

Vision 2021

George Freeman

MANDATE FOR CHANGE

Homelessness

- Seattle needs to offer our deprived communities with social, mental, and physical health services which can be modeled after the Library To Go and Bookmobile programs across the country. Health mobiles can visit low-income housing complexes for seniors and people with disabilities, retirement homes, assisted living facilities, and nursing homes. Services offered could include vaccinations, counseling, and crisis intervention.
- To address the city's problem with tent encampments, we need to implement "sanctuary" homeless parks that can be set up as centers away from residential and school areas. If possible, use I-5 underpasses that are not exposed or visually seen by the public. Gated and controlled entry would ensure safe and secure access. Potable water; and single occupancy bathrooms and showers.
- Security to include observation cameras, metal detectors, and registration wristbands.
- Free shuttle busses to be available for critical transportation needs such as appointments, job training, etc.
- No on Charter Amendment 29! This charter should be held off and voted down because it deducts an estimated \$150 million dollars a year from the city's \$1.5 billion dollar General Annual Budget. The matter needs to be rejected until the new city council can investigate and draft a comprehensive, inclusive homeless plan to provide permanent, stable, affordable housing with program oversight.

Transportation

- Before I-5 was built, Harrison, Thomas, and John streets were connected from Capitol Hill to Downtown but they failed to be reconnected after its completion. Now, with only four connecting roads (Denny, Pike, Pine, and Olive), traffic buildup is oversaturated.
- Headed north on I-5, we need a connection in order to merge onto 99 North if I-5 is gridlocked. This can easily be done by adding an onramp from the West Seattle Bridge overpass from I-5 as it crosses Highway 99.
- Now that the new 99 tunnel has been built, we need to connect it to the Aurora bridge by extending it with 2 additional express lanes. I suggest enclosing the new northern express lanes to contain noise and exhaust fumes from disrupting neighborhoods.
- In the past, Seattle has built bike lanes on main arterial roads. As a result, the bike lanes are a mess! Seattle must, henceforth, look at any additional bike lanes running parallel to the main arterial roads, thereby preventing busses, trolleys, and cars parking and disturbing the city's flow of commerce, and injuring cyclists.
- At every spot where three or more people have been killed on our highways, we need signage in place to raise awareness of the location's death toll. For example: "Danger! 5 people killed here".
- In order to protect windshields from damage, all trucks, semis, and trailers are required to have mud flaps no less than 5 inches on all rear tires, which would include raised 4-wheel vehicles.

Seattle Police Accountability

- Seattle needs to revamp the police accountability board called OPA (Office of Police Accountability). Currently 9 SPD senior sergeants are at salaries in excess of \$100,000/year. The pay they receive does not reflect the value of their service. They need to be replaced by energized, young, (and neutral!) attorneys who are dedicated to truth and justice by contracting with UW and SU law schools, hiring 2nd and 3rd year law students. Students are assigned as investigators and write conclusions of all incidents under the supervision of their clinics. Law students are empowered under (APR) 9 Civil Procedure to investigate and access all police files and personal history files of bad acting cops, further writing and documenting their findings. Graduating law students who have passed the BAR should have these positions. Misconduct by any city servant of Seattle is the property of the people and must be transparent at all times.
- Under fair representation of the population, Seattle is 50% female; however the police department is not. We need to adjust those numbers for equal parity.
- To gain new police officers, we will need to offer reduced housing vouchers and/or mortgage assistance.
- For further improved community policing, all new hires will be required to park their cop cars in their own respective neighborhoods. These new contracts should have them spread throughout the city, no less than 10 blocks from each other.
- Qualified immunity should not be given to any city employee, nor should the city ever have to pay for attorneys defending bad conduct by city employees, both civil and police. I do think this problem can be resolved by the various labor unions which city employees belong to. It is the unions' duty to provide and finance its' members with liability insurance until they are proven innocent by the court of law. At that time the city will reimburse the insurance claims and damages and the defendant employee's lost wages and time.
- Although Gov Inslee has signed 12 new laws into place that address the state, I am proposing ideas for the city itself. at large but not the city itself.

