



Carrollton Police Officer' Association

Candidate Questions

Jason Carpenter

Below are a list of questions that the Carrollton Police Officers' Association (CPOA) believes your answers will be important for both the citizens of Carrollton and the CPOA's membership to know.

1. What do you bring to the table that qualifies you to be a member of the Carrollton City Council?

I have been a Carrollton resident for 15 plus years where my wife and I have raised our children and worked to build a great community. In those years I have had the opportunity to gain experience and demonstrate leadership by serving Carrollton in the following positions:

- Former Chair of Planning and Zoning Commission
- Former Chair of Traffic Advisory Committee
- Former Member of Capital Improvements Plan Advisory Committee
- Current HOA board member

2. List and briefly explain your top three priorities for the City of Carrollton, and how you plan to accomplish these priorities.

#1: Be responsible with our budget and do all we can to lower taxes. There is no excuse for waste, and we must be the best stewards possible with what we have. To accomplish this, I will work with city staff and the rest of the Council to identify and eliminate waste and make sure all taxes being spent are for the benefit of the citizens.

#2: Public safety must remain a top priority. We have a safe city now and we must do all we can to maintain that safety across all aspects of our city. To accomplish this, I will work with city staff and the rest of the Council to ensure our first responders have what they need to do their job with extreme effectiveness. This means we must have a full police force and that force must be equipped to face the modern criminal. We also need to ensure Carrollton Fire Rescue is fully staffed and that they are adequately equipped as well.

#3: We must continue to seek opportunities for further investment in Carrollton and in reinvesting in our existing assets. This includes making our city a welcome place for small, medium, and large businesses. We must also continue the focus on replacing aging streets, sidewalks, and streetlights, and finally we must work to enhance our robust parks and trails. To accomplish this, we must continue to be responsible with our budget and seek all manner of paying for investment needs with non-borrowed monies and we need to be a city that seeks businesses that want to call Carrollton home.

- 3. Considering that the City of Carrollton has almost been built out and is land locked, how do you plan on managing and increasing the abilities of the Police Department to safely and efficiently service the citizens of Carrollton?**

Our city prides itself on the safety we have because of the excellent work the police department does already. To continue this level of service and meet the expectations of our great citizens we must seek to acquire and maintain a full staff. The city should continue to find ways to hire qualified candidates for all open positions in the Police Department. Additionally, the city and police must continually review the needs of the Police Department to find tools or methods that can be acquired or implemented that will either reinforce training or provide better protection not only to the citizens of Carrollton, but also to the police force itself as the modern criminal element continues to change.

- 4. What are your thoughts on the types of crimes that should be aggressively investigated and what crimes should the Carrollton Police Department not be proactive in confronting?**

All known crimes should be investigated in Carrollton. We should not expect our police officers to enforce certain laws and ignore others. That responsibility lies with the legislative body, not the police.

- 5. Do you believe that 2 police officers per 1000 citizens should be the standard that you would like to set to staff the Carrollton Police Department? If not, what should be the staffing level?**

The ratio should be one that allows for our Police Department to work at efficiencies that don't require excessive amounts of overtime while simultaneously continuing to provide adequate coverage and safety for our city throughout the entire day. If public safety is to remain a priority, then the staffing levels of our police must be at a level that maintains and provides that safety.

- 6. In light of the above question, do you believe that City Management, the Police Chief, and the CPOA need to work together and select an outside organization that can conduct a full staffing study that will take into account call volume, call duration, investigative needs, community involvement, relief factors, training requirements and other factors to determine what the staffing level should be?**

As a transparent and effective city, we must be willing to continually review our policies, procedures, and laws to ensure they are providing the level of effectiveness and expectations that our great citizens expect. This means any mechanisms for this review should be well understood by all parties and should seek to provide quantitative and qualitative results that can be used to make positive decisions that will benefit Carrollton and demonstrate the city's commitment to public safety.

- 7. What would be your strategy to recruit in a very competitive job market? Not only in the competitive field of Law Enforcement, but also in the highly challenging North Texas market? What standards, if any, would you support lowering to obtain more applications?**

We should seek all creative manners of recruiting when the market is competitive, like it is now. While money is often a driver for employment decisions, I have found in my professional career that money alone does not often keep the interest of employees over time. Therefore, in addition to financial incentives, we should seek methods that involve other types of benefits. These benefits will depend on what is important to Law Enforcement Officers. I do not believe lowering standards is a solution to be considered when being creative. Lowering standards serves to weaken the significance and potentially the morale of current officers given they have been held to the higher standard already.

- 8. Do you support holding city management, at all levels, accountable for the cities' recruitment and retention issues, employee morale challenges and equipment difficulties?**

I believe city management as well as the Police Department itself should be accountable for recruitment, retention, and morale challenges and equipment difficulties. If we are to keep public safety a top priority, everyone must be a part of keeping our city safe and our Police Department as effective as it can be.

- 9. How often do you believe the City Manager should meet with the CPOA? Should there only be meetings when issues come up, or should there be an open dialogue between them?**

An effective team, working together to provide the best in public safety, will need to communicate. This implies the communication is bi-directional and requires each party to seek to understand the other's position with respect. The frequency of this communication should be organic and could be regularly scheduled; however, it should not only occur when there are issues.

- 10. Is there anything else that you would like to tell us that would be important for us to consider for an endorsement?**

I have been, and always will be, very pro-police and fire. I believe our first responders deserve all the respect, love, and appreciation possible for the very difficult job they excellently perform daily. We are a very safe city because of the hard work our first responders do as their

normal, daily job. Our city's public safety should rank at the top of our priorities, and we should be setting the example and leading the way for our surrounding cities. If we are not at that level, I want to understand why, and work to change it for the better as this is a priority for me.