



*Supporting Economic Development
in the Capital Region*

2020 MAYORAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

FuturePAC invited each candidate for Mayor-President of East Baton Rouge Parish to complete a questionnaire regarding his or her stance on a variety of issues. Five candidates responded to the questionnaire, of which four have allowed us to make their responses public. These are the unedited submissions from Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome, Former Representative Steve Carter, Councilman Matt Watson and Jordan Piazza. Representative C. Denise Marcelle completed the questionnaire but declined permission to publish. E. Eric Guirard and Frank Smith did not return a questionnaire. *Candidate responses listed in the order received.

GOVERNING PHILOSOPHY AND OVERARCHING ISSUES

FuturePAC is very concerned about the lack of unity and collaborative leadership in the city-parish, and is seeking leaders who will commit to demonstrating responsible compromise, civil discourse, and equitable justice. As Mayor-President, will you pledge to create a written, bipartisan agenda to achieve with the metro council over your four year term, identifying common ground upon which to lead, acting collaboratively, and finding real solutions?

Piazza: Yes. I hope to work with the Metro Council to move East Baton Rouge Parish forward. This means inclusion, collaboration, and supporting more public discussion. Attending the Metro Council meetings is a great start to rebuild the relationship between the Mayor-President and council members.

Carter: YES! I have a proven track record of bringing everyone to the table and working across all divides. I will commit to be the leader for all in our city-parish and pledge to work with the Metro Council to present a comprehensive plan to create a thriving Baton Rouge. I strongly believe we need a Mayor-President that fosters a culture of transparency and accountability. My track record speaks for itself...I do not engage in empty rhetoric...instead I focus on encouraging positive conversation and doing things differently. I look forward to bringing dignity and respect to City Hall.

Watson: Yes.

Weston Broome: As Mayor-President, I'm proud of the work my administration has done to bridge the gap between the Mayor-President's office and the Metro Council, but our work is not done. When I took office, there were deep divisions within government, but we have made tremendous progress. I have tried to increase transparency and promote accessibility to every member of the metro council. We can have disagreements and policy differences, but it is incumbent upon us to not focus on the issues where we disagree, but rather, find areas of common ground and grow from those areas of agreement. Since taking office, I have met with council members in small groups to include them in our financial planning in order to get input on key issues. When leaders work together despite party lines, to address issues of common concern for our parish, great things can be achieved and shared solutions can be crafted. That's the philosophy I have governed by in my first term, and it will be the guiding principle of my second term in office.

How will you change the tenor of the debate, discussion, and engagement between the Mayor-President's office and Metro Council?

Piazza: Again, attending Metro Council meetings is a necessary part of being Mayor-President. We need more collaboration and support between the council and mayor-president, and I believe this starts with a change in leadership.

Carter: I strongly believe we need a Mayor-President that fosters a culture of transparency and accountability. I consider the Metro Council as a partner of the Mayor-President's office and like any partnership I strongly believe that open and honest communication is the key to success. The Metro Council is an important part of government and I will work hand in hand with them to represent all of our constituents. Traditionally the Metro Council has had only 2-3 weeks to review and adopt a city budget proposed by the Mayor-President. I will work to get the Metro Council truly involved in the budget process. As a part of the legislative branch a robust debate about spending must occur. I also plan to have regularly scheduled dialogue with each member so we can understand the needs of our community and address them together.

Watson: I would offer regularly meet with each council person to exchange ideas, understand one another's idea of what progress is over the next four years and find ways to work together.

Weston Broome: As Mayor-President, the Metro Council and I must work together on important issues. To that end, we all must be willing to compromise. In my second term, I'll build on progress we have made to find areas of agreement with the Metro Council and compromise towards solutions that will benefit the residents of East Baton Rouge.

What steps will you take to act regionally and cooperatively with other Capital Area parishes?

Piazza: We need more open discussion about the how residents, students, and businesses operate throughout the Capital Area region. While 75% of area residents work in EBR, most commute in from other parishes. We need an open discussion and plan to address traffic, taxes, and development with region, and this starts with an honest and regular discussion between elected officials.

Carter: Our region has many assets and many similar issues. I would like to conduct routine interaction with my peers in the surrounding parishes, and also offer my department heads do the same with their peers in the surrounding parishes. One example is how transportation issues are a neighborhood, community, parish, AND regional issue...we must all work together to address this pressing concern for our citizens.

Watson: I would reach out to the leaders in our surrounding parishes to discuss economic, drainage, and transportation issues/opportunities, etc.

Weston Broome: My administration regularly reaches out and meets with the leadership of other surrounding parishes. It is imperative that an open dialogue be maintained between parish presidents to deal with issues we all are working on - namely a new Mississippi River Bridge; and attracting new economic engines to our area and regions with similar goals and objectives. Additionally, I currently serve as the co-chair of the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative. In this role, my co-chair and I work to build the capacity of fellow mayors, empowering them with the tools and support to undertake effective local initiatives which attract green jobs, move towards sustainable economies and achieve local environmental protection goals.

If the position becomes vacant, will you support hiring an experienced, professional manager as Chief Administrative Officer to help administer government operations? Describe the ideal candidate.

Piazza: Yes. We need someone qualified and well-versed in redevelopment and planning to bring new ideas, work with our council, and carry out aggressive and rapid development plans.

Carter: Yes, I believe a City Manager would be an incredibly useful position to help move EBR forward. I anticipate working very closely with the Metro Council to identify the qualities and individual to oversee the day to day operations of city departments, giving the Chief Administrative Officer the opportunity to implement the policies and initiatives of the Mayor-President. I believe the city manager should be someone that is driven to success, goal oriented, has management/budget experience, is an excellent communicator, and possesses strong decision making, problem solving, and leadership skills.

Watson: Yes. The ideal candidate would be a licensed engineer with previous private sector side experience in working with municipal and state governments.

Weston Broome: Yes. My current CAO has a Masters of Public Administration, in addition to experience in government, business, and community relations. While knowledge of our community and issues is not critical to the success of the CAO, it has proven to be beneficial to my administration. If this position were to become vacant, the ideal candidate is one who has leadership experience in the private sector as well as a positive relationship with current government officials and elected officials.

Will you requiring regular (ex. quarterly or semi-annual) reporting by all city-parish departments and all parish agencies to the Metro Council on progress against goals and performance metrics?

Piazza: Absolutely. We must take a thorough look at the budget and hear from department heads and agency officials about ways of improving government services and performance metrics. We cannot keep rubber stamping annual budgets and must provide more time for thorough and public review. This starts with annual and mid-year appropriation reviews before the Metro Council, a policy I hope to enact as Mayor-President.

Carter: Absolutely. I consider the Metro Council a partner of the Mayor-President's office and will direct my staff and department/agency heads to provide regular updates at Metro Council meetings. I plan to be as transparent as possible to my fellow elected leaders and the broader city-parish community. We must regain the trust from our citizens by providing them results of the outcome of our work.

Watson: Absolutely.

