a supportive “we welcome you climate” that says “we are open for business”.

**Response from: Janet Langille- Dist 15**

No Response

**Response from: Stephen Taylor-Dist 15**

No Response

**Response from: Curt Wentzell- Dist 15**

No Response

**Response from: Ian Wilson- Dist 15**

No Response

**Response from: Tim Outhit- Dist 16**

Council must initiate policies, budgets, plan, and adopt a can do attitude to encourage economic growth. HRM just grow commercial tax base in order to fund new facilities and infrastructure and to reduce the overburden on present commercial and residential taxpayers.

**Response from: Mark Ward-Dist 16**

No Response

**How are you going to ensure that Halifax is open for business?**

**Response from: Barry Dalrymple- Dist 1**

No response

**Response from: Steve Streach-Dist 1**

No response

**Response from Laurie Cook- Dist 2**

We need to significantly accelerate the community visioning process across HRM. Community visioning is a process that empowers communities, and lets potential investors and developers know – in a proactive way - which projects people would welcome, and which they would not. It also identifies opportunities for business that might otherwise not seem so evident.

**Response from: Will Gillian- Dist 2**

1. We must restructure our tax and user fee system
2. Maintain our clean and healthy environment
3. Improve on our Transit System.
4. Promote all that we have to offer
5. Improve on Halifax as a tourist hotspot.

**Response from: David Hendsbee- Dist 2**

No response

**Response from: Jason Josey- Dist 2**

Halifax has already proven that it is open for business. We just need to ensure that it maintains that image. Looking around the city, you can see that it is booming, or at least looks like it is. Construction is taking place all over. There are numerous tower cranes in operation on a daily basis. The focus has to be on keeping it visually appealing. Parking is always an issue. If

we can find better ways to get residents to utilize public transportation, this may not continue to be such a problem. As always, the tax rate has to be reasonable. If companies are burdened by taxes to the point of closing, then that will deter new business from coming here. We also have to have a renewed, dedicated plan to focus on violence in the city. Halifax is getting a reputation for being a dangerous place. People will not move to an area if they feel unsafe.

**Response from: Keith Leahy- Dist 2**

As mentioned above, council must move out of the way of development. They must speak with a unified voice and be clear with the message that if we are not moving forward we are following behind. Again, it is councils role to ensure the HRM's infrastructure including roads and facilities are world class, while living within our means, giving our business the ability to compete globally.

**Response from: Gail McQuarrie- Dist 2**

No response

**Response from: Jackie Barkhouse- Dist 3**

The business community in Halifax benefits from the hard work of Halifax Regional Municipality in maintaining a well-rounded community that balances attention to everything from improving infrastructure to a thriving arts scene, educational institutions with international reputations to a multi-faceted transportation system, safe streets to attractive public spaces. All of these attract and keep businesses.

**Response from: Bill Karsten- Dist 3**

No response

**Response from: Jim MacDonald- Dist 3**

No response

**Response from: Lorelei Nicoll- Dist 4**

The best way to provide a welcoming environment is to develop a strong economy with abundant employment opportunities. The barriers to attracting and retaining immigrants, keeping our youth at home, and supporting disadvantaged groups in our community are largely economic barriers, not social or cultural. We must continue to support our participation in the Greater Halifax Partnership and develop partnerships with business and industry. We must build on our strengths, such as our harbour and port, and our cultural and creative industries, and encourage the concept of clustering businesses, such as the Burnside Logistics Park.

**Response from: Barry A. Smith- Dist 4**

No response

**Response from: Sam Austin- Dist 5**

I believe the best thing that HRM can do is to create the conditions for success. This means ensuring our city is competitive by spending wisely and by providing the right mix of city services. Cities are now in a global competition for business and talent. We need to make sure that we can compete by offering a high quality of life. This means nurturing the arts, supporting non-profits that fill gaps in our social services, building a transportation system that works and ensuring that our land-use bylaws allow for a variety of spaces for business (business parks and Downtown offices).

On the permitting side, HRM should adopt aggressive timelines for service and back those timelines with appropriate staffing. A delay in a permit award costs money and discourages commercial activity. Our municipal government also has a role to play in lobbying upper level governments for policies and programs that benefit our city. Our council and mayor are also our lobbyists and that role that shouldn't be underestimated.

