



## **Carrollton Police Officer' Association**

### **Candidate Questions**

### **Eddie Lopez**

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 bring a fresh perspective.**

I'm not a politician or a businessman, I'm a regular citizen who wants to serve the city I live in.

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

1. Safety. The city is currently 25 officers short. That equates to one full shift. How safe can the city and/or businesses be with this shortage? To alleviate this, I plan on working with staff and council to see #1, why this has happened, #2, what, if anything, is being done to correct the problem. #3, finalize a solution to attract officers as well as retain the current police force. The shortage of officers is also a detriment to the current police officers as they must work more and/or longer hours to make up for the shortage. This is unacceptable.
2. Transparency. This is a must for city hall. For example, why are we just now acting on a bond that was approved by voters a decade ago? City hall must be held accountable to the citizens. I plan on working with council to ensure complete and total transparency.
3. Fentanyl. This epidemic has hit Carrollton where it matters most, the children. We must ensure that the police department and city council work closely with schools in Carrollton. I would like to bridge the gap between city hall and CFBISD to make sure we are both on the same page. This epidemic can't be ignored or placed on the backburner. Educating the children of the dangers of fentanyl is also key.

**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 ?**

It is true we are land-locked, but that doesn't mean we stop growing. More and more apartments are popping up. With the apartments comes residents. The population growth indicates we need more police officers. We are currently 25 officers short and with more and more citizens moving here, we need more than 25. Carrollton needs to attract good police officers. Carrollton also needs to be a front-runner as it pertains to police officer compensation and benefits. We also need to ensure the police department is kept up to date with the latest and best equipment, as well as training, so they can perform their duties safely and effectively. I plan on working with council and city management to see what steps can be taken to make all of this happen. Scrutinizing the budget will almost certainly need to be done; however, this is an area in which we MUST take action

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?**
  - a. In my opinion, murder, drugs (especially when children are involved) and hate crimes should be aggressively investigated. Minor drug offenses, petty theft, trespassing and such should be investigated but not necessarily aggressively.
  
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?**
  - a. 2 to 3 officers per 1000 citizens is a good standard to follow.
  
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?**
  - a. I whole-heartedly agree.
  
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?**
  - a. My strategy would be
    1. Work with the community, local colleges and agencies to try and recruit new officers.
    2. Streamline the process.
    3. Offer competitive salary and benefits.
    4. Consider changing the number of college hours needed.
    5. Consider different degrees such as political science, psychology or sociology.
    6. Social media blitz
  
8. **Do you support holding city management, at all levels, accountable for the cities' recruitment and retention issues, employee morale challenges and equipment difficulties?**

- a. City management **MUST AND SHOULD** be held accountable for all city business.
  
- 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?**
  - a. I believe in open dialogue. It would benefit the city if meetings between the City Manager and CPOA were held regularly. This helps with morale; it keeps issues from growing and it promotes unity.
  
- 10. Is there anything else that you would like to tell us that would be important for us to consider for an endorsement?**
  - a. I don't see that Carrollton PD has a bad reputation, in fact, it's quite the opposite. The trick here is to make sure that reputation remains. I would like to see more "Coffee with a Cop" events.