Weston Broome: Yes, currently we provide the metro council members and their aides with a monthly report on our key operating metrics for their districts and the parish as a whole. In addition to this, we share additional information with council members in the "Mayor's Monthly Report" which accompanies the monthly report. Starting in 2019, departments have generated Improvement Action Plans for the year. These plans allow us to stay on task by reviewing our performance metrics. This is used to see our gaps and opportunities. This provides the ability to adjust our plans so we deliver our basic services with excellence.

ST. GEORGE

If the legal challenges against its formation were to fail, how will you ensure an equitable and transparent financial separation of the City of St. George from East Baton Rouge Parish?

Piazza: We should never have allowed the St. George situation to progress this far, but until a judicial ruling says otherwise, I plan on working with St. George to establish a mutually beneficial plan for annexation. These means working with the establishment leaders to find compromise in needed government services and addressing sales tax revenues until the city is properly formed.

Carter: In my first week in office I will begin to engage with all parties and conduct open and honest dialogue with stakeholders. We should set a timetable for conversations to occur and benchmarks to meet. This issue should be resolved so our city-parish could start addressing issues like crime, transportation, infrastructure, education, and many other concerns that are important to our citizens.

Watson: By immediately beginning transparent conversations and negotiations.

Weston Broome: First and foremost, I am against the separation and creation of the City of St. George. While I have met with the organizers of the St. George break away effort, they have never provided a firm plan outlining what services they will provide and which ones they intend for the City-Parish to continue providing. The court challenge prescribed by law requires the organizers to put forward their plans and to prove their ability to pay for such services. Should the organizers prevail in the suit, we will finally have a firm plan to discuss moving forward.

What issues should be considered in the financial separation?

Piazza: Sales and property tax distribution will be a main concern along with government services such as police, health and school systems. We need to start addressing these immediately in order calm the uncertainty and instability currently being experienced by residents, home-owners, and businesses.

Carter: I believe all financial matters, which include capital/operational revenue and expenditures, must be addressed. And I will work with all parties to outline a transition for a formal separation to occur. I am confident we can all work together to achieve a responsible compromise.

Watson: The State Police work crashes on state highways that exist outside the municipalities in East Baton Rouge Parish. The combination of state to parish road swaps and the state highways that will remain within the boundaries of the proposed St. George, the strain on EBRSO will force a conversation to add more deputies in St George once it becomes a municipality.. Those costs should be the burden of those who live in the area needing extra deputy coverage do to there vote to create the necessity. This is by no means the only point needing to be addressed.

Weston Broome: All issues should be on the table if and when the separation is authorized by a court of law. All costs related to services the organizers want the City-Parish to continue to provide plus all withdrawal liabilities, including: withdrawal liability, retirement, post employment liability, all debt service covered by general revenues and other prorated shares of all constitutional offices must be included.

CRIME AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Will you commit to continuing the focus of BRPD training to elevate effective community policing and de-escalation?

Piazza: Yes, proper and extensive training needs to be a priority but we must invest in our actual officers through pay raises. We must have competitive salaries if we hope to attract more qualified police candidates.

Carter: Yes. I believe the fundamental purpose of government is to secure all citizens' inalienable rights to life and liberty. Law enforcement officers provide that protection to our citizens to raise their families and lead productive lives and I will ensure they receive outstanding training in community policing and de-escalation methods. I will prioritize the safety of all our citizens and direct that BRPD constantly assess and improves their practices and policies to ensure transparent, safe, and accountable delivery of law enforcement services to our community.

Watson: Yes. All police officers should be community police officers not just a small few named as such.

Weston Broome: Since taking office in 2017 my administration has dedicated over \$27.3 million to bring the Baton Rouge Police Department (BRPD) to 21st Century Policing Standards. This includes equipping all officers with state of the art body cameras, purchasing 300 new vehicles to restore a depleted fleet, purchasing all new radios which tie into a data driven Real Time Crime Center. Changes made to our use of Force Policy and new training on De-escalation Practices, and Procedural Justice put us far ahead of departments around the country. Our transformative efforts have garnered BRPD over \$10 million in grants from the U.S. Justice Department and other Federal Agencies. An example is the Collective Healing Grant which is designed to help communities develop a preventative and reparative focus to reduce tension between law enforcement and the community they serve.

Will you propose a pay increase for the Baton Rouge Police Department?

Piazza: Yes

Carter: Yes. I believe wholesale change is needed to address the growing crime in our community. I respect the officers that risk their lives to do their jobs and will provide them with the proper training and tools to be effective. We must also ensure there is no wasteful spending and modernize the department into a 21st century workplace. I will help to recruit and retain our best talent by bringing BRPD pay to the regional average within my first year in office.

Watson: Yes. The money is in the budget.

Weston Broome: Yes, In addition to conducting a pay study of BRPD, at the request of the Mayor, the Metro Council approved funding to conduct a management / efficiency study of the department and it \$93 M budget. Many of the recommendations refocus manpower to the district level creating a strong community policing model. Implementation of these changes, which in some cases requires metro council approval, will provide millions of dollars in cost savings that can be repurposed to increase officer's pay. Additional long range recommendations provide opportunities to merge various services with other law enforcement agencies.

Will you support consolidation of the Baton Rouge Police Department and East Baton Rouge Sheriff's office?

Piazza: I'm open to discussion as long as substantial financial savings and improved police protection can be shown.

Carter: I support working towards eliminating inefficiencies and duplication of services that would save taxpayer dollars without decreasing law enforcement's duties in our communities.

Watson: Not at this time.

Weston Broome: The consolidation of the two departments is something that has been raised and studied in the past. I would support a study of consolidation of certain services to create budget savings and more effective services. I am committed to doing everything possible to making the BRPD a better department; paying our officers more and continuing to bring our law enforcement department into the 21st century.

Will you support legislative reform or elimination of the Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board? If in support of reform, in what way?

Piazza: I want to address our crime rate by investing in our police salaries and numbers before I get to reforms within the Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board.

Carter: I will bring the various stakeholders to a table to discuss policies to ensure best practices are being enacted to maintain the integrity of civil service in the city-parish. We must allow the service boards the authority to do their jobs and get rid of bad actors in the department and I will work with the Metro Council and Legislative Delegation to ensure board appointments are trusted members of our community. Reform is critical and I will begin by making a change at the top. With input from the Metro Council I will conduct a search to find a world class law enforcement officer to lead BRPD and finally address the rising crime in our communities.

Watson: I am open to discuss any legislation but I cannot pledge support of any legislation until I have read it.

Weston Broome: The appointments to the Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service are controlled by Louisiana Revised Statute 33:2476. The five member body is made up of one member appointed by each of the following organizations: the Baton Rouge Fire Department, the Baton Rouge Police Department, LSU, Southern University and East Baton Rouge Metro Council. The best way to ensure the board is fair and impartial is for the public to remain engaged in the process by attending meetings and by making certain that those chosen to serve are fair and will represent the interest of the community as a whole.

