2015 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: ­ George Gascon

Candidate for: District Attorney

Date: August 15, 2015

PERSONAL WALKING EXPERIENCE

1. Please describe what role walking plays in your life.

My wife and I are very active and enjoy walking regularly.

BIG PICTURE

1. Describe your vision of a healthy, safe, equitable, and sustainable transportation system for the city and the role that walking plays in that vision.

I believe that creating a healthy, safe and an economically well-grounded community requires vision and commitment. Thoughtful planning that balances the needs for mobility across the various forms of transportation today and prepares our transportation infrastructure for the future is central to our success. To that end, I will continue to engage in role appropriate efforts as District Attorney (DA) to support this goal.

VISION ZERO

1. If elected, what steps would you take to ensure the implementation of Vision Zero projects? In your answer, please explain how you would address trade-offs that may result from building a safe transportation system (e.g., the removal of parking in order to improve visibility of pedestrians at intersections, or the removal of vehicle lanes to slow traffic and shorten pedestrian crossing distances, etc.).

I have publicly supported Vision Zero in my elected position and will continue to do so. However, as DA I do not have a legislative, budgetary or management role in the process.

1. What would you do to ensure there is enough funding for pedestrian safety improvements and Vision Zero projects?

See #3 above.

POLICY/LEGISLATION

1. The most dangerous transportation behavior in the city is speed, as it exponentially increases a victim’s risk of injury or death. Two key strategies that have effectively reduced speeds in other states and countries are automated speed cameras and decreased speed limits. Unfortunately, the State of California doesn’t permit automated speed enforcement and only allows speeds lower than 25 mph in school zones. Do you support these strategies? If so, how will you work with your community and State legislators to change these (and similar) laws so the City can use these strategies to save lives?

As DA, I have and will continue to support thoughtful policies and legislations that enhance public safety at all levels.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

1. Given the student assignment policy, 41% of San Francisco elementary school students live within walking distance of school. Unfortunately, only 25% take the short journey. Studies have shown that children who walk to school enjoy key health benefits and academic advantages, as well as getting more quality bonding time with parents. What would you do to increase the number of children walking and biking to school, and what would you do to increase safety around local schools?

I would support efforts to educate parents and care takers concerning their options and the benefits of walking or biking with their children to school. However, as I mentioned under #3, my role as DA is limited because I don’t have legislative, budgetary or management control over the process.

WALKABILITY/WALKING MODE INCREASE

1. The City has established a goal to steadily increase the percentage of all walking trips and walking trips for commuting in the next 5 years. Do you support this goal? If yes, what would you do to help the City realize it?

Yes, however, as DA I do not have a legislative, budgetary or management role in the process.

1. Walk San Francisco believes that everyone deserves equal access to enjoyable places to walk. Walk SF is working with community groups and the City to install ‘[Intersection Murals](mailto:http://walksf.org/take-action/green-connections/%23Murals)’ that will advance this goal, as well as other Pavement to Parks projects that reclaim wide/dangerous intersections for public use (e.g., Persia Triangle). How important are these projects to you, and how will you support them?

As DA, I have and will continue to support thoughtful policies and other efforts that enhance public safety at all levels.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

1. Have you championed or strongly supported any other initiatives that are in line with Walk San Francisco’s mission of making walking in San Francisco safe, so that our community is healthier and livable?

As DA, I have played an active role in implementing traffic safety campaigns. Also, when appropriate, I have ensured my office prosecute those compromising traffic safety.

1. Is there anything else you’d like to share with the people of San Francisco, all of whom walk or travel with an assistive device at some point?

I am committed to making our city the safest large city in the U.S. To that end I’m continuously seeking ways to maximize our community safety thoughtfully and effectively.