

COPP Forum

Scottsdale City Council Candidate Questionnaire

Instructions: Please fill out the information requested and return it by July 1, 2008. Your unedited responses will be compiled with those of other candidates. Please keep your answers brief. However, if you need more space the response box will expand to accommodate you. If needed, please continue on an additional page.

No.	Question	Response
1.	Demographics	
1a.	Name	Joel BramOweth
1b.	Address	7502 East Buena Terra Way, Scottsdale 85250
1c.	Phone	480 946 6949
1d.	Years in Scottsdale	15 and 14 in Northeast Phoenix
1e.	When did you register to vote in Scottsdale? Have you failed to vote in any Scottsdale or General Election in the past 5 years?	1993. Don't think so.
1f.	Elected or Appointed Positions	None. I hope I have made up for this by spending the last two years attending every city council meeting, study session, budget session and most all commissions and departments as well as interviewing many city department heads.
1g.	Civic Activities	It's never too late to begin.
1h.	Education (include graduation dates)	BS in public administration UA in December 1969
1j.	Occupation	Real Estate Management (self - JBI Company 25 years in Scottsdale)
1k.	Other personal information that you would like to share?	Lobbied congressmen in D.C., participated in a fact finding trip to Israel in 2007, member of The Arizona Town Council, The Urban Land Institute, American Civil Liberties Union, NAACP, Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce, Anti Defamation League, USGA, The Phoenix Zoo Center for Biological Diversity in Tucson and many, many animal rights and rescue organizations.
2.	Campaign Information	
2a.	Address	7502 E. Buena Terra Way, Scottsdale 85250
2b.	Phone	480 946 6949
2c.	Fax	480 946 7078
2d.	Web-site address	www.votebramowethforcouncil.com
2e.	E-Mail address	joel@votebramowethforcouncil.com
2f.	Chair	Joel bramoweth
2g.	Major sources of funds:	75% self
2h.	Endorsements	None to date

Scottsdale City Council Candidate Questionnaire

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3.	Why are you a candidate for City Council?	<p>I can help. My 30 years self employed in real estate management has given me the skill, experience and a history of good judgement and strength based on ideals. Additionally, over the last 15 years I have owned small parcels of commercial land in Mesa, Chandler, Arlington, TX and Colorado Springs, CO. I have worked with architects and engineers, built streets, drainage systems, moved utilities, negotiated development agreements with city's, affected zoning, financed projects and executed leases and sales documents with numerous national tenants and built a few buildings. A Iso, and as important, I have a passion to demonstrate that elective office is a job, not a reward and I can do this only by winning and by my actions. In this time of constant conflict, new technology, new problems and issues, we need modern people without political fear or arrogance who want to solve problems. The old politics of alliance and ideology does not work. We must accept variety and consider those who are younger than ourselves and their views and their futures. We have many issues and I consider height and density a part of growth and we must manage it to find balance between commerce and quality of life. These are all a part of why I'm running and why I should be considered a quality candidate.</p>

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4.	Identify the major issues facing the Council.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Managing growth for prosperity and “choices” and finding balance between commerce and quality of life. 2. Small business made us unique and who we are. We must protect it and nurture it and never take it for granted because tenants and businesses die and must always be replaced. 3. Tourism pays the bills and enhances our lives. Support it more. 4. Transportation and congestion will be improved by focusing on completing our major road improvement projects, good planning which positions destinations throughout the city reducing drive time and tweaking the roads with more turning lanes, bus wide-outs and better signalization. 5. Parks and libraries, a new emphasis on small things that touch more people so I will fight to enhance the products in the libraries and provide more and better play ground equipment and basketball poles in the parks and keep the parks open a little later for the younger set. I also like the idea of passive “pocket parks” of less than 2 acres with benches, waling paths and flowers for adults to sit with friends and family. 6. Trust Counts. Improved trust in the Council will begin with modern people, as described above, who communicate better between themselves and the citizen and makes decisions instead of anguished delays and waste-full consultants. I support a new “study session” that really studies with stakeholders, activist and the council sitting around a table on the floor of the Kiva hashing out views and solutions. 7. We need to encourage private investment in major nonessential city projects such as a new center for the arts or the museum of the west. 8. 9.
5.	If elected, what would you like to accomplish?	I will create a style, a communication a level of tolerance for good ideas no matter where they come from. I will not accept the choices given to council by staff and will demand better and wider options. This council does not demand “better” it wants to “move along”. I am serious and do not seek to join a new club.
6.	<p>Are there matters that may come before the City Council in which you would have a Conflict of Interest?</p> <p>What type of issues would these be?</p>	None what so ever. I have refused campaign money from developers of any influence. I have no future new business interests in the state of Arizona. I consider this campaign more important than anything I am doing.

