PUBLIC POLICY SHORT LIST FOR:

SYRACUSE CITY

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We strive to build access to human-centered, walkable, vibrant communities and spaces for all.

1. PROVIDE STANDARD PRE-APPROVED HOUSING DESIGNS

Especially for accessory dwelling units, single-use family homes, townhomes, and small multifamily/mixed-use buildings to streamline permitting and reduce costs.

2. ELIMINATE PARKING MINIMUMS

Remove minimum parking requirements citywide to reduce overbuilding of off-street parking, lower development costs, encourage transit use, and support walkability.

3. EXPAND STREET TREE CANOPY

Plant more street trees, implement the City of Syracuse's Urban Forest Master Plan, and increase awareness of the free tree program to expand tree coverage and improve environmental health.

4. UPDATE THE ZONING CODE

Update zoning codes throughout the city to allow for greater housing density, flexible building types, the correction of inconsistencies, and expanded mixed-use development, especially near transit.

5. IMPLEMENT A LAND VALUE TAX

Shift property taxation toward land value instead of the value of land plus improvements to incentivize development & improvements, encourage efficient land use, and offer lower taxes for homeowners.

6. COORDINATE TRANSIT WITH HOUSING & ACTIVITY DENSITY

Upzone around transit stations, BRT stations, and bus stops. Prioritize funding for housing & mixed uses around transit, & prioritize transit around current & future dense, walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods.

7. IMPROVE STREETSCAPES AND WALKABILITY

Redesign and reconstruct streets. Redesign West Street, build a stair connecting Taylor St to University Pl, pedestrianize Walton Street, & more. Improve existing streets & paths for better walkability.

8. ENABLE FINE-GRAINED URBANISM

Reform policies to support small-scale, incremental development and diverse building types.

9. RESTORE NEIGHBORHOOD RETAIL

Re-introduce essential goods and services to walkable population centers and eliminate food deserts. This includes neighborhood pharmacies, grocery stores, hardware stores, public markets, and more.

10. RECONNECT STREET NETWORKS

Build new streets & pedestrian pathways to reconnect fragmented neighborhoods & improve mobility.

11. EXPAND OUR NETWORK OF SAFE CYCLE PATHS

Develop protected bike infrastructure connecting schools, neighborhoods, towns, and key destinations.

12. IMPLEMENT VISION ZERO

Implement strategies to eliminate traffic fatalities through street design, policy changes, & enforcement.

13. APPRAISAL GAP GUARANTEE

Set public funds aside for loan collateral on select construction projects, where a gap between appraised value and construction leads to larger minimum down payments.

14. PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT OF ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

Use economies of scale and financial resources to publicly develop affordable housing.

15. STREAMLINED PERMITTING

Make permitting easier, quicker, and more affordable across the board.