Will you commit to supporting the use of data-driven policing strategies and collaboration among area law enforcement and criminal justice officials to target bad actors and not communities?

Piazza: Yes. We have invested in a top of the line crime data center and have plenty of police resources, but are lacking the proper leadership to effectively utilize the data and craft policing strategies.

Carter: Yes. I believe that data is an important tool when addressing all issues. We should certainly communicate and partner with colleagues in our region to root out criminals.

Will you commit to supporting the use of data-driven policing strategies and collaboration among area law enforcement and criminal justice officials to target bad actors and not communities?

Watson: Yes.

Weston Broome: This is already part of the new programs initiated by Chief Murphy Paul as part of my 21st century policing program.

Will you support greater levels of public transparency and data access for law enforcement information (I.E.: universal body cameras for all law enforcement, rapid access to body camera footage, and disciplinary reports)? Please explain.

Piazza: I support public transparency as long as it does not interfere with ongoing police investigations and improves police credibility.

Carter: I do support transparency and data access to law enforcement information, if it does not jeopardize an ongoing investigation. However, after charges are brought against a criminal, the public does have the right to understand and see the evidence justifying a case.

Watson: Absolutely, I have been an advocate for more transparency from the chief for years. Accurate crime numbers for all crimes need to be available on our city dashboard. This keeps all parties honest in admitting where we need more effort to lower the crime rate and where we are seeing successes. All complaints filed on officers that are found to be valid and causing disciplinary action to be taken could be public record. I would work with the Sheriff to help in any way I can to get body cameras for his deputies.

Weston Broome: Improving transparency has been one of my top priorities since taking office. Increased transparency measures under my administration within BRPD include: Ø Today the Police Chief issues an Annual Report To The Community Ø A Chief's Advisory Council has been established made up of community leaders, community organizers and members of the faith based community that meets quarterly to review issues and polices Ø Both police complaints and accommodations can now be done on line Ø The department now has a critical incident policy designed to push out body camera videos quickly Ø The Chief and the Mayor hold community listening sessions in the various police precincts Ø All departmental policies are being placed on line for public access Ø Open BRPD is in the process of providing all stats on use of force, internal affairs complaints, annual pursuit data, etc. Ø The department now has a Victims Assistant Coordinator Ø Families are invited in to discuss Use Of Force incidents Ø The department holds hundreds of community outreach events each year. Ø The long standing consent decree over hiring practices has ended resulting in a boarder recruitment program which has helped fill vacancies.

What considerations will impact your position on the parish's need to replace the parish prison and juvenile detention centers?

Piazza: Fiscal concerns and location must be taken into account, but these facilities have long been needed to be replaced.

Carter: I will meet with stakeholders and law enforcement officials, including the Sheriff, District Attorney, and State leaders, to discuss the current conditions of the facilities. Safety, finances, and best practices must be part of the conversation.

What considerations will impact your position on the parish's need to replace the parish prison and juvenile detention centers?

Watson: We first need to fully understand how large each facility needs to be. That will mean understanding the effectiveness of the Bridge Center on reducing the number of beds needed. Concurrently we need to find funding or sources of funding at the least cost to the parish.

Weston Broome: Overall, criminal justice reform and the work of our Parish's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is having a profound impact on our prison population at this time. Currently, our prison population is the lowest it has been in decades. The addition of the services offered by the upcoming Bridge Center will have another impact on our needs. Understanding the impact of these changes will be critical in making future plans for both our prison and our juvenile detention center.

WORKFORCE

Do you commit to requiring regular reporting to the Metro Council on progress against goals for EmployBR, the city-parish's federally funded workforce training program?

Piazza: Regular oversight and reporting is necessary for any federally funded program. We do not want another instance where EBR has to return federal funds, like we did with the BRAVE program.

Carter: Yes. This program is important to our community and just like other government funded initiatives, the Metro Council and public should have up to date information.

Watson: Yes.

Weston Broome: Yes. The success of EmployBR relies on our ability to engage both our citizens who need assistance with training and employment, and our businesses who need a trained workforce. Metro Council members are a critical tool in facilitating these needed connections.

Will you streamline and restructure Mayoral oversight of the EBR Workforce Development Board operations to increase its effectiveness?

Piazza: Yes, I want to be more involved in the Workforce Development Board. We must have a properly trained workforce if we hope to attract new businesses and diversify our economy. These plans are directly connected; and therefore, must be carefully watched.

Carter: I will commit to reviewing all EBR operations with Mayoral oversight (including EBR Workforce Development Board) to increase effectiveness. My goal is to dramatically increase the number of people earning high-quality, industry-based credentials while potentially decreasing the bureaucracy that may be within the program.

Watson: Yes.

Will you streamline and restructure Mayoral oversight of the EBR Workforce Development Board operations to increase its effectiveness?

Weston Broome: As Mayor-President, I strive to achieve a functioning and effective WIOA Local Board to carry out analyses of the economic conditions within EBRP as required by federal regulations. It is her expectation that the Local WIOA Board would champion and lead efforts to engage a diverse range of employers to promote business representation, develop effective linkages with employers to ensure that workforce development activities meet the needs of employers and support economic growth. The Board must develop and implement proven and promising strategies for meeting the employment and skills of workers and employers.

Will you hold EmployBR accountable for increasing the number of citizens earning career credentials, particularly in North Baton Rouge?

Piazza: Absolutely. We must show results and hold programs accountable, especially when programs are federally funded so we continue to receive federal support. We need to make sure these programs are working with the parish's economic development plan of attracting new businesses and make sure we have a trained workforce to meet any incoming job demand.

Carter: Yes

Watson: Yes.

Weston Broome: Data from June 2018 -June 2020 shows that 56% of Youth, 59% of Adult and 56% of Dislocated Workers enrolled in WIOA came from North Baton Rouge. While the program cannot target a specific area, intentional marketing strategies have been implemented to include social media, print (Business Report, Billboards etc). New policies that I've implemented in my first term: · Transitional Job Policies - allows work experience for dislocated workers · OJT for Adults - pays half of adult participant wages while in training · Support Services - allows needs related payments · COVID-19 policy - allows for electronic signatures.

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Will you engage in and support work toward funding and building a new Mississippi River bridge? If yes, how?

Piazza: I plan on being involved with all negotiations involving the construction of a new Mississippi River Bridge. We need to work with our private sector investors to encourage public private partnerships or introduce new investment methods such as Public Activity Bonds to immediately spur growth while minimizing the impact to our bond rating and taxpayers. Finally, the proposed route will define the growth of EBR for generations so we must have a thorough discussion regarding placement of a new bridge.

Carter: YES. As a legislator I supported and voted for the creation of the Capital Area Road and Bridge District, which is specifically tasked with alleviating traffic congestion. I plan to continue to be engaged with the district and will advocate for looking at all models including public private partnerships and federal/state funding/programs.

Will you engage in and support work toward funding and building a new Mississippi River bridge? If yes, how?

