

Instructions

This document is a fill-in form. Tab through the document to type in your answers in the fields below. Don't worry about space, the text fields will expand if needed. When you're done, email the completed form to [REDACTED]. Thank you for your time.

Type Candidate Name Osemene Sam

1. **In October 2007, the City Council voted to relocate Austin's animal shelter to the eastern edge of the City, but only if the newest building at the current shelter were kept open as an adoption center. Shelter staff, who did not support the adoption center, have not developed a plan for the center or allocated any bond money to prepare the building, currently used for administration, to house animals.**

- A. **What steps, if any, will you take to ensure that shelter management fulfills Council's mandate for a downtown adoption center?**

I support the Downtown Animal Shelter and strongly oppose moving the Shelter to a different location. As a council member, I will protect the shelter and make resources available for the shelter. My opponent in this Place 6, Sheryl Cole supported this bad policy and has not shown any leadership in giving the Shelters the resources it needs. As a council member, I will partner with you, listen , talk and communicate with you in protecting and providing for our innocent animals.

- B. **Will you commit to supporting a downtown adoption center that is open the same hours as the main shelter, and where adoptable animals can stay full-time until they are adopted?**

Absolutely. I strongly opposed the City Council's decision to relocate the shelter . As a council member, the animal shelter will have a strong advocate at the city hall . I will support allocating resources to the Downtown center to meet its goals and adoptions.

- C. **Would you support an expansion of the proposed adoption center to include more of the existing shelter buildings, such as the adoption dog kennels?**

Absolutely

2. **While there was a significant decline in the number of cats entering the shelter in 2008, the number of adoptions from Austin's pound has not seen a significant increase. The number of animals leaving through placement partner groups would have actually decreased last year if it were not for the**

work of a single new nonprofit group. Would you commit to demanding the implementation of proven programs that have increased positive outcomes at other shelters---such as off-site adoptions and a large-scale foster program? If so, would you be willing to direct budgetary expenditures towards those programs?

Absolutely

- 3. Since 2000 when the current shelter director took over, Austin's pound has killed an average of 52.4 percent of impounded animals (about 12,000 animals each year). During the same period, the annual budget has increased from below \$3 million to nearly \$6 million. Other communities across the country have implemented common sense and innovative methods to reduce their shelter kill rate to under 10% of all impounded animals, often in just one or two years.**

- A. Would you commit to making “no kill”—defined as killing less than 10% of pets sheltered at the community’s open-admission shelter—the official policy of Austin and support any laws or policy changes necessary to achieve this goal?**

I'm opposed to killing animals. That is why I opposed the City Council appropriating \$6 million dollars to kill 8,000 animals. My opponent, Council Member, Sheryl Cole said killing these animals is a good policy. I opposed the incinerator in East Austin location. We must not tolerate a slaughter house in this city. I will fight this as a council member with no apologies. Council Member Cole does not get it. She is out of touch. She may be proud of her record. But Austin is not proud of those records.

- B. Given the track record of shelter management, do you believe it's time for a new direction? If yes, would you consider hiring a consultant with demonstrated experience in achieving “no kill” to evaluate Austin’s shelter?**

Absolutely. The City Council has failed us and this is the time to vote them out of office. It is not what they would do in the next three years. Look at what they have done. Who speaks for these animals? Who votes for these animals? You. Vote for Osemene Sam.

- C. Would you support the implementation of performance standards that tie management performance to salary increments or bonuses or continued employment? If not, please explain why not.**

I strongly believe when it comes to taking care of our animals, we must reward those that work for us. I think we can use different methods in rewarding good work. Performance evaluation and increment in salary are part of the options. But we must not solely rely on these options when rewarding our men and women for their good job.

- 4. Two audits by the State of Texas, plus multiple independent checks, have revealed that on most days, Austin's shelter keeps more than 100 cages empty and unused while it continues killing healthy, non-aggressive animals.**

- A. Would you require TLAC to explain this policy? Please explain why or why not.**

Absolutely. Accountability is the key. I will call for an investigation to rectify this problem. As a city, we must do whatever it takes to protect our animals. The only animal death I will accept is natural death. My tax dollars must not be spent in killing animals.

- B. Would you commit to supporting a moratorium on convenience killing at Austin's shelter---i.e., the killing of animals that are neither suffering nor aggressive while dozens of cages sit empty? Please explain why or why not.**

My position on this issue is all animal killings must be stopped immediately. We can stop it today. The question is who do you trust to get this done. Council Member Cole has demonstrated her unfitness for public office when she supported the killing of 8,000 animals. She is out of touch. Where has she been all these years. Where were she when all these killings were and still going on?. Those dead animals can see us but we can't see them. They are asking for change and they want Osemene Sam for Place 6. Stand up for them and say, enough killings.

- 5. Shelter management has discretion to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual donations to the shelter, yet public documents do not make clear how that money is spent. Would you support an audit of the City's animal-services budget—including all discretionary funds? If not, please explain why not.**

Absolutely. Any money appropriated for animal welfare must be accounted for when I'm elected to the City Council. Transparency is lacking with this city council.

- 6. No city in America has achieved "no kill" success by implementing a**

mandatory spay/neuter ordinance. Some cities, like Los Angeles, have even seen an increase in shelter killing after introducing mandatory spay/neuter. In addition, such ordinances require increased enforcement costs, money that could be used for life-saving programs that are correlated with reduced shelter killing. As a council member, would you support mandatory spay/neuter, or would you support additional funding to increase access to low cost or free spay/neuter services?

I will not support killing any animal or torturing them for any reason. We should be saving them. Spay and neuter shock the moral conscience of humanity. This is animal eugenics.

7. What, if anything, do you envision as the role of the Austin Animal Advisory Commission? What kind of person will you appoint to the commission?

I will appoint people with animal management experience to the Commission .

8. Have you ever rescued or adopted a pet? If you currently have pets, where did you get them?

Yes. A friend of my gave me a pet because she does not want the dog. I decided to take the dog because of my affection for animals. I'm looking forward to adopting pets for my 4 year old twin daughters, Dora nad Nora.

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