ABOUT SEATTLE HOSPITALITY FOR PROGRESS

Seattle Hospitality for Progress seeks to educate candidates on issues facing the hospitality community and endorses and supports candidates for office in the City of Seattle. We represent the diverse restaurant and hotel sectors of Seattle's economy, which includes more than 2,700 restaurants and 100 hotels.

2019 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Responses are due Monday, April 8 by 5:00 p.m.

To submit your completed questionnaire, or if you have any questions, please contact Teddi McGuire at teddim@wahospitality.org.

Basic Information

Candidate Name: Isabelle Kerner

Party Affiliation: None

Phone Number: (206) 271 - 1560

Email Address: isablle@kernerforcouncil.com

Website: kernerforcouncil.com

General Questions

1. Who is your political consultant?

   Yours truly, Isabelle Kerner!

2. What endorsements have you received?

   Al Hayes
   Cargotecture
   Egan Airships (Plimp)
   Isabelle Kerner LLC.
   James Egan
   Ocean Cargo Inc.

3. How much money have you raised to date?

   Approximately $1,300 dollars.

4. Are you participating in the Democracy Voucher program?

   Yes - $9,000 worth have been accepted.

5. Why are you running for this office?

   Aside from the fact that it is faster than walking, I am running for this office because I am not interested in being or becoming a career politician. While I was born and raised in Seattle, I cannot stand what City Officials are doing (and not doing) to solve Seattle's most pressing issues.

   The rate of homelessness has increased at a rate that poses an extreme threat to the sustainability of Seattle's economic prosperity. I strongly believe that without swift implementation of solutions that both address this issue and resolve it fully, Seattle will lose its reputation as a beautiful and inclusive city for all people to live and visit.

   While many of my opponents and other candidates have spent a great deal of time fundraising, I have taken a different strategy and approach as do not believe that throwing any amount of money at this problem will in any way resolve it.

   When devising all solutions, I feel there are three variables most predictive in determining whether a solution will succeed or fail. Those three variables are:

   1. Efficiency
   2. Cost-Effectiveness
   3. Feasibility

   While often overlooked, the third variable on the list, feasibility, is of tremendous importance. We can pass any policy we want, but the reality is that unless the policies we pass align with the values and interests of those impacted by such policies, they won't be effective.

   I've been visiting every homeless encampment I can find. I've spent a great deal of my time going alone into what both the fire department and police department consider the most dangerous encampments. It might seem crazy, but if I am going to solve homelessness with this

solution, I need to make sure they are all on board. As it turns out, these groups of homeless individuals (who prefer the term "Urban Campers") do not view me as a threat. While their stories, backgrounds, experience, talents, passions, interests, and social identities vary greatly, one thing they all have in common is that they do not trust this system or this administration. They do trust me though.

I have been to a few of Seattle's overnight shelters. I had to pretend to be homeless and my Urban Camping friends told me exactly what I needed to say just to get in for 5 minutes so I could see for myself what it looked like on the inside. With this in mind, I can say that the conditions of the majority of these shelters which you have to spend hours in line to get in and are then kicked out between 5 and 7am the next morning are hardly less horrific then the encampments we see every day.

While I could write a book on why I am running for Seattle City Council, the overall reason is that it is the only way I can fix these problems fast. I am done hearing complaints or redundant conversations on what issues we have in Seattle because anyone who has eyes can see them. I just want to fix these issues with the solutions I have devised, set the example, lead and inspire the people who are broken and then get back to pursuing my art projects.

6. What is your vision for Seattle?

This question is difficult to answer only because it is very difficult to describe a vision, a picture or a plan with just words. So I am going to describe it the same way I would plan any project. Seattle is the canvas. Here are the materials:

1. Shipping Containers
2. 23-27 plots of Vacant/Underutilized city-owned land (parcels mostly located where the urban campers and shipping containers already are (i.e. industrial district, side of i-5 and i-90, ect).
3. Persuasive Waste Receptacles
4. Kiosks
5. Urban campers
6. On-Site Managers (qualified and experienced to diagnose, prescribe and treat mental/health addiction disorders too)
7. 65 Desk Top Computers
8. 23-27 Printers
9. 40,000 thousand sheets of paper
10. Support and collaboration from businesses of all sizes in all industries

Part One: Shipping Containers

All of the Urban Campers will be off the streets in the first 6 months of 2020 and be placed in secure, modified shipping containers. These containers will be arranged like LEGO's and serve as transitional housing for 3-8 months depending on which 'set' they best fit with and the circumstances. This is not permanent housing. This is a Grace Period Project that gives every individual access to temporary housing so they can shower and securely store their belongings. This is also not jail or an institution. It is not self-governed, there will be managers on each of the cites trained to address the needs of the individuals and families who reside there. These sets would be spread out across Seattle. Each 'set' would directly correlate with the issues these individuals are facing.

In other words, you would have the drug-addicted and mentally ill in some sets, families and/or individuals who have just fallen through the cracks and do not have serious substance abuse and/or mental health issues in a different 'set'. Women and children fleeing domestic violence are placed in another 'set'.

There would also be a program that would give these individuals the opportunity to save money by helping to clean up the mess that urban camping has created. In other words, individuals would use their access card to deposit trash, used needles, ect., into a large ATM like Kiosk. These funds would serve as a retirement fund that is not for retirement, but instead serves as an FSA-like fund for housing. Cash cannot be taken out this fund. This would clean up the mess, get individuals off the streets, provide them with an opportunity to save money and work with Washington State programs like the apprenticeship program to concurrently pair these individuals with businesses struggling to meet the increased demand for skilled workers.