Watson: Yes. I will make myself available to join in the ongoing discussions on the construction of a new bridge south of Baton Rouge. I would also continue my fledgling discussions with the presidential administration to get federal funding for

Weston Broome: My administration has been a strong proponent of advancing the transportation needs of the Capital Region, including the advancement of the new Mississippi Bridge. In a second term, I will continue to work with DOTD and CARB-D to ensure that the advance planning stage is completed on time and that we unite the Parish Presidents from the surrounding areas to help push for funding and finding innovative methods to procure this important project. Lastly, it is important that we are diligent in the federal process to identify a location for the bridge and work with stakeholders and residents in the path of the new bridge to ensure a smooth pre-construction stage.

East Baton Rouge has created a parish-wide Pedestrian-Bike Master Plan to address the need for the community to be less deadly, more walkable, and better-connected. Would you support use of the MoveBR funds for community enhancement to fund its implementation? (Pedestrian and bike paths were included as eligible uses.)

Piazza: Yes

Carter: Yes. I believe that to retain and attract talent EBR must provide an exceptional lifestyle and we could certainly do that by increasing pedestrian and cyclist friendly infrastructure in communities that make sense. We have a fully developed plan with no action taken....I plan to take action and get things done!

Watson: Yes.

Weston Broome: I have made a tangible commitment in advancing Pedestrian-Bike infrastructure in East Baton Rouge Parish. As a part of the MOVEBR initiative, the concept of complete streets was built into our design standards for our roadways and enhancements. This provides bike paths and pedestrian paths along our new roadways and enhanced corridors. Additionally, as a way to increase transparency and community involvement, I have made over \$40 million available for citizens to utilize on beautification efforts and enhancement projects such as pedestrian-bike paths within their local community.

Do you support securing federal and state funding to establish commuter rail from Baton Rouge to New Orleans? Why?

Piazza: We need to take a hard look at CATS and start an honest discussion about its future. I'm open to a complete restructuring of the program including reducing the number of buses and investing into a parish run point-to-point fleet system, which would reducing traffic while increasing rider usage.

Carter: I will work with our State Legislative and Congressional delegations to secure funding for various projects. Before committing to a commuter rail, I would like to be sure our local community infrastructure and transportations needs are met first.

Do you support securing federal and state funding to establish commuter rail from Baton Rouge to New Orleans? Why?

Watson: Yes. It is always a good thing to get our federal tax dollars invested back into our state and local community. I am supportive of any project that will bring visitors and business to our area. Improving the existing rail lines, which would be necessary, is a positive infrastructure project.

Weston Broome: My administration supports securing federal and state funding for this project. I fully understand the benefit this project will bring toward uniting the Baton Rouge and New Orleans metropolitan areas toward a super region that will spur our economy as a region and state. In a second term, I am committed to working to identify a tranche of money that could be used to help incentivize federal funding for the project. Additionally, I will work with the Super Region Rail Authority and Southern Rail Commission to ensure we leverage the legal authority that has been bestowed on each to create revenue sources in effort to provide any necessary match when a federal opportunity presents itself, through a direct appropriation or FRA competitive grants such as CRISI. Additionally, it is important to layout a regional blueprint with the Super Region Rail Authority and the region's Parish Presidents for the long term operation and maintenance of the commuter rail, in addition to the capital cost. Lastly, I look forward to working in earnest to be at the table to work with KCS to find a solution that gives a viable path forward for the rail service.

How will you push to modernize and improve CATS? What changes do you recommend?

Piazza: I am open to discussion.

Carter: I will work with the Metro Council and CATS Board members to enact best practices while addressing community needs. We must provide a reliable, efficient, and sustainable system to all of our citizens across the city-parish.

Watson: Thought needs to be put into getting CATS to rethink some routes but primarily where the main bus terminal is located. the terminal should be walking distance from destinations traveled to by the ridership. The current bus terminal Doesn't maximize what a terminal can be nor does it function in a manner that helps gain riders of choice.

Weston Broome: CATS is a separate taxing agency that the CP has little control over but to help improve CATS service the MOVEBR program improvements will help CATS buses move about the city parish more freely while reducing their effect on traffic. We are making our curb cuts and bus cut-outs ADA compliant making the CATS system safer and more user friendly. We will continue to accept requests from CATS to work on ways to improve public transportation for all who need it in the parish.

Would you support building Bus Rapid Transit corridors?

Piazza: Our investment in infrastructure needs to be in new development and not just repaving roads and fixing potholes. I want to use MoveBR funds to build new thruways that can spur economic development, such as the Central Thruway or the Old Hammond Hwy extension.

Carter: I will be open to supporting rapid transit corridors, based on public input and data.

Watson: Yes.

Would you support building Bus Rapid Transit corridors?

Weston Broome: My administration fully supports the building of BRT corridors. In fact, my administration played an integral role in securing the federal funds to commence the first BRT corridor in Baton Rouge on Plank Rd. In addition, my Department of Public Works is actively working to advance the necessary improvements in the corridor by providing \$6.9 million dollars to engineer the corridor from LUS to Plank Road. I, firmly, believe that as our city continues to grow and expand we must embrace new methods of mobility for the citizens of our parish and find efficient solutions to change the "Vehicle-first" mentality and offer viable and dependable transportation. Additionally, BRT has proven to be a more cost effective option when compared to light rail and can be delivered faster. I believe as we look to be more efficient while still embracing new and innovative ideas BRT should be apart of the tools in the toolkit.

Are there any other transportation policies you intend to enact?

Piazza: We need to look for new development and construction projects that spur actual economic growth. Projects like the Central Thruway and Old Hammond Hwy extension are perfect example. We cannot settle for repaving and repatching roads and think this is an accomplishment.

Carter: I will implement "Last Mile" programs in which private ridesharing companies like Uber and Lyft work in coordination with CATS to ensure safe travel from riders to and from their place of residence and bus stops.

Watson: Among many things, I would enforce a 'Don't Block the Box' policy to stop gridlock at our major intersections. I would also look for areas where turn lanes can be installed or lengthened as these turn lanes would drastically improve traffic flow through intersections at a very low relative cost.

Weston Broome: My transportation focus over the next four years will be the efficient delivery of the historic MOVEBR infrastructure package. It is important that we deliver on our promises to the citizens and they see return on advancement as soon as possible. Additionally, I will seek to work with state and federal partners to see how we can maximize opportunities on state projects that are not included in our package. The expansive nature of MOVEBR in conjunction with ensuring the focus of state resources in our region will set the tone for infrastructure, technology advances and mobility for the next decade.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT

How will you increase the parish's prioritization of Economic Development in specific ways that will diversify the parish's economy and grow jobs after the pandemic?

Piazza: Diversification of the economy will need to take priority since COVID19 has shown that our economy is too specialized; and therefore, fragile. Within the first 30 days, I plan to develop and publicize a 3-year COVID economic recovery plan to show businesses, in the parish and out, what we plan to do and where we plan to focus our economic efforts in the years following this pandemic. Currently, we lack any sort of plan and are reacting instead of taking a proactive approach.

