



Carrollton Police Officer' Association

Candidate Questions

Brittany Verdell

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 am a licensed master social worker and the training to become an LMSW involves a unique set of knowledge and skills that makes me well-equipped to serve on the Carrollton City Council. As a LMSW, I have studied sociology extensively, which educates me to know how large systems operate, including government affairs. Sociology also focuses on sociocultural, ethnic, demographic, socioeconomic, and other kinds of diversity, with a key to striving for equity amongst all citizens. Lastly, I am trained specifically in resource development, identification, referral, and provision.

In addition to this, I am a mother and resident of this community who wants to ensure that the future of Carrollton is safe and thriving for current and future generations.

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

My vision for this city is simple: I want to make Carrollton a thriving place to live, work, and raise a family. I believe that by working together, we can build a brighter future for our community.

To achieve this goal, I will focus on several key priorities. First and foremost, I will work to improve the quality of life for our residents by promoting economic growth, ensuring safety and security, and improving social services. I will also work to promote more job opportunities within the city, I will support small businesses. I will be a voice for all residents of Carrollton, regardless of their background or neighborhood. I believe that

everyone deserves to be heard and represented, and I will work to make sure that the City Council is responsive and accountable to the people it serves.

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 ?

We must invest in our police department to ensure that they have the resources they need to keep our communities safe. This includes providing training, equipment, and staffing to support their efforts. We also need to work with our law enforcement partners to address emerging issues, such as gang activity, drug trafficking, and other forms of criminal activity.

I believe that if we prioritize compensation for the Police Department and engage police recruiting from the community college level we can address the shortage that we have. I also support increasing social workers within the department to assist with mental health, child safety concerns, and assisting with family violence calls.

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?

In terms of aggressiveness, I believe crimes that involve harm or bodily injury, abuse of any kind (prioritizing children,) as well as hard core drugs should be priority. I believe Carrollton Police should not be as proactive in minor, small amounts of marijuana possessions.

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?

I believe that the standard should be set based on the needs of the community and what resources are available. The city should be partnering with internal and external parties to continuously assess the risk factors and the needs of continuous staffing. Based on the assessment results, and how often the assessment is completed, that will determine what the appropriate ratio would be for Carrollton PD.

- 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 consider call volume, call duration, investigative needs, community involvement, relief factors, training requirements and other factors to determine what the staffing level should be?**

Absolutely! That was my answer to the previous question. As a social worker, my background training has taught me to rely on evidence based practices when making a decision. Knowing the dynamics of all factors are essential. In addition, all key players working together to bring forth their personal knowledge helps with a holistic approach to advocacy.

- 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?**

First, I would like to hear from the officers and CPOA. Being that they have first hand experience and knowledge of why they are here and what is keeping them here, they would know best on what is needed to attract more officers. Secondly, I would like to see an assessment done. Understanding what is going on in the department, what is working well and what the improvements are based off of a third party assessment would shape my next move. I believe that pay, benefits, and work life balance should be addressed. Then we can focus on recruitment.

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

Absolutely!

- 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?**

I believe that there should be meetings held routinely with the City Manager. Keeping an open dialogue between city management and CPOA will allow for ongoing transparency and positive relationship building.

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

Thank you all for you do and considering endorsing this cycle!

