

Name: Traci Kamish
Seeking Office:
Crystal City council

Interview #10

952-994-3331
Traciforcrystal@gmail.com
9/28/2022 - 1:00:00 PM

How long have you lived in your community?

4 years

Are you a Homeowner or Renter?

Homeowner

Do you own other real property (e.g. Business, Cabin, Investment, or Rental Property)? If so, which?

Cabin

Describe your civic and/or community engagement.

President of the Crystal Crime Prevention Board.

What is your fundraising goal? How much have you raised to date?

I have no goal or objective for fundraising. If people wish to contribute to my campaign, I greatly appreciate it but I haven't actively sought donations and have purchased all literature and signs out of pocket so far.

Are you accepting PAC contributions?

NO

Please list any notable supporters or groups of supporters for your campaign

No "notable", supporters other than my friends and neighbors in the community.

What are the most important housing challenges facing your community?

Affordability is the top issue. There is a lack of affordable housing for lower income families and first time home buyers. Also, since Crystal is an already established city, there are not many options to add more housing due to lack of open spaces (unless existing buildings are tore down).

The Twin Cities Metro is facing a housing shortage unlike any we have experienced in recent history. What will you do to increase the number of homes available to residents of your community?

I am in agreement with what the city is already doing in terms of allowing additions living space to be added onto existing houses. I also think tearing down old commercial buildings that are no longer functional or utilized and adding affordable housing should be a priority.

Minnesota has one of the largest homeownership gaps between Whites and Blacks, Indigenous, and People of Color. This is one of MAR's primary concerns. What would you propose at the local level to close this home ownership gap?

Looking into more grants to help with the price of home ownership. Also loans with lower interest rates to help with lower income buyers. Also, more affordable multi-family housing (townhomes, duplexes, etc) to help keep the pricing down (as compared to large single family homes).

How do you think the city can best balance the rights of tenants and property owners to effectively manage rental housing?

Grants to help with utilities and rent for families struggling to make these payments. Open communication between utility companies and property owners when a bill isn't getting paid (not waiting until 6 months and thousands of dollars of non-payment has racked up). That way the problem can be fixed before the amount due becomes such a large amount that it's more difficult to pay.

What are your views on property tax rates in your community? Do you have concerns related to the city's property tax rate? If so, how would you address those concerns once elected?

I feel like Crystal has done a good job of keeping the tax rates as low as they can and still provide a good amount of services. Our police department is one of the strongest in the area. That said, I am always open to looking at decreasing taxes and certainly not raising them. Taxes have gotten out of hand and with the current inflation issues, this needs to be addressed.

Please provide links to all social media accounts connected to you or your campaign if any.

Traciforcrystal.com. Facebook: traciforcrystal

The Minneapolis Area Association of REALTORS(R) may plan to interview some candidates virtually, would you be willing to participate, if contacted?

No