How will you increase the parish's prioritization of Economic Development in specific ways that will diversify the parish's economy and grow jobs after the pandemic?

Carter: We must create a predictable and competitive environment for businesses to start and grow in EBR. Breaking down bureaucratic barriers, providing workforce training needs, and working alongside BRAC I will make job growth a priority during my administration.

Watson: First It is necessary that we re brand this community by advertising to the rest of the nation that the days of administrative support of an anti business attitude are over. I would work in partnerships with each and every organization and business group I can reach to bring business to East Baton Rouge.

Weston Broome: I will continue to prioritize the culture of the City-Parish being "Open for Business." In East Baton Rouge Parish, 2018 and 2019 were banner years for job growth and economic diversification in the City-Parish. In 2019, Economic Development in the parish broke records-2019 was the best year for development in Baton Rouge history, as reported by BRAC. This trend hasn't stopped, and in 2020 we will carry out the formal launch of New Era Medical Complex along with other projects. I have worked with BRAC to attract the following projects that align with BRAC's industry different industry priorities: Ø Manufacturing / Oil and Gas / Exxon BRPO - Announced in 2019 Ø Recruitment of the Foremost Bariatric Surgeon in the world and the creation of a center of excellence at Pennington through the Bariatric and Metabolic Institute Ø Successful recruitment of Twistlock, an IT-enabled services business Ø In 2021 and beyond, she will continue to build on her goal of attracting new logos to our market that matches up well with the talent produced by LSU, Southern and BRCC along with industry adjacencies like contract pharma, advanced manufacturing, shared services in the IT space etc.

How will you increase access to counseling, financial assistance programs, and technical services for small businesses and entrepreneurs?

Piazza: We need greater access to Small Business Development Centers through EBR. Currently we only have one small office at Southern University while LSU's 2016 application for funding was denied. Funding an additional site at LSU should be a top priority as well as expanding financial literacy education opportunities, providing assistance and access to capital for low-credit borrowers, and encouraging the use of the Angel Investment Tax Credit.

Carter: Economic development is a priority of my administration. This includes making a strategic coordinated communication campaign for small businesses and entrepreneurs to understand the current tools they have at their disposal. I will continue to work with federal/state and private industry to ensure access to all businesses in our city-parish.

Watson: I would bring together a group whose job it is to stay abreast of all available COVID recovery incentives and services. That information would be on a specific easy to navigate website with links to apply to those various programs. A team of individuals with knowledge of both the programs available and the application process would be available to assist in answering questions if applicants run into problems when applying for said programs.

Weston Broome: Small businesses and startups are a critical piece of our economic ecosystem. Per BRAC, 88.6% of EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH Businesses have between 2-99 employees and many of these businesses' monthly cash position during normal times is typically 27 days per McKinsey and Company (CXO Report - April 2020). The coronavirus pandemic has caused a significant financial burden, and has significantly decreased cash position. In addition, small and medium enterprises account for a significant portion of jobs within East Baton Rouge Parish. According to the Disparity Study conducted by Keen Independent Research, 41% of our small businesses are disadvantaged business enterprises (minority, veteran owned, veteran disabled service owned, woman owned businesses). I wanted to highlight a couple of things that we need to be doing and are doing for small business and specifically for DBEs:

For Small Businesses: Ø I think it is critically important to set up a credit line for small businesses that is indigenous to our local small business community - this credit line should not be stood up in reaction to crisis but one that builds and grows over time based on the success and growth of small businesses. New Orleans has been a vacuum for these types of revolver credit programs Ø We need to continue to bring in and accelerate external partners like eBay, Facebook, Google (all of whom have invested time and resources) to "train" up new models of economic growth that helps to drive additional revenue streams for our businesses. For instance, eBay has generated closed to \$1.2 Million in incremental revenue for business that participate in the Retail Revival Program over the past year for the 50+ participants

For DBEs: Ø Helping to level the vendor playing field has been critical to my administration. This is especially true for DBEs. Over the past several years, we have done the following:

- o Successful bipartisan passing of the Disparity Study
- o Worked with BRAC and a dozen or more partners to create BR-POP which has generated over \$7MM in new spend with DBEs' in our parish
- o Launch of RestartBR with the Urban League to launch \$1MM Microgrant Program that will benefit >240 businesses in Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts - the data collected from these businesses will help to map out, even further, their needs for technical assistance and financing

Do you support the use of economic development incentives to spur investment and job growth? Are there conditions under which you would not?

Piazza: In order to create a new and diverse economy, we need to have the ability to offer economic development incentives, but these cannot be rubber stamped. It must be clear any new incoming business endeavor is a net-positive for our parish. Economic incentives are a privilege, not a right.

Carter: Yes. We must continue to be creative and competitive to attract and retain jobs in our city-parish. I will work tirelessly to recruit and expand job counts. I will not support incentives that do not benefit our city-parish.

Watson: Yes.

Weston Broome: We will always be creative in the use of incentives (financial or otherwise) to attract and retain jobs for our community. We are fortunate to have an arsenal of tools at our disposal to accomplish this. From selectively choosing projects that require financial incentives using general fund dollars like Oceans Healthcare, IBM and General Informatics to Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for large multinational manufacturers and highly strategic projects, whatever we need to do, we will do and we will make the argument for a project

Under what circumstances should ITEP applications be approved by the Metro Council? Will you advocate for ITEP applications under these circumstances?

Piazza: I believe ITEP applications should only be considered for projects that bring in a minimum of 300 new permanent jobs or can ensure further development, expansion, and additional investment into the community.

Carter: I strongly believe EBR should have a predictable, consistent, and transparent process for ITEP applications to be reviewed. I will advocate for applications that benefit the economic well-being of EBR.

Watson: I would advocate for ITEP applications which: follow the Governor's Executive order, can provide a positive return on investment for our parish in fifteen (15) years or are an Environmentally Beneficial Project.

Weston Broome: I am in favor of the current structure in place for considering ITEP applications before the council.

Will you support ITEP applications that modernize manufacturing facilities or create new jobs?

Piazza: All ITEP applications need to be considered but, again, we cannot rubber stamp incentive programs without overwhelming evidence that the business endeavor is a net-positive for our parish.

Carter: Yes. Businesses must remain competitive and so must EBR's relationship with those businesses, so I will support applications that meet ITEP standards/guidelines in place by the State Department of Economic Development.

Watson: Yes. I would also continue my support ITEP applications which incentivize beneficial environmental projects.

Weston Broome: Modernizing manufacturing facilities and job creation are both key goals for ITEP. If modernization is not possible in combination with job creation, industry must make their case for doing so.

Do you support or oppose the use of Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements as a development and economic incentive in East Baton Rouge Parish?

Piazza: I'm open to consider all economic incentives including PILOT programs but they need to be thoroughly reviewed and cannot be rubber stamped.

Carter: Support. We must always think of creative ways to be competitive in this new global environment.

Watson: I am open to it but more on a case by case basis than I am with ITEP.

Weston Broome: I support PILOT agreements for projects that will create strong economic impacts in our city and parish

Are there any other policies you intend to enact under this area?