**Response from: Ken Bowman- Dist 5**

Through proper spending, sound promotional networking, and working closely with our Provincial and Federal Governments, we will show the world that we are a contender in the world market. Once upon a time we were the gateway to Canada; the new world started here in Halifax and Dartmouth. We have since lost that identity and we need to bring it back. We are still the first port of call coming from Europe and we must capitalize on that fact. We are one of the best places to live in Canada and we as a community must show that. We have the advantage of the federal government showcasing what Canada has to offer as a country: for example, our abundance of natural resources, the fact that we have, one of the, if not the, strongest banking system in the world, a strong financial market in which to operate, and the beauty of Canada itself. We just need to take that further, and highlight HRM's strengths specifically. If we focus on all the positives, remedy the negatives, and work with all levels of government to showcase HRM, we will show Canada and the rest of the world we are open for business and business here is good.

**Response from: Sonya Dudka- Dist 5**

First thing I will do when elected to council is assess what we can stop doing. Businesses, small

and large are not so much looking for our council to do things for them, they really are just looking for a place to succeed and thrive. When I am elected to council I will focus on what HRM is doing that may be deterring business and I will work to address such things as unnecessary process, red tape, non- purposed regulation, and imbalanced taxation.

We need to set clear rules of the game that protect the interests of all HRM citizens, stick to them, and then for the rest get out of the way of business.

**Response from: Bryn Jones-Vaillancourt- Dist 5**

Fair Equitable Commercial Taxes

Stronger support for local business

Work with city staffers, provincial government and local tourism councils, business commissions to ensure we advertise to bring people into Halifax.

Examine the possibility to have media campaign focused on residents supporting local business

Advocate for Centre Plan Proposal: Mixed used commercial and residential properties together.

**Response from: Gloria McCluskey- Dist 5**

No Response

**Response from: Kate Watson- Dist 5**

We need to welcome entrepreneurs and businesses to our city. The municipality needs to work with other levels of government to simplify the bureaucratic process of opening a business. We need to get the message out that HRM will help streamline the process of starting a new business.

**Response from: Bill Zebedee- Dist 5**

By having open and honest dialogue with business across the municipality. Doing this will not only answer some outstanding questions and concerns from our business community, it will say to prospective business that we care about those who stimulate our economy.

I would like to go one step further to show that HRM is open for business by proposing a new bus route. This route would run from the Westin/Train Station to Dartmouth Crossing. Not only would I would like to go one step further to show that HRM is open for business by proposing a new bus route. This route would run from the Westin/Train Station to Dartmouth Crossing. Not only would this serve employees and local shoppers, but it will make the area accessible to visitors staying in downtown hotels. Shubie Park and Dartmouth Crossing are two stand out features in Dartmouth that do not have a direct route to Halifax. This could be launched at the beginning of next year's tourist season, with Dartmouth Crossing promoting the route at downtown hotels and at Pier 21.

**Response from: Darren Fisher- Dist 6**

No Response

**Response from: Jerry Pye- Dist 6**

No Response

**Response from: Mike MacDonell- Dist 7**

To truly open up Halifax to new business ventures we must first work to establish a higher level of investor confidence in the city, through streamlining the process for development projects and creating an incentive structure for those putting capital into the local economy we can stop shunning developers and start attracting them. Increasing short-term incentives for businesses in the city will provide an immediate boost to the economy and once it is on the rise it will create opportunities for entrepreneurs who may not have felt the market was strong enough to carry a new business venture. Regular meetings with those in the business community to be advised on the state of our downtown and how exactly we should be moving forward is something that I promise moving forward. As anyone will notice, I nor any of my opponents are an expert in the field and I will not be clouded by arrogance in thinking that I have "better ideas", what we need is an elected official who listens to his constituents and those who are impacted by his decisions.

**Response from: Wayne Mason- Dist 7**

Council needs to impose customer service standards on HRM's operation. Residents and business should have expectation of reasonable timeframes for response. Staff need to be customer service focused, and often their hands are tied by arcane rules, policies, and contradictory bylaws. Red tape needs to be cut, processes made simple, public, transparent and predictable.