No.	Question	Response
7.	<p>Are there any citizen/city processes that need to be changed? Describe.</p>	<p>Where do I begin.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A new attitude. The council's attitude has to change toward public speakers during meetings and we need dialogue and public comment time latitude. We need probing and questioning between councilman and mayor. We must reign in the "politics" and the council must publically defend positions it takes instead of hiding.in order to clarify positions to issue active organizations. 2. We must work diligently on the city/citizen out-reach process. It should be stream lined so that decisions can be reached quicker, delay's cause turmoil and resentment. 3. We can improve our handling of new business applications and I would like to see a new city department of "Small Business" staffed with senior expert volunteers to help businesses open. Arrogance at staff level is inexcusable and will stop. The owner of Scott Toyota explained to me when he signed my candidate petition why he left Scottsdale for Mesa over our permit and building process. 4. I sincerely believe we must do even more for tourism because it really enhances all of our lives and it does pay the bills. Stimulation of tourism will rub off on all of our retail businesses and special event organizations and many cities are competing for our customers. We cannot take what we have for granted. 5.
8.	<p>What is/was your position on the following issues and what did/would you do to support your position?</p>	

No.	Question	Response
8a.	Growth and rezonings that increase density.	<p>I have an extensive Opinion 2 in the Tribune on “growth” and why and how we can manage it and not pull the plug and chill our prosperity and I will specifically address height and density.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We can be more accepting of variety in design and height than we are and recognize that it does not have to hurt the character of Scottsdale and it’s special heritage. 2. Tenants, businesses and buyers or renters drive design issues, not developers. “Users” ,anyone that uses a building, knows what they need to be successful in the marketplace and the structure is the first thing that gives their customer a perception of their business. It is the same in residential. 3. As a city, we have an obligation to protect everyone’s private property rights and especially existing home owners and neighborhoods from the direct “excesses” caused by new development and the noise, congestion, odors, buffers and uses by new development. 4. We need a working plan and the following is in line with the existing General Plan as I understand it and we may actually be limiting the land uses under the General plan that support height and density. My campaign position pamphlet outlines two significant changes on this issue: one, linear height forces bad design, most all of our buildings look like refridgerators laying on their sides so let’s approve height based on the number of floors tied to design details. We will get more floor step-backs, better buffers and open sky view corridors. Two, establish three zones where appropriate, denser development can take place (subject to stipulations and planning guides) and that is Downtown, Scottsdale Road and the 101 Freeway. It does not by any means suggest that we will have “canyons” of higher buildings in these three zones, but it will remove buildings taller than 3 floors from any other area in the City and reduce our overall density. 5. I include the Airpark in the Scottsdale Road zone and appropriate for additional height and density. I would like to see airpark maintained as a business and employment zone only without residential. The residential that exists on the edges must be protected with wide buffers made up of landscaping, natural space and surface parking. 6. I do not accept that that we must compete or increase our height more than 6 floors no matter what Phoenix, Tempe or the Indian Reservation does and I will not be persuaded to do so. I believe in staying unique and our current height may be viewed as high, but in the future will stand out as very unique and modest indeed. Specifically in the Waterfront project I could accept that the final development parcel scheduled as a hotel/residence be considered for additional height to co inside and balance that which exists. 7. In conclusion, this should not be an issue or a battle between outsider