Piazza: We need to look at other funding methods to spur community reinvestment such as encouraging public private partnerships, utilizing public activity bonds, like the ones used for the Nicholson Gateway development at LSU, or by moving some public government services to utility assets which encourages rapid investment and development without increasing EBR's bond liability.

Carter: I will institute a study that would research the effect of a student loan forgiveness program for those college graduates of East Baton Rouge parish that elect to live and work in the parish for the duration of the loan. We have immense "brain drain" here EBR which stagnates growth in what should be a thriving education corridor.

Watson:

Weston Working in consultation with our larger community, business community, legislative branch and
Broome: others, we will create policies we deem fit if it will give us a strong competitive advantage to improving our ability to create and retain jobs + add to the quality of life.

FINANCIAL INVESTMENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND REDEVELOPMENT IN NORTH BATON ROUGE

Will you commit to supporting implementation of redevelopment plans for North Baton Rouge, including use of parish funds and incentives (i.e.: Plank Rd. Master Plan, Scotlandville Community Plan)?

Piazza: Absolutely. While we have been focusing on development programs that have driven residents southward or even out of the parish, we need to shift our focus to redeveloping the North and Central parts of the parish by improving transportation, increase our police presence in the area, modernizing schools, and removing blighted properties.

Carter: Yes. I will be Mayor-President for all of EBR and will advocate for excellent opportunities across the city-parish.

Watson: Yes. I fully support the revitalization of North Baton Rouge. It is the sleeping giant of economic activity in our parish.

Weston Investing in disinvested communities has been critical for our community. We cannot, and I have
Broome: been consistent with this through policy and action, have one side of our community operating at a D grade and another part of our community operating at an A grade. According to the National Equity Atlas, based in Washington DC, (Maintained by Policy Link and the USC Center for Equity Research), In 2017, the income for Black residents would have increased the most (95%) among all racial/ethnic groups if racial gaps in income were eliminated in Baton Rouge. This could mean an additional billion dollar plus that is added to our GDP. We start this by accelerating our implementation for both the Plank Road Master Plan and Scotlandville Community Plans. My administration has spent the last several years laying the foundation at Build Baton Rouge by installing new leadership, continuing to provide funding and helping recruit the private sector to fund the Plank Road Master Plan. We also worked with the council on creating a landbank and will focus my second term of my administration on strengthening our application for an allotment of New Markets while convening a group of investors to look at opportunities along Plank Road.

Locate a full-service grocery store

Piazza: Yes

Carter: Yes

Watson: I can make a commitment to aggressively pursue this necessary goal, however, this would be a collaborative effort

Weston Broome: When I entered office, there were many Food deserts (1 mile radius from where a person lives to access affordable and nutritious food) identified throughout the parish. Additionally, we know many residents living in and near food deserts, were food insecure (the ability for someone to provide enough healthy nutritious food for every person in their family to live a healthy life). When I took office, I identified public-private partnerships to address food dessert and food insecurity. Through her healthy city initiative, she partnered with the Humana Foundation and the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation to launch the Geaux Get healthy Initiative. We also partnered with the Robert Wood Johns Foundation; Aeta, US Conference of Mayors to address food insecurity. In total, we have received investments of over \$3 million dollars. The Geaux Get Healthy (GGH) program addresses food insecurity on a program and system level. On a system level, we have provided multiple access points for the community to purchase fresh food in food desert areas in north Baton Rouge. On a program level, we have grown over 4,000lbs of food and sold or distrusted over 20,000 units of food. We have engaged over 5,000 people through outreach efforts and over 1,000 of those people we have connected with have surveyed positive for food insecure through the USDA food insecurity survey. We know that the number of people we have engaged with who are food insecure is actually higher, but there are barriers to taking the USDA food insecurity survey, which make it difficult to get an accurate number. To address food desserts I also am leveraging foundation dollars with general fund dollars to collaborate with Hope Federal Credit Union to bring a grocery store to a food desert area.

Significantly reduce (ex. at least 25%) the number of blighted and adjudicated properties.

Piazza: Yes

Carter: Yes

Watson: An aggressive program to demolish condemned dangerous structures will be one of the hallmarks of my administration. I will immediately begin using city/parish resources to begin an organized program of demolition of condemned residential and small commercial structures. Due to the vast inventory of structures that need to be razed, I will have to supplement those city/parish resources through professional service contracts with companies which can demolish the structure and haul off the debris. I will work with experts to move forward on fixing the issues in getting clear title on adjudicated properties.

Weston Broome: I have invested over \$1.1 million dollars throughout my first term to demolish blighted properties, effectively demonstrating my commitment to significantly reducing the number of blighted properties in East Baton Rouge Parish. Under my administration, over 17,800 blighted service requests have been closed since her inauguration in 2017. In collaboration with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, I was able to secure Community Development Block Grant funds to facilitate the reduction of blighted properties. There are currently 160 more properties scheduled to be addressed in 2020.

Drive at least \$25 million in new private investment into the area.

Piazza: Yes

Carter: Yes

Watson: I think we can do that together.

Weston Broome: Absolutely, our focus will be growth in new investments. We will continue to help support existing investors in the manufacturing, contractor, Oil and Gas sectors who want to create jobs and modernize facilities to keep up with competitive operations globally. Additionally, I would gladly, once we get through the pandemic travel to the HQs' of our biggest employers and investors in NBR to thank them along with positioning our community for additional investments.

Increase the number and type of small businesses and retail stores.

Piazza: Yes

Carter: Yes

Watson: Yes.

Weston Broome: The disparity study has shown us that an overwhelming number of these small business in NBR lack the following: A.) Regular Access to Capital, especially from banks and or other CDFIs' that understand the acute and unique challenges that disadvantaged businesses face B.) Lack of bonding capacity C.) Stronger and more robust technical assistance programs One of the first things I would do to help strengthen small businesses is to strongly lean on Liberty Bank for example to take more "ownership" on providing capital and technical services to area businesses. Additionally, I would lean on Southern University, through BR-POP along with Southern University Foundation to help catalyze more investments through their purchasing efforts + develop pools of capital in partnership with banks to create specific programs to drive development, technical assistance and capital.

Are there any other projects or proposals you would want to see take place as part of focused and significant economic development and redevelopment in North Baton Rouge?

Piazza: Finding a long-term tenant for Cortana Mall is a major priority. This would spur new life, remove a major eye sore and could be the perfect project to encourage redevelopment.

Carter: I will partner with thoses at the state level to secure funding for Urban "Super Sites". The city would purchase key areas and build infrastructure in these newly acquired zones to support future plants and manufacturing sites. We would lower the cost of these acquisitions by stacking state, federal and parish tax abatements to create training zones for industry and attract new businesses to North Baton Rouge.

Watson: I would work with the Public Service Commission, utility providers, to modernize the utility infrastructure serving the areas we redevelop. The city/parish will also be repairing, cleaning and, in some instances, replacing subsurface infrastructure in these same areas as redevelopment occurs.

