

**Name:** Tony Sumnicht  
**Seeking Office:**  
Crystal Crystal City Council  
Section 2

**Interview #6**

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9/23/2022 - 3:00:00 PM

**How long have you lived in your community?**

5 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?**

NA

**Describe your civic and/or community engagement.**

I currently serve as the Vice-Chair for the Crystal Parks and Recreation Commission, Chair of the Crystal Tree Board, Treasurer for the Crystal Frolics (501c4). I also volunteer at the information and EBT booth for the Crystal Farmers Market and serve as a communications lead for Stonewall Sports a LGBTQ+ community-based sports league.

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

I have raised ~\$650 and would like to raise \$2000.

**Are you accepting PAC contributions?**

Yes

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

Crystal Mayor Jim Adams, Council Member Nancy LaRoche, and Council Member Olga Parsons

**What are the most important housing challenges facing your community?**

The decline of naturally occurring affordable housing is one of my main concerns for Crystal. I bought my current home when I was 25, and one of the main reasons why I chose Crystal was that it was one of the only first ring suburbs where I could afford to buy at the time. As Crystal grows and changes I want to make sure we can maintain a healthy level of naturally occurring affordable homes and rentals.

**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?**

As a fully developed city there are very few open lots, and almost no lots for larger scale developments. However, I do think Crystal does have a lot of opportunities to redevelop in certain areas and loosen restrictions on property owners. Two things I would like to do is: 1) Moving to a form based zoning code that is more conducive to mixed use development in all our commercial areas and some light industrial areas that will be adjacent to the proposed Blue Line Light Rail Extension. 2) Loosening constraints on property owners to allow for more housing infill. I support reducing minimum lot sizes, and setbacks to give more property owners the option to split a lot, add an ADU, or a new addition.

**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?**

The homeownership gap is a reflection of larger socioeconomic disparities that are seen across the metro and nation. There is a demand for home ownership in BIPOC communities. Our zoning code and development goals should encourage the construction of equity producing naturally occurring affordable housing. Additionally the City should work with local BIPOC organizations to break down barriers to homeownership and promote resources and programs currently available.

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

Crystal has a smaller rental population than surrounding cities and does not have tenant protections beyond those in state statute. There are not any major issues with rental properties in Crystal. I think the current state of tenant protections are adequate for Crystal.

**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 will work tirelessly to minimize the City's fiscal impact on residents, ensure transparent budgets, and promote community involvement in long-term planning. Crystal's property tax base is dominated by single family homes. This makes the city's budget more sensitive to economic swings. On council I want to focus on redeveloping and strengthening our commercial and industrial areas in the city to create a more diversified and stable tax base. This will help the city

weather harder economic times without shifting more of the tax burden onto home owners.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/TonyforCrystal/>

<https://www.instagram.com/tonyforcrystal/> <https://twitter.com/TonyforCrystal>

<https://www.snapchat.com/add/tonyforcrystal> <https://www.tonyforcrystal.com/>

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

Yes