Mayoral Forum Questions

1. Assume you take office on January X, 2020. What’s the first thing you’ll do to address flooding?

2. Charleston’s flood map, flood hazard and rainfall data are severely outdated or missing entirely. How will you ensure the latest science is incorporated into the city’s planning efforts?

3. Across the region, plans to address flooding vary differently and there is a lack of communication across municipal lines on this issue. As mayor, how will you address this problem and increase the City’s collaboration with neighboring governments and municipal planners?

4. Homes and residents in neighborhoods like the Westside and Eastside are right now grappling with unsafe living conditions because of rising water. How will you ensure all residents are included in the city’s discussions and planning for a changing climate?

5. Planners and scientists believe it will cost more than $2 billion to solve all the city’s flooding problems. How will you prioritize spending on projects in the short and long term? Give one project example of what you will do in your tenure and where the money will come from.

6. Regulations and building practices in place now ignore the realities of a changing climate and encourage development in flood prone places. Unless we revise zoning and land use ordinances this city will continue in the pattern of building and flooding. What are your specific plans for updates to zoning and land use practices and how will you garner the political support to transform current practices?

7. Buyouts for homes that flood severely and repeatedly are becoming a growing trend nationally to mitigate the impacts of worsening flooding. We saw this recently in the Bridgepointe subdivision of the Shadowmoss neighborhood. What are your thoughts on this mitigation strategy and do you plan to help people whose homes are repeatedly flooded relocate to higher ground?

8. We all know there are limited dollars to address worsening flooding in Charleston, and some projects must take a backseat to others. Still, the current administration has endorsed Charleston County’s plans to use money from the 2016 half cent sales tax to build the I-526 extension. Do you agree we should fund the I-526 extension, and, if so, how do you justify spending those hundreds of millions of dollars rather than immediately funding action on flooding?