



## BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Jonathan Lyens

Candidate for: Board of Supervisors, District 1

## PERSONAL WALKING EXPERIENCE

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

*Quite simply, for me walking is life. As a blind person, and as a San Franciscan who loves his diverse neighborhood, being able to safely walk to almost everything I need and enjoy is directly tied to my quality of life.*

## BIG PICTURE

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

*A healthy, safe, equitable and sustainable transportation system is a vibrant, multimodal network including trains, buses, car sharing, taxis, bicyclists and pedestrians. No matter how you get around, everyone is a pedestrian at some point and people have the right to travel safely through our city. Our pathways, sidewalks and crossings need to be safe, accessible and proactively maintained.*

## VISION ZERO

3. If elected, what steps would you take to ensure the implementation of Vision Zero projects? In your answer, please explain whether you pledge to prioritize safety improvements that narrow crossing distances and slow traffic (bulbouts, "road diets," etc.) over other competing demands for street space, including parking or automobile lanes.

*As President of the FDR Democratic Club of SF, for seniors and people with disabilities, I am proud to lead an organization that is a founding member of the Vision Zero Coalition, and as Supervisor, I pledge to continue leading the way on pedestrian safety improvements. It is critical for the Board of Supervisors to provide adequate funding for pedestrian safety projects. In addition to funding, the Board of Supervisors must play an oversight role in the implementation of these projects. As Supervisor, I will call regular public hearings on the implementation of pedestrian safety improvements, as well as our city's status in reaching the goals laid out in Vision Zero. I pledge to have an open door policy for pedestrian safety advocates such as WalkSF.*

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

*Unlike any other candidate, I have the know-how to ensure there is enough funding for pedestrian safety improvements and the Vision Zero projects. I understand the process, projects*

*and players in order to be a strong and successful advocate for Vision Zero. I spent four years in the Mayor's Budget Office during the recession and have an intimate understanding of the role the city budget plays in getting projects such as Vision Zero accomplished. I led the City's first community outreach on the budget and I believe we need even more community input in how we allocate our funding. This is why I have publicly called for an increase in the amount of time the Board of Supervisors has to consider the details of the Mayor's proposed budget, from the current two weeks.*

## POLICY/LEGISLATION

5. 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?

*Yes, I support automated speed enforcement and targeted speed limit reductions and have actively advocated for all measures that increase pedestrian safety and work toward Vision Zero. Simply put, speed kills. Walk SF has achieved great strides in gaining local support within the State Legislature. However, I believe the most successful approach will be a statewide effort. As a delegate to the California Democratic Party and a member of the Party's Platform Committee, I would like to work with Walk SF to put the party on record supporting automated speed enforcement. In my experience, I have found this to be a very effective way to get the attention of democratic legislators. I would also like to work with Walk SF to deepen and broaden a statewide coalition that could include advocates for groups such as pedestrians, bicyclists, transit, seniors, people with disabilities, families with young children and others.*

## SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

6. Approximately 41% of San Francisco elementary school students live within walking distance of school. Unfortunately, only 25% take the short journey by foot. 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 and safety of children walking and biking to school?

*If we are going to be successful in getting more young people walking or biking to school we need to demonstrate to our parents that it is a safe and effective way for kids to travel. This means that we must prioritize the pedestrian safety improvements discussed above, with a special focus on areas near our schools. For example, in the Richmond District, 7th and California is an extremely busy intersection adjacent to George Peabody Elementary school. Despite years of advocacy by the PTA, this intersection remains uncontrolled. Now, those parents brave enough to walk their children to school must either risk injury crossing that street, or take additional time to cross at alternate intersections. We must also continue to fund an expansion of the city's crossing guard program to help crossings closest to schools achieve maximum safety.*

*We must also making walking fun. I would like to work with individual schools to devise contests and games that incentivize walking.*

### WALKABILITY/WALKING MODE INCREASE

7. 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, I support this goal. As a city, we must change both the infrastructure and community mindset to illustrate that walking is both easy and safe. As Supervisor, I pledge to lead by example. In addition to my own daily travel, I would like to organize regular community activities centered around walking.*

8. Walk San Francisco believes that everyone deserves equal access to enjoyable places to walk, and that our street space can be better used by shifting excess street right-of-way from private automobiles to places for people to walk and gather. How do you feel about projects like these that improve our public realm, and how will you support them?

*Yes, I support these types of projects. In the Richmond District for example, I have seen how the Clement Street Farmer's Market, a project initially met with resistance, transforms what is typically a clogged street into a relaxing space where neighbors come to together in a healthier way. I believe we need to expand these types of car free areas that activate spaces in new ways, and as Supervisor, I pledge to partner with Walk SF in this effort.*

### OTHER EXPERIENCE

9. 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 President of the FDR Democratic Club of SF, for seniors and people with disabilities, I led the club to become one of the founding members of the Vision Zero Coalition. We organized a successful pedestrian safety town hall, with Walk SF Executive Director Nicole Ferrara as a featured speaker. I opposed Proposition L, which would have made it easier for the city to build parking garages. Also, I supported Propositions A & B in November 2014, that provided both capital and additional operating funds for our city's transit system.*

10. 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?

As someone who walks with an assistive device every day - my guide dog or my white cane -you will not find someone more supportive or empathetic of pedestrian safety and walkability challenges. This is not a campaign slogan, this is real life. I understand the impacts of daily challenges such as potholes in crossings, cracks in the sidewalk, crossing times that aren't quite long enough, and the lack of well defined, safe and accessible pedestrian rights of way around the city's ever increasing construction projects. I hope to earn your support.

