

October 9, 2018
WeCAN General Meeting minutes
1400 Quitman St.

Officer Bob Anderson gave an update on crime in the West Colfax neighborhood. Spike in home burglaries, mostly garage burglaries. He suggested looking into the Neighborhood Watch program, which is still a viable program. He also brought some Halloween safety tips.

Two of the candidates for House District 4 attended the forum: Dave John (DJ) and Serena Gutierrez (SG). Both candidates introduced themselves and their basic policies. The questions are as follows:

1. What is the single biggest for Coloradans and what would you do about it?
 - a. SG: equity, basic human rights, health care, education, affordable housing
 - b. DJ: traffic
2. We are dealing with a clear issue with gentrification. What are your stances on affordable housing and what do you see as a solution for housing?
 - a. DJ: keep taxes low so people can afford their homes, pro 112 to alleviate gentrification, does not want to see my government regulation
 - b. SG: state fund for affordable housing needed, everyone needs access to housing, work with RNOs and the community to alleviate gentrification
3. What, if any, criminal justice reform would you implement?
 - a. SG: reforms in juvenile criminal justice system needed, kids of color are disproportionately in jail, private prisons not giving mental health treatment
 - b. DJ: broken education system, need more vocational education opportunities, due process needs to be followed from start to finish, need to address the mental health component better
4. What are your thoughts on traditional schools vs charter schools?
 - a. DJ: charter schools are a good option, there is merit in school choice, moving toward electronic education, need to value kids and their abilities
 - b. SG: need reinvestment in our neighborhood schools, some charters can be a good thing, but if they are going to take government money they must be held to the same standards as public school.
5. What would you do to deal with the homeless issue in the neighborhood?
 - a. SG: need mental health and substance abuse treatment, co-responder model (DPD and social worker) has been effective
 - b. DJ: need to do more for our homeless veterans
6. What can be done about real estate agents putting pressure on homeowners to sell and follow seemingly fraudulent methods of inflating home prices.

Next, Denver's District Attorney, Beth McCann gave a summary of new developments from her office and department.

