

**Heather HILDRED**

**Website:** [heatherhildred.ca](http://heatherhildred.ca)

**Facebook:** @heatherhildred4council

**Instagram:** @heatherhildred

**Email:** [heatherhildred@hotmail.com](mailto:heatherhildred@hotmail.com)

**Phone:** 604-431-8724

**Member of a Slate or Independent:**

**INDEPENDENT**

**1. Please tell us about yourself and why you're running for City Council:**

I will be very honest with you. I want this job! There would be nothing that I would like more, than to represent this community, and represent you and your voices on Council. I have worked for over 18 years as a public servant with RCMP Victim Services at the municipal and federal government levels, dealing with policy and political issues. I see myself as a community builder, and a strong advocate for issues I believe in. And I truly believe in White Rock, and what we stand for, and what we can be moving forward. I've had the pleasure of living in White Rock for the past 6 years now, and I have just fallen in love with this community, and want to give back in the only way I know how - through public service. I am concerned that people are feeling shut down and shut out. I am also concerned that we are not following the Official Community Plan (OCP) as we had agreed to. I want to be part of the solution and represent you on Council. I see our City by the Sea as a city that needs a sensible and sustainable plan. I think we should follow the OCP as we have agreed to, and move forward. I think that we should act in a transparent manner on City Council. This is why I stand for Citizen Input, Sustainable Development, and Government Transparency as my three pronged over-arching approach to Council work and decision-making for our City. Please visit [heatherhildred.ca](http://heatherhildred.ca) to learn more about my platform and the type of issues I will support. I would like to hear from you on your issues, so please reach out to me to share your concerns. On October 20th please help me get elected so I can put these important issues back on the table. I am 5th from the bottom of the ballot. Vote for Heather HILDRED or Double HH if that's easier to remember!

**2. Several candidates are independent, and while others are part of a slate, it is entirely possible that only one from a slate may be elected. Regardless of whether you are part of a slate or an independent, how will you work with what may be a mayor & council with diverse viewpoints to bring forward your ideas and address issues?**

**As the BC RCMP Victim Services Director, I have worked on a multitude of projects, and policy issues, with a variety of stakeholders, including municipal, provincial, and federal government**

partners, non-governmental and non-profit agencies, community members, city representatives, and more, all of whom have their own agendas and perspectives. I have a very consultative, collaborative approach, and an excellent communication style. I have always been able to work to achieve consensus on contentious issues so that we can move forward to a solution that is liveable for most involved.

I am an independent candidate and believe you need to look at all sides of an issue, before you can make an informed decision. I hope that I am elected to a diverse Council, as this is the best way to have all sides represented. If you have a diverse group, you can be confident that others will bring forward ideas that you may not have thought of, and they will be able to assist you at looking at an issue from a side you had not realized existed. This is the benefit and beauty of diversity.

I will work to build open relationships on Council, through respectful communication. I will support having a Code of Conduct for Council which will confirm rules of engagement. Even if we do not always agree, I believe we can work in a respectful manner to bring issues forward for discussion. I am tenacious, and will keep pushing to have issues examined that I believe will benefit our community, but I will do this respectfully.

**3. Affordability is a major challenge for residents and businesses in White Rock. Sky high property values lead to rising housing costs and expensive leases, making it hard for people to live here and businesses to stay here. How will you address this existential threat to our community?**

I spoke recently at an All Candidates Forum hosted by Peninsula Homeless to Housing (PH2H) on the type of strategies I would support relating to homeless or near homeless individuals as well the challenges of affordable housing in our City. This is an important issue that should be at the forefront of everyone's mind this election period and beyond.

On any given night in White Rock there are 5 to 8 homeless individuals in our community. And many more who are one crisis away from being out of their homes. If elected I will support working with PH2H, BC Housing, and other stakeholders to explore grant opportunities to secure a permanent Shelter for our City, as we do not have this type of resource at present, and we really must, to ensure we can take care of our most vulnerable people.

With just 214, of 1475 incoming units identified as rental suites, I will also support incentives for developers to motivate them to focus on building rental units. This is already built into our OCP, and I will work to enhance this policy. At the recent PH2H Forum, I spoke of Kanwar Dhamrait, of Oviedo Developments, who is currently building a 28 unit purpose-built rental suite development in our community. He stated that it is not always about the profit, but about giving back. I believe we need to encourage more developers with this mindset to

**contribute to our built landscape, to ensure we have rental stock, and affordable housing for families, single people, and our elders.**

Our OCP is alive to the issue of lack of affordable housing. The new Tenant Relocation Policy #514 is quite well designed, and speaks to developers submitting a relocation plan as part of their development application. They must include a communication plan, as well as exploration of what is best for vulnerable tenants. I support this plan, but will work to enhance this policy, to ensure our community residents have full choice within White Rock for relocation, so they do not have to leave the community.

