

Name: Mark Freiberg **Interview #14**
Seeking Office:
Eden Prairie City Council Incumbent

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How long have you lived in your community?

41 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?

no

Describe your civic and/or community engagement.

Sitting member of the Eden Prairie City Council Board of Directors member of Eden Prairie Community Foundation Member Southwest Transit System (Board Member) Member Eden Prairie Historical Society Member of the Eden Prairie AM Rotary Club

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

15,000 + approximately 11,000

Are you accepting PAC contributions?

Yes

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

Past Eden Prairie Mayor Nancy Tyra Luken Lifelong Eden Prairie resident and business owners Sever and Sharon Peterson Prolific Eden Prairie author Mitch Pearlstein, PHD

What are the most important housing challenges facing your community?

1). An ongoing shortage of buildable acreage suitable for residential building.
2), A serious shortage of affordable/work force housing is facing the leadership of Eden Prairie at the present time. Overall metro area is approximately 20,000 units short of demand and growing. 3). Suitable life cycle housing with walkability features is in high demand and rising. There is a growing population of empty nesters that would like to stay in Eden Prairie but find it difficult to do so. 4) Many of the available lots to build

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?

We've implemented many housing initiatives including inclusion clauses for work force/ affordable housing requirements that need to be met on all projects presented to us on the City Council. We have issued waivers as needed that make sense on lot size requirements to make new properties as affordable as possible as needed. We have implemented a housing task force, which I had a part in to advise us on new ways expand our focus of accommodating the need for more housing opportunities. The message we send whenever possible is for them is to "think beyond the box!" and we will listen.

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?

I'm aware that the gap is large and getting worse. I believe we need to continue to use all of our resources to continue to ramp up home ownership opportunities. This may be through expanding our knowledge of using leasehold or land trust instruments to assist in financing. I would also like to see our HRA which I'm a member of be utilized in a broader scope going forward and to continue to think "beyond the box." This was one of the pillars that I was initially elected on with strong interaction with our large local Somali population in Eden Prairie. We need to keep thinking and fighting change whenever possible!

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

I personally work closely with our residents regarding tenants and property owners whenever needed and called upon. We are a city expect everyone to be treated with respect and dignity and will tolerate nothing less!

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?

Our property taxes (city portion), are one of the lowest in the metro area. We always try to balance our levy to maintain the balance between our FIRST-RATE city services/ first responders and our residents' expectations. We have a high respect for spending the tax \$\$ and maintaining our high Bond rating!!!! Which is, one of the highest in the state!!

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

markfreiberg2018@gmail.com markfreibergwinsep.com

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

Yes