Are there any other projects or proposals you would want to see take place as part of focused and significant economic development and redevelopment in North Baton Rouge?

Weston Broome: I believe that the Master Planning efforts between Southern University and CPEX, the Plank Road Corridor Project, the coalition that has been recently formed to attract grocers will undoubtedly create a pipeline of investible projects that are investor ready in 2021 and beyond. We expect the value of these projects potentially to be in the tens of millions of dollars. The New Era Howell Place Complex alone involves a \$5MM capex spend for additional renovation plus the \$7MM in acquisition cost of the building. This will catalyze growth in the area and I want to lead these efforts with the Chamber, ImpactNBR and the greater community.

Are there any other policies you intend to enact under this area?

Piazza: I want to encourage redevelopment by clearing blighted properties, similar to what New Orleans did post-Katrina. So far, we have spent time and money identify blight properties. We need to proactively clear them to encourage new development in the area.

Carter:

Watson: I have been working with bond attorneys both in state and out of state to create a financial instrument that will attract private investment and garner the funds necessary to demolish the large condemned commercial sites in North Baton Rouge all without having to add an economically stifling lien on the property.

Weston Broome: I believe we need to support Build Baton Rouge's efforts to further accelerate their efforts to create a "land-bank". We need to also work with council and the business community to accelerate reform and accelerate the legal process to remove blighted structures that are both commercial and private.

IMPROVING CITY-PARISH GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Will you establish a maximum time period for approval of building and business permitting applications to ensure the city-parish completes permitting quickly and does not slow down or drive away commercial investment or business activity?

Piazza: We need to immediately reassess our fee structure for permit and zoning departments. Currently they run a million-dollar deficit, lack competitive pay, have multiple employee vacancies, and a sizable backlog. We need to address this out before we attempt to move forward. We need to be a pro-business parish and anything inhibiting that, including delays at the permitting office, needs to be addressed.

Carter: Yes. We must have a predictable, consistent, and transparent set of standards for companies and individuals looking to do business in EBR. Time and time again we hear of long wait times and developers looking elsewhere to do business. This must stop and I will lead on this change.

Watson: Absolutely.

Will you establish a maximum time period for approval of building and business permitting applications to ensure the city-parish completes permitting quickly and does not slow down or drive away commercial investment or business activity?

Weston Broome: We already have targets in place for plan review for both Residential and Commercial plans. This facilitates our permitting process. We have work collaboratively with organizations like the Growth Coalition and the Homebuilders Association to ensure our process improvements are meeting their expectations.

Would you support privatization of city-parish permitting services if it will improve outcomes and efficiency?

Piazza: I am definitely open to discussion.

Carter: Yes. I will work to ensure EBR is more efficient and effective in providing services to our citizens and will look to privatization of certain services such as permitting if needed.

Watson: Absolutely.

Weston Broome: I have facilitated significant improvements in the City-Parish permitting processes. By applying strategic privatization practices, wait time for plan reviews have been reduced by an average of 80%. The City-Parish has contracted for third party services to create an expedited process and expand internal capabilities and capacity. By combining the best talent of City-Parish employees and the private sector, we have been able to exceed internal goals and support the basic needs of our Development Community. The City-Parish Open Data policy created that a data policy between my administration and City Council has resulted in the following: Ø More Robust Open Data Platform increasing access to data for constituents Ø Open Checkbook and soon to be Open Budget Ø Replaced 73 years of legacy technology with new brla.gov website, ERP platform and Unified Comms. Platform Ø Website has received over 2.9 MM views, ERP has reduced invoice to paycheck from 21+ days to 4-12 days and Unified Comms will save \$1.5MM over 5 years and improve constituent services

Are there other parish services you would prioritize for changes that increase outcomes and greater efficiency? What are they?

Piazza: Department of Public Works needs a thorough review of their maintenance schedule. We cannot just see potholes being fixed and drainage canals being cleared during election years. We need an established system of routine maintenance that produces results.

Carter: I believe we need to properly fund and restructure the planning department. Our development code is outdated. Too often we see transportation and infrastructure decisions being made without input from planning officials. We have created a hodge-podge of developments that create traffic, drainage, and blight issues. This must be done and should be accomplished for the future of our city-parish.

Watson: Each and every one of them.

Are there other parish services you would prioritize for changes that increase outcomes and greater efficiency? What are they?

Weston Broome: We have been aggressively working to improve support of our central services; purchasing; human resources; fleet; and finance; for our various departments. Elimination of regulatory impediments in the improvements in data systems, which are critical to improving services and cutting costs. Departments are now doing annual Improvement Action Plans which assist in our budget planning process. This has provided an improved use of examining cost saving measures along with revenue generation.

Will you commit to modernizing government services through greatly expanded online services, continually increasing access to open data, creating a single Chief Technology Officer position, and exploring privatization where appropriate?

Piazza: Yes. We must begin to streamline government services by moving many resident services online. This will be a generational overhaul, but we must begin now if we want to stay competitive.

Carter: Yes. In this "new" environment it is more urgent than ever to provide access to city-parish services online. We must equip our citizens with easy to digest comprehensive information through a smart secure avenue. The days of going downtown to fill out one piece of paper should not exist. I will break down silos that exist and move our government operations to a friendlier more effective path.

Watson: Yes, yes, yes, and yes.

Weston Broome: I remain committed to modernizing government services through the use of technology. The City-Parish Director of Information Services is responsible for overseeing computerized systems. I have formed an IT Steering Committee to provide additional technology governance across all departments. The open data program has been expanded under my administration to include an open data policy, which establishes an "open by default" mandate for all City-Parish data. We also launched the Open Neighborhood BR and Open Checkbook BR platforms. IT Services have been privatized where appropriate, and we will continue to explore opportunities.

Are there any other policies you intend to enact under this area?

Piazza: Again, our Metro Council needs to spend more time, annually, interviewing department and agencies leaders to restructure the budget. We need to take a hard look at where we can save money and where we can boost results.

Carter: I hope to make working with the EBR government easy, fast, efficient. With a couple clicks of a button citizens should be able to know exactly how much money is spent on a particular program or vendor and the data that plots progress to goals. Modernizing so much of our EBR government to be more transparent, showcases respect for everyone, and allows for predictable outcome-based services.

Watson: I will institute a culture of customer service. all employees will be given clear directives in what that means to their department's interaction with the public.

Are there any other policies you intend to enact under this area?

Weston My administration will continue to work hard towards improving city parish government services
Broome: for all of our citizens.

IMPROVING PARISH PHYSICAL ATTRACTIVENESS, CLEANLINESS, AND QUALITY OF PLACE

Will you commit to establishing a proactive maintenance schedule, including metrics, for upkeep (ex. litter/weeds) of public spaces, corridors and gateways?

Piazza: Absolutely. I have spoken about this as a top priority on my campaign from day 1. We completely lack a results-based maintenance plan under this administration. Beautification and routine maintenance, including public upkeep of green spaces and litter abatement, is a major part of economic development and anyone who have ever driven visitors from BTR through the city can attest to that.