**4. How will you improve our transportation system- including roads, sidewalks, transit, and bike routes- to ensure that our community is accessible for residents and visitors?**

The topics of Mobility and Environment are discussed as part of my platform, as these are both very important facets of a viable liveable community. In terms of mobility, I will commit to continue to investigate the feasibility of a People Mover as a transportation system, but also as a way to further identify our community, as well draw in tourism. The City of Edmonton recently added a Funicular to it's Valley area, which was difficult to get down into due to the steep slope. Also as Edmonton has done, I would support exploring a wide staircase built next to the funicular, built for all abilities to access, with seating, so that people could stop, sit and take in our beautiful ocean views if they chose to walk down to the beach this way. This project cost \$24 million. However, the City paid only \$550, 000. The provincial and federal governments contributed the remaining \$23.5 million. I have heard that White Rock City Hall is moving uptown. If this should happen, whatever is developed on that property (within the OCP guidelines of course) should have underground parking. That parking can assist in facilitating our visitors and residents alike. You would hop on the funicular and visit the seaside, businesses, restaurants and amenities we have on our beautiful waterfront without having to deal with the parking and congestion we have currently. Many of my friends no longer visit White Rock due to just these issues. Let's look for a creative yet cost effective way to support residents, businesses, and visitors alike, while maintaining our City's character.

I also commit to support the creation, maintenance, and protection of our walking paths, our staircase paths to the beach, as well as exploration into unique initiatives that contribute to fitness and wellbeing like a 'Fit Path' on one of our pathways (an excellent way to interact on the path, no gym membership required!).

I will also support the creation, and maintenance of smooth sidewalks, and removal of tripping hazards, so that walkers, joggers, those with mobility issues, those using walkers and wheelchairs, and scooters, are able to travel safely on our streets.

I would also support an Urban Forest Management Strategy to ensure our green spaces are protected and increased where available, and that our tree canopy is protected and

promoted. I believe that a tree must be replaced should it be removed. I would also support unique initiatives that have been successful in other communities like the Adopt a Tree Program and the Email a Tree Program. In Australia, the Email a Tree Program was launched to encourage people to email if a branch was down, or there was an issue with a tree. People began emailing love letters to individual trees which was an unintended but lovely consequence. And because of this, people became more engaged with nature, the trees, and green space in the community. A great positive outcome!

- 

5. Communication between the City of White Rock and the residents and businesses have been challenging- there have been concerns that people haven't been informed of projects and decisions. How will you revitalize communications and relationships between residents/businesses and the City?

One of the reasons I felt compelled to become a Councillor for the City of White Rock was because I was hearing from our community that people were feeling shut down and shut out. I've spent my life and my career within RCMP Victim Services listening to people's concerns, and advocating for them, to ensure their voices are heard, so they don't get the run around.

I have excellent communication skills, and have a collaborative, consultative style, and I want to bring that style to Council to ensure that all voices and opinions are heard, and that our citizens feel safe in speaking up. I also am extremely organized and have excellent project management and change management skills which I will also bring to Council should I be elected.

I state as part of my platform that I believe in Communication, Relationships and Respect. And I will walk the talk, and do the following if elected, to revitalize communication and relationships between residents/businesses and the City:

- Bring back Question Period at City Hall
- End private meetings/In Camera meetings unless legally necessary
- Create an online tracker to share how I vote on issues presented to council and to provide timely updates on decisions made and projects being planned and rolled out
- Ensure that a communications plan is built into any project plan, so that we communicate decisions, project plans, project phases, prior to any projects even being started
- Ensure that a change management plan is built into any project plan, so that prior to a plan or project being launched, residents and businesses have information about what will take place, and can take the time needed to adjust to the changes coming, and prepare for same - we do not want people caught of guard, or feeling surprised, as this does not make for

**good relations - we want to work together with our citizens and businesses so that any projects, plans, or changes that may take place can go as smoothly as possible**

- **Support the creation of a policy that protects open and transparent communication with the citizens we serve**
- **Fight for fiscal accountability and transparency on all financial decisions**
- **Continue building a relationship with the Semiahmoo First Nations people**
- **Work to implement recommendations from the Marine Drive/Waterfront Task Force Report (2017) and listen to and work with the business community, WR BIA and SWR Chamber**