In the case of development, many other jurisdictions have implemented a "one window" philosophy for not just the application process, but the post approval permitting process. I hear time and again that the problems with speed at city hall continue after the approval or D/A are in place- that developers have to deliver 18 separate plans to separate parts of the government. One window means that a staffer acts as the communication point or nexus for the developer, representing the municipality, simplifying and smoothing the approval and permit process, ensuring the municipality has to resolve conflicts between different departments of the municipality before presenting the results to the developer.

**Response from: Dawgfather PHD- Dist 7**

No Response

**Response from: Sue Uteck- Dist 7**

As a councilor I have been the facilitator between the business prospect, HRM staff and the community in which I serve. I am known in the business community as one who can cut to the issues and bring consensus. It is important that there be a champion for the downtown who can bring consensus at Council. I can and I intend to be that Champion who brings a clear vision and a course of action that can be supported by my colleagues and the community alike.

**Response from: Gerry Walsh- Dist 7**

The new Council needs to send a clear message to business owners, particularly local businesses, that HRM will be responsive to their needs; will listen to their concerns; will minimize red tape; and do whatever they can to help these businesses grow and create new jobs.

**Response from: Karen Dempsey- Dist 8**

No Response

**Response from: Doug MacDonald- Dist 8**

It will take leadership and cooperation from Council, that moves in a positive manor. We have to make this municipality a place where people want to live and work, and where people from away want to come and spend their money.

**Response from: James McKay- Dist 8**

Just watch me.

**Response from: Dawn Marie Sloane- Dist 8**

By listening to the Businesses and their customers regarding issues such as parking, development incentives, tax reform, and providing quality service delivery from the municipality's end would aid businesses and demonstrate Halifax is open for business.

**Response from Jennifer Watts- Dist 8**

Support the Greater Halifax Partnership and the Strategic Urban Partnership initiatives, support the BIDs particularly where they support small business development support our cultural community that provides creative capital and is a strong economic contributor work for greater streamlining of administrative processes in HRM

**Response from: Giovanni (John) Abati- Dist 9**

1) IMROVE TAX SYSTEM

## 2) IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION

Champion "COMMUTER RAIL", from Bedford to the Via Rail Station

Reduce Congestion - More Park n`Rides and Metro-link services, increase active transportation corridors, more left turn lanes, better traffic light synchronization, pedways, Morning =more lanes into City, Evening =more lanes out of City

## 3) PROMOTE TOURISM & ECO-TOURISM

HRM's Natural Spaces are moments away from downtown. 100's of bird species, plants species and rare landscapes would attract Naturalist's from around the world.

Cruise ships, conventions and travellers would fill businesses both downtown and in our rural communities

### **Response from: Richard MacLean- District 9**

I will promote, listen and work with the business community to understand and their needs and develop solutions to issues that benefit all residents.

### **Response from: Linda Mosher- Dist 9**

We must be collectively positive about Halifax. This includes organization such as the Halifax Chamber, the media and citizens groups. People research Halifax when they are considering moving their family or their business to our area. The search results must be positive to encourage them to locate here. Years ago, The Business Voice's front page had a chalk line around a 'body. The implication was that we are being taxed to death. Can you imagine someone considering locating here and seeing this? The accompanying article un-necessarily inflated the issue with inappropriate comparisons. We are called a hub city by the Conference Board of Canada. Every dollar that is spent in Halifax not only benefits HRM, and the entire province of Nova Scotia, but all four Atlantic Canadian provinces. We need to act like a hub city and we need the key organizations in our city to work together to make Halifax the best option. Councillors could be invited to participate with the Chamber's Municipal Affairs Committee. As well, the new Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer should be working closely with the business community on making positive changes. I was on the hiring committee for the CAO. Each and every candidate that we interviewed mentioned how negative the media, organizations, and citizens are in Halifax. We need to work collectively to move our city forward. This will show that not only are we open for business but we are a city that is on the move and a prime location to be!