No.	Question	Response
8b.	<p>With increasingly taller buildings planned in communities to our east, south and west, Scottsdale is being pressured to follow suit. Do you feel it is appropriate to modify Scottsdale's building height restrictions in favor of taller buildings? If so, why do you believe that would be proper, and in what parts of the city and to what height limits should modifications be proposed. Comment specifically on downtown and the Airpark.</p>	<p>Between outsiders and long-time residents, between those who can afford high-rise apartments and want them and single family neighborhoods. As the world changes, the environment becomes more severe, commodity shortages, (gas, food, energy) all of this will create conflict. These conflicts will strain our city leadership and create more and more difficult decision making. What we find beautiful today will change tomorrow due to emphasis on solar solutions and wind turbines possibly marring our landscaped just like the power lines we're used to seeing. We need strong, independent people to explain why we have to do what we do, not political sycophants insulting our intelligence.</p>
8c.	<p>Code Enforcement: Is it a problem and, if so, how would you solve it.</p>	<p>Enforce the codes and increase the penalties.</p>
8d.	<p>There has been much debate over whether Westworld should remain primarily an equestrian-event oriented facility or should become more of a regional exhibition center. What type of event facility do you believe Westworld should be and how does the 80 acres the city purchased north of Bell Road factor into that? Should the city keep or sell the 80 acres?</p>	<p>West World should be a varied, community jewel in the desert anchored by the Horse shows and the Barrett-Jackson car show. I have written a 500 word Opinion 2 on the potential to expand the uses to include a simple outdoor amphitheatre with stage and other events such as accommodating small circus's if we don't already. West World should make money and as the North Scottsdale matures can be a potential location for a future Center for the Arts not only as a breathtaking local, but as a planning measure cutting down on driving time. Good planning will relieve congestion and providing preliminary design money will stimulate private fundraising.</p> <p>Therefore, my response to the question on the 80 acres, when the market improves, zone it for the highest and best use and sell 60 acres and keep 20 for the Center for the Arts site. Based on zoning, we may be able to recover all of our money.</p> <p>In a similar manner we can solve the parking issue for Pinnacle Peak Park. The site plan that the developer will be seeking for his project can provide for as number of parking spaces as the park requires. The developer's motivation would be that the excess parking, provided at his expense, would allow him to appropriate additional density.</p>

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8f.	Do you support using taxpayer funds in any amount to subsidize private sector investments? If so, please describe. If not, do you believe the city should be barred by a city ordinance from using taxpayer funds to subsidize private sector investments? If so, please describe.	<p>I do not believe in cash subsidies and city investment of taxpayer money in real estate projects for any reason for they adversely affect the marketplace. If it doesn't work without city money it shouldn't be built. We have to be patient and let the market determine when and how property is utilized.</p> <p>I do not believe in an ordinance</p> <p>As far as Sky Song is concerned, I would not have voted for it due to the "investment" of the 120 million, I would have found another way to make the deal. root for it, I understand that the use has dictated the design and as soon as possible we should sell our interest and get our money back.</p>
8g.	Do you believe it is in the city's best interest to enter into a long-term agreement the Barrett-Jackson Auto Auction? Why do you think that despite many years of attempting to come to a long-term agreement the city and Barrett-Jackson have not been able to do so?	<p>Not particularly, because of the nature of his business. I would not support spending a large amount of money to build a single purpose building that may not have use should Craig Jackson go away – for any reason, he's mortal yes? Besides, I don't see a big building is that setting anyway. The tents are nice, flexible and when they get worn out you replace them. A building is a maintenance nightmare and we'd be spending millions on it like we are on the outdated Center for the Arts one day in the future. Craig will stay and we can just help me with parking, and related issues. The Scottsdale Barrett-Jackson show doesn't have to be his biggest show, but it will always be money making and his best show.</p>
8h.	Condemnation: Include in your response your willingness to utilize condemnation, if necessary, to acquire land for the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, or other public good.	<p>I do not believe in condemnation for any goal other than public health or safety.</p>

