



## **Burnaby Council Candidate: Konstantine Roccas - independent**

Konstantine Roccas has lived in Burnaby for over fifteen years and is looking to make a difference in his community. He has an undergraduate degree in Political Science and History from Simon Fraser University and a Master's Degree in Journalism from the University of British Columbia.

He is vexed by the current state of politics and is looking to return it to the people. He has no special interests backing him and is running a grassroots campaign built on logic and sensibility. Konstantine is looking for smart, innovative solutions that will support grassroots business in Burnaby.

### **What skills would you bring to the Councillor's position and how would those apply to the business community?**

Above all else, I will bring a mindset skewed towards logic and reasoning. I will not take shortcuts and will explain my decisions for better or for worse. With regards to business, I'm not going to mince words. We're in trouble in this city and the lower mainland. Small businesses are finding it very difficult to succeed and employees are hard to come by due to a variety of factors. I would apply my academic mindset and realist principles to solving the business problems that are causing issues for entrepreneurs.

### **What strategies do you think the City of Burnaby should adopt to foster the growth and success of our local businesses?**

Most importantly, we need to get rents under control for business owners. Very few businesses will be able to make it off the ground if rents are astronomical and landholders would rather sit on an empty lot than rent at a reasonable rate. For example, a storefront up in SFU's Cornerstone has remained empty since 2019. It's rent? Around 9000 a month. That is a massive startup cost for entrepreneurs. The city needs to subsidize a portion of the rents for new businesses for up to a year to give these people a chance to get off the ground. We need more innovative businesses not A and W #505693556.

### **How would you propose the City of Burnaby manage its continued densification and the development of its town centers?**

The development needs to be predicated on creating a local, walkable community that empowers people to explore their neighborhood and in order to offer their patronage to local businesses. We also need to create spaces in these areas curated towards small businesses, not simply a bunch of large retail businesses for sale to the highest bidder. We need local creativity not more big box chains in these town centers.

### **If elected, what would be your top goals for your coming term in office?**

Getting rents under control for business owners and getting them subsidized as mentioned above. I want Burnaby to be seen as a place where entrepreneurial creativity can prosper. Right now, we're nothing more than an expensive suburb. We need to create an environment where people want to build and invest as opposed to parking their money in empty buildings and homes. We need business and a proper exchange of goods and services. Currently, what is our main industry? I rest my case.