



Burnaby Council Candidate: James Wang - Burnaby Citizens Association

James Wang was elected to Burnaby City Council in 2014. Previously, he served two terms as school trustee. James has tirelessly worked to make Burnaby a strong, vibrant, and inclusive city. Alongside his BCA council members, James worked to find ways to make life more affordable for Burnaby families and address the housing crisis. As chair of the Public Safety Committee, he introduced the first-ever Community Safety Plan – now in the process of being implemented – to make Burnaby a safer place for everyone. James is ready to continue working towards a more affordable, inclusive, and livable Burnaby for everyone.

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

Over the years, I have developed strong friendships with many small business owners in the city, in many of Burnaby's diverse communities. I know that it is challenging times for small businesses in particular, with rising costs and the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. This puts strain on our community and our families. I hope that with a BCA majority going into the next Council term, we can address a lot of these issues, working with the Board of Trade on the affordability issues that many businesses have. I know that businesses do well in healthy communities, and I commit to addressing the housing, transportation, public safety, and recreation needs of our residents so that they can support local businesses.

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

We should look to foster growth in novel ways to promote the vibrancy we have within the city. For example, creating an artists' district and a brewery district, would serve as cultural hubs, promoting tourism and encouraging residents to explore the works of local artists. We will also promote improvements to transit and the active transportation network, so that people can move around our city more smoothly and take advantage of city businesses and services better.

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

The densification in creating the town centres system has been successful, overall, for Burnaby. In order to create the housing that we need in a growing city, a BCA council will look at ways to encourage 'gentle densification' throughout the city through rezoning and other incentives. We must improve transit so we are not adding more cars into traffic, and continue to build out neighbourhoods so that residents can access the stores and services they need in close proximity.

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

The BCA has a long history of providing the services you count on, while maintaining among the lowest taxes in the region. This remains a priority for me and my BCA council colleagues, especially in times of economic uncertainty.

My goal is also to continue to get the basics of a well-run city right. This means recycling and garbage pick-up, the maintenance and building of roads and sidewalks, having vibrant seniors centres, and investing in swimming and skating lessons for children. This is why people like to live in Burnaby thanks to years of BCA leadership, and it is my goal to improve even more on these basic services.