Carter: Yes. Our communities are overrun with litter and debris and the current administration has done nothing about it and in some instances it may have gotten worse. We must take pride in our community and I will bring unique innovative ideas to address the growing maintenance issue in our city-parish.

Watson: Absolutely.

Weston I have secured \$15 million in funding to implement the Storm Water Master Plan, which will collect and evaluate data and model storm water drainage across the City-Parish. This project is the first of its kind in East Baton Rouge Parish - it will ensure we are addressing drainage in a holistic way, and not a piecemeal fashion. The plan will provide a critical roadmap for current and future drainage improvement projects. It is being utilized to identify routine maintenance projects to sustain our drainage system. The Department of Maintenance is responsible for 277 miles of Surface Conveyance Systems and over 66,000 catch basins and drain boxes. We utilize a spray program to manage vegetation in 778 different canal segments 3 times per year. We also have a strategic canal cleaning and clearing program to improve the aesthetics of our conveyance systems but clearing unnecessary vegetation. The Department of Maintenance also sweeps City-Parish maintained roadways. In Downtown Baton Rouge alone, approximately 16 miles of roadways are swept weekly. Approximately 2,600 miles of other City-Parish roadways are swept quarterly, demonstrating our commitment to quality of place.

What are the most important metrics to put in place here (I.e.: percentage of potholes filled?)

Piazza: Absolutely. I have spoken about this as a top priority on my campaign from day 1. We completely lack a results-based maintenance plan under this administration. Beautification and routine maintenance, including public upkeep of green spaces and litter abatement, is a major part of economic development and anyone who have ever driven visitors from BTR through the city can attest to that. What are the most important metrics to put in place here (I.E.: percentage of potholes filled)? We need different divisions to have different metrics: Potholes and road debris needs to be routinely addressed, drainage canal and storm drains need annual clearings, and greenspaces need routine cutting and litter pickup programs. I want to have regular visits around each council member's district to discuss the needs and problems their residents face.

What are the most important metrics to put in place here (i.e.: percentage of potholes filled?)

Carter: Streets must be litter free, roads must be maintained to a high standard, blighted properties should be torn down and put back into commerce. Once in office I will study the feasibility of hiring a 3rd party contractor(s) to address maintenance issues through a performance-based contract with specific goals and outcomes outlined.

Watson: How many linear feet of mowed ROW are completed in a day? How many miles of road are cleared by our street sweepers in an evening? How many streetlights are not functioning correctly or are broken? How many tons of litter are captured by (to be installed) drainage water/litter separators? How many properties have been identified as dangerous and need to be condemned? How many condemned residential structures are being razed by private contractors vs. city/parish workers in a weeks time?

Weston During my 1st term as Mayor-President, we have repaired 8,674 pot holes, 1,298 sidewalks, and
Broome: over 900 roadway buckles. We utilize the award-winning GIS mapping system to organize our reports in common areas. This allows our DPW crews to be more efficient and timely in their repairs.

Do you support the recommended "EBR Plan of Government" changes from the 2019 EBR Plan of Government committee? If no, which specific components do you support or oppose?

Piazza: I am supportive of mayoral term limits and at-large council-members.

Carter: Yes

Watson: I do support the plan of government changes for the most part. I'm still not sold on the methodology of electing the "at Large" metro council seats.

Weston I support the plan of government changes that drive efficiencies and improve our ability to govern.
Broome: We should be mindful of those changes that increase our costs and restrict our ability to attract and retain top talent. We should always be willing to adjust our plan to stay relevant and current with our changing environment.

Will you support expanding the code enforcement department's authority and ability to reduce blight and require property owners to maintain property?

Piazza: Absolutely

Carter: Yes

Watson: Yes.

Weston I believe that the standards property owners should maintain are regulated by our Ordinances.
Broome: These are our laws that should be enforced by our law enforcement agencies and judicial system with inspection & citation support from our code enforcement officers. Code enforcement should provide a level of education and support to help property owners maintain compliance.

Revival of the LSU/City Park Lakes

Piazza: Yes

Carter: Yes

Watson: I will not stand in the way of any local agency garnering state or federal dollars to revitalize the LSU/City Park lakes.

Weston Broome: I have partnered with BRAF, LSU, BREC, and other partners to fund the revitalization of the LSU/City Park lakes. She has committed \$5 million to provide newly designed green space and pedestrian-bike paths for the surrounding area.

Address drainage problems throughout the parish

Piazza: Yes

Carter: Yes

Watson: I will implement an immediate and aggressive program to clear and repair culverts and concrete canals as well as clear and dig out earthen canals. While the ongoing studies are happening on the five major tributaries program, clearing those tributaries of fallen trees, trash and sediment can happen concurrently.

Weston Broome: I have secured \$15 million-dollars in funding for our Storm Water Master Plan. This initiative will collect & evaluate data and model storm water drainage across the City-Parish. This is the first of its kind in East Baton Rouge Parish - it will ensure we are managing drainage in a holistic way. The plan will provide a critical roadmap for current and future drainage improvement projects. It is also being utilized to identify routine maintenance projects required to sustain our storm water drainage system. Additionally, the Department of Maintenance is responsible for the maintenance of 277 miles of Surface Conveyance Systems and over 66,000 catch basins and drain boxes. We utilize a spray program to manage vegetation in 778 different canal segments 3 times per year. We have also initiated a strategic canal cleaning / clearing program that will improve aesthetics of our conveyance systems.

Devise a plan to provide parish-wide broadband access and address our digital divides

Piazza: Yes

Carter: Yes

Watson: Yes.

Devise a plan to provide parish-wide broadband access and address our digital divides

Weston Addressing broadband challenges in our City-Parish is critical especially given the number of families who lack access to the kind of high-speed internet that is needed Analysis done by a 2020 McKinsey and Company study, 82% of our households have broadband access putting us behind markets like Raleigh Durham, Austin, Huntsville and Nashville. We have a robust Smart-City Committee that advises our office and the City Council on policy and tactics around how we can further accelerate our efforts to "Smartify" our city. Addressing broadband access will also be critically important as adoption for telehealth increases, more businesses go "online" and virtual schooling becomes somewhat of a norm especially given the pandemic. Better broadband access creates a better prepared student and will create a pipeline of talent that will enable us to create and attract tech jobs. I will have the Smart-City Committee quickly address what we need to do to develop P3s to address this with a plan in the first 100 days of my 2nd term.

Establish a Florida Boulevard Gateway Development Plan

Piazza: Yes

Carter: Yes

Watson: Yes.

Weston I believe we should take the same approach to what we did for the Plank Road Master Plan
Broome: Corridor Project to do the same for Florida Blvd and will extend it further to the following thoroughfares. Highland Road between LSU and Downtown and Nicholson Drive between LSU and downtown. Having industrial partners adopt these major corridors will help us redevelop these areas. I would look to Build Baton Rouge to help find and teach sectors who would construct these plans.