### **Response from: John Wimberly- Dist 9**

No response

**Response from: Kurt Bulger-Dist 10**

No response

**Response from: John Thibeau- Dist 10**

I would like to see HRM reserve the necessary space required to create business opportunities for prospective entrepreneurs as well as established businesses that may or may not be operating already inside the HRM.

I want to create new developments that are affordable and that will entice new and current business owners to have their businesses set up. By holding our commercial and property tax rates in check, we can ensure rates do not balloon out of control with improved development. Making sure services such as water do not skyrocket in cost and planning around accessibility to the various business and commercial areas is also essential. All of the public must have equal accessibility to goods and services in order to support our local businesses.

I believe that devising a marketing campaign to attract businesses to our great city is an initiative that should and could be encouraged. We can capitalize and improve on the rate and growth of our business development by going out to seek the types of businesses we need and want in the city. Developing a strategy to make it more cost-effective for new business owners would help to take advantage of the multitude of diverse entrepreneurial ideas and possibilities that exist within the HRM.

**Response from: Russell Walker- 10**

By improving the planning process and making some changes to HRM by design.

**Response from: Steve Adams- Dist 11**

No Response

**Response from: Peter Grabosky- Dist 11**

No response

**Response from: Jim Hoskins-Dist 11**

No Response

**Response from-Tom Lavers- Dist 11**

No Response

**Response from: P. Rano Khokhar- Dist 12**

No Response

**Response from: Reg Rankin- Dist 12**

The recent HRM rhetoric is “red carpet” not “red tape” it seems to me, there is no real change without change which may require council to review the need of a layer of bureaucracy associated with planning and advocacy committees. Several areas of HRM do not have these, such as Timberlea which have not suffered for it but saved considerable time in the development process.

**Response from: Bruce Smith- Dist 12**

I believe that HRM must position itself as the centre of economic growth, education, environmental sustainability and arts and culture in Northeastern North America.

**Response from: Mary Wile- 12**

HRM is fortunate to have a number of organizations that focus on increasing economic growth, including the Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Business Association, Greater Halifax Partnership, the Port Commission, Waterfront Development Corporation, along with private developers. This results in an excellent effort by these groups but I feel the general public isn't fully aware of the various initiatives. We are on the right track but we need to do a better job of keeping our citizens are informed. If our citizens are confident and feel we are doing a good job, our economic growth will be significantly increased. A good example is the positive reaction and excitement of citizens surrounding the successful Ships Start Here project. How am I going to ensure Halifax is open for business? I take every public opportunity to promote HRM and what we have to offer. When I served on the Board of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities I regularly spoke of HRM and its potential, advantages and people and a great place to do business. In today's global economy, we have to be competitive with other municipalities and countries and provide meaningful incentives to entice investors.

**Response from: Peter Lund- Dist 13**

No Response

**Response from: Doug Poulton- Dist 13**

No response

**Response from: Matt Whitman-Dist 13**

No Response

**Response from: Brad Johns-Dist 14**

No response

**Response from: Laurier Sauers- Dist 14**

As already stated, I will support the development of residential areas in the downtown core as well as incentives for businesses to remain in, or set up in, the downtown area.

**Response from: Laurier Sauers- Dist 14**

As already stated, I will support the development of residential areas in the downtown core as well as incentives for businesses to remain in, or set up in, the downtown area.

**Response from: Steve Craig- Dist 15**

Council needs to be seen as working and partnering with business and business associations such as the Halifax Chamber of Commerce.

I truly don't know what the strength of business relationship is with HRM nor all the obstacles to business development.

There are many stories in the press and situations where development takes too long. An examination of how we now work with the business community to see what is really broken and what barriers really do exist, and how HRM and the business community can work together better is important.

There are many HRM and business organizations creating plans and generating discussion. Do we have an environment that focusses on consensus and priority setting? Are "we" collectively structured to best facilitate business growth and development?

**Response from: Janet Langille- Dist 15**

No response

**Response from: Stephen Taylor-Dist 15**

No response

**Response from: Curt Wentzell-Dist 15**

No response

**Response from: Ian Wilson-Dist 15**

No response

**Response from: Tim Outhit- Dist 16**

A can do attitude, tax fairness, improved transportation and more empathy for the challenges and opportunities for our business community.

**Response from: Mark Ward**

No Response