This way, they exit the program with a job that aligns with their own talents, passions and interests. Additionally, we would also partner with large tech companies like Microsoft and Amazon to set up the technological infrastructure in return for avoiding any type of future head tax.

In sum, this shipping container cites are basically college or trade school for urban campers. They might have to live in a box with a roommate they could choose and sign up to shower, but that's how it was when I went to college. Trust me when I say they want and need this opportunity. This is how we save Seattle.

Here is the LEGO model prototype for one example 'set'!
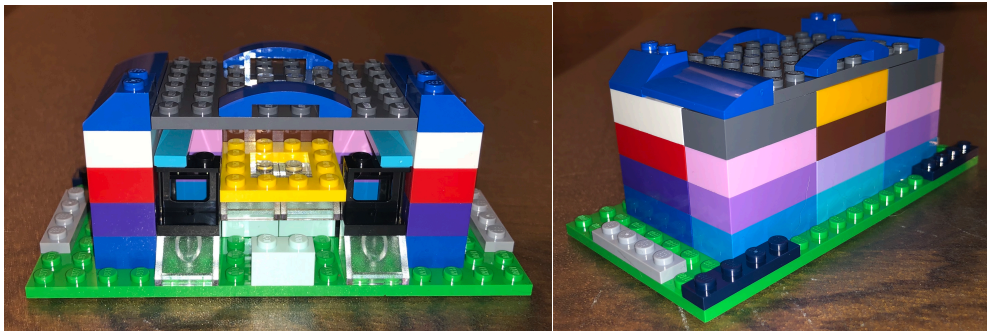
Part Two: Persuasive Waste Receptacles

As it turns out, Seattle does not really recycle. Now—I won't lie. I'm not a great recycler or composter. Truth be told, it is very difficult to know what is and is not recyclable, compostable or trash anymore. It is very much like the periodic table of sustainability with more invisible numbers than there are options. It just is not clear. After visiting and talking with all of the trash, compost, and recycling facilities, it turns out almost of all of it really does go into a landfill.

Further, there are not enough trash or recycling bins. I am not sure who decided to make them all grey, black, blue, or green. I'm sure that at one point someone thought it was a good idea to camouflage waste bins so they 'blend in with nature'. I think it's time for a reform. Even the Urban Campers have figured out that recycling is profitable when executed the correct way (that's why so many scrap metal and camp right next to the recycling facilities).

Our recycling industry is frustrated because China won't accept any of our cardboards or plastics anymore. They are too contaminated. We replace the small bins, provide everyone with new ones in return for free waste collection and pass a very simple policy requiring packaging and label companies to just print one single colored dot on every material. That colored dot corresponds with the section of the receptacle the object must disposed in. No need to replace the large bins we already have or the trucks that collect them. There's a plan for that too. All it involves is changing the lids on the large bins into a funnel that goes the opposite direction. I did also test to make sure this works for the color-blind as well.

Here are the Campbell's Soup Prototypes!

7. What are the main issues you see facing the hospitality community in Seattle?

The primary issues I see facing the hospitality community in Seattle is the increase in Urban Camping. This threatens Seattle's reputation as a beautiful and safe city for everyone—therefore reducing the likelihood tourists will want to visit.

Simultaneously, Seattle has become so unaffordable that many of those who work in Seattle's hospitality industry can no longer afford to live here. This means these workers must either spend more time commuting and also increases the likelihood they will leave Seattle's hospitality industry and move to work somewhere else. Therefore, Seattle will struggle immensely to meet the demand for workers in the hospitality industry if this pattern continues.

I feel that at this point—no amount of new cruise terminals or new sports arenas can solve these issues unless the same economic interests financing and backing these 'projects' are

willing to temporarily succeed competition amongst each other in return for compromise and collaboration on a project which could be our only chance to save Seattle and the hospitality industry as well.

8. What would you do to support the hospitality industry in Seattle?

    First, I would resolve this urban camping crisis. It would cost 25-30 million dollars for the entire project, would take at minimum 12 months and maximum 18 months. It could create an enormous supply of workers for the hospitality industry. It would also create a new emerging middle class which is fundamental to economic prosperity. Increasing the size of the population above the poverty level would substantially increase consumer spending.

    Then, I would eliminate the sugar tax. I don't think the City of Seattle needs more money. I believe the City of Seattle could operate with less money if they were open to more innovative solutions through better collaboration and communication amongst each other. The sugar tax disproportionately effects people below the poverty level and further excises consumer spending while driving up operating costs for vendors and those they supply too.

9. Why are you interested in the endorsement of Seattle Hospitality for Progress?

    I am interested in the endorsement of Seattle Hospitality for Progress because not only do I have a great deal of experience in the hospitality industry, I also have an insider's perspective, an outsider's understanding and a beginner's mind.

10. How would you use the endorsement of Seattle Hospitality for Progress?

    Aside from adding it to the list I submit in the Voter's Pamphlet guide so I can look like the career politician I am not, I would use the endorsement so we can all collaborate on win-win solutions, temporarily put our personal and competitive interests aside so we can devise the most optimal long-term solutions together to ensure future outcomes do not reflect a zero-sum scenario—or even a worse one where there are no winners at all.