Social Justice and Race

- Like most American cities, the incarceration rate of minority people is disproportionate to the population of Seattle. Offenses such as possession of marijuana need to be dropped and wiped clean from records.
- I call for renaming the Norm Maleng Justice Center in Kent to the Gary Lock Justice Center. Norm Maleng failed three times in his gubernatorial run; he sided with the City of Tacoma's prosecution of a grade school gay teacher and was instrumental in adding pressure on judges for harsher sentences of black folks. Maleng endorsed moral nuisance initiative 355, which put bookstore owners in jail for selling Playboy and other draconian right wing measures. Gary Lock was a distinguished King County judge, King County Commissioner, and Governor. Gary Lock, today, is the president of Bellevue College and is an outstanding American who has set an example of fair play. He was the first Chinese-American appointed as the US ambassador to China. The Justice Center in Kent should be named after him and rebranded as the Gary Lock Center for Justice.

Gun Violence

- Gun owners must have state certified insurance policies. Those policies can be connected to homeowner or automobile policies if permitted. Seattle must be notified on any accidents or misuses of the permit. No one under the age of 18 is permitted to own a gun. If found with a gun and without a permit, such failure results in a mandatory, maximum, misdemeanor sentence of one year in county jail.
- Ammunition should be taxed at 25% the rate of the firearm. Gun magazine sales are illegal in the state of WA. All gun licenses must be renewed yearly; failure is a \$250 fine.

Education/ Vocational

- The City of Seattle needs to petition the state to offer paid scholarships to all citizens 17 and older to attend military, technical training schools sponsored by defense funding through our Washington State National Guard. Using our state national guard, we enroll marginalized students into training schools similar to Roosevelt's WPA, Conservation Cores, ROTC, etc. We use the largest budget of the people of the United States which is the military budget to bootstrap our kids to a higher educational level with gaining new friends, ideas, cultures, and languages. Six to ten years of such a program could easily increase the overall standards for marginalized kids who will be shopped into the middle class with new concepts, skill sets, and self-reliance. I believe that to build back better, we have competition with the brain power and discipline of the Asian educational advances and the Arabic and Indian skill sets in computer science. They're bright and we're not.
- The city needs to talk to our congressional representatives to come up with legislation to allow the best and brightest foreign students studying in Seattle to remain as citizens. Foreign exchange students who have exemplary grades should be offered citizenship so that this city and this country becomes home to the most gifted students in the world thereby increasing our collective intelligence and stimulating our economy.

SODO

- Building improvements: Extend the Georgetown zoning mixture of residences and industrial buildings from Jackson Street to Georgetown. Property owners are allowed to build 10-story residential units such as art studios, home lofts, beauty salons, small manufacturing, etc. allowed as mixed use buildings.
- Rental units, residences, and condos in a sodo mixed use area between Georgetown Marginal Way and Yesler St. This new zoning area will encourage the light manufacturing that is in Georgetown to continue to expand or expand into this new proposal. Homeowners and manufacturers will add synergy to Sodo, making it a culturally diverse hub of entertainment, cafes and bistros, and shops.

City improvements

- Corporate LED lighting sponsorship for bridges. The Siemens Ship Canal Bridge, The Phillips West Seattle Bridge, General Electric George Washington (Aurora) Bridge, etc
- Boost the creative capital of our city by lighting the Duwamish Bay shipping cranes with solar-powered LED lights, taking inspiration from Star Wars Empire Walkers/ AT Walkers. Turn this industrial work zone into an artful display for landing aircraft, further distinguishing Seattle as the Emerald City, and bringing art to SoDo. During the pandemic, 51 million passengers flew over SoDo while landing; we need that passenger traffic out of the planes as feet on the ground inside of SoDo's restaurants, galleries, clubs, and stores. In areas where we can't find a corporation to sponsor the bridge, the city should arrange short-term tax abatements for the cost of enhancements. It is said, if we build it, they will come.
- Seattle Center. We need to dome the center so that children and families can use it in the winter months and at night time or inclement weather. Use a governmental loan from the city or state to build it. The ticket prices then would pay it off over time.
- Gasworks Park. Floating amphitheatre on a concrete dock which can interchange when not in use to cover the police and fire boats right next to the park.
- We need to extend the building height for buildings in the downtown core. Those heights should be consistent with FAA regulations and we need to take a lesson from Shanghai, Dubai, Singapore, and Kuwait. We need to encourage and support all new buildings to not look like a box and give the world a run for its money in building appearance.
- We need more Public freestanding restrooms.

Other Potential Issues To Be Addressed

National

- Reparations
- Confederate statues and undoing the whitewashing

Laws/banking

- We need to look at California's banking protection laws

Job creation

- Rebuilding after Covid-19

Green New Deal

Reinforce ACLU's opinion to oppose CA 29.

- We need a comprehensive, inclusive homeless plan to provide permanent, stable, affordable housing with program oversight.