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8i.	<p>Preservation: Are you committed to acquiring all the land within the voter approved Preserve Boundary? Do you support the proposed Desert Discovery Center at the Gateway to the Preserve, Thompson Peak Parkway north of Bell Road? Why or why not? How do you think its capital costs should be financed? Its operational costs? Do you think it is an appropriate location for a large, open-air arts venue? Why or why not?</p>	<p>I am committed because it is right and loved. I grew up in Tucson hiking Sabino Canyon when you didn't need to take a trolley and pay. We have a the tax structure in place and I would stick with it without increases and depend on the state to make it feasible to complete.</p> <p>I support the DDC and prefer to let the conservancy and the commission, who know the preserve better than anyone, sort out the size of the venue. I would promote a study session bringing both together along with the council on the floor of the Kiva to understand all the issues.</p>
8j.	<p>Traffic: Do you believe the Transportation Master Plan solved any of the city's transportation issues? If so, what part of the TMP do you support? What part do you not support?</p>	<p>If you don't ask good questions then you don't get good answers. Staff failed to nail down the scope of the study. Ironically the minor features of the report, bicycles, walking paths, etc may be most important part of the report given the high cost of gas, but this could have been anticipated and the report could have provided a better focus on car pooling and specific bus improvements.</p> <p>I believe planning where and what kind of buildings we approve and how they relate to each other is a major part of reducing traffic and congestion.</p> <p>I also support the increased use of trolley's and other cities use them and charge 25 or 50 cents per ride.</p> <p>I support point to point express bus service day and night from city lots or private parking lots such as golf courses whose lots are empty at night. Catch the bus at Grayhawk at 7 PM to downtown and take it back to the lot at 10PM.</p>

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8k.	Do you favor light rail or other form of high capacity transit for Scottsdale? If so, what kind and where? Will you support the City Council's resolution that prior to adoption of a plan for light rail transit anywhere in Scottsdale it shall be put to a non-binding public vote to allow Scottsdale voters to voice their opinion? Do you support the expenditure of \$50,000 annually to join the Valley Metro Rail Study Group?	<p>I do not support light rail on Scottsdale Road or anywhere. There is no evidence it will reduce congestion, we don't have a mass of retail or office downtown to justify a fixed line system, our weather is a factor and the related requirements of air conditioned stations and parking is not possible. And, it is not who we are.</p> <p>A nonbonding vote maybe, but public votes concern me.</p> <p>I support joining the Metro Rail Study, it can only lead to cooperation and benefits. We have to be a good neighbor.</p>
8l.	Much has been written and stated recently about a morale problem among city employees. Do you believe a morale problem exists, and if so, how can it be remedied?	<p>I really don't know. I did talk to a number of city employees getting petitions and they were careful if not critical of people at the highest levels so I do think something is there.</p> <p>I think John Little is a force for good, he is humble and tolerant and that is a key. We can do better in embracing those that do the labor.</p>
9.	Services – Identify City functions that need to be:	
9a.	Created	Department of small business. City Treasurer, A citizens budget review committee. I would consider a new city out-reach department.
9b.	Improved	Fuel reserves issues, Water testing, Planning department, Economic Vitality, Downtown Group,
9c.	Reduced	No view
8d.	Eliminated	No view
10.	Identify City revenue sources that should be:	
10a.	Created	.
10b.	Increased	City court fines.
10c.	Reduced	No view
10d.	Eliminated	We should begin to reduce the tax on food, and find ways to replace the money or face poor consequences.
11.	Is there anything in your background that you would not like publicized on the front page of local newspapers?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

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No.	Question	Response
12.	Would like to receive a copy of the compiled results?	X <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Signature ~~Joel BramOweth~~ _____ June 24, 2008 _____

Please type your name for your electronic signature.

Date _____