

1.) To reduce administrative burdens for small, locally-owned businesses in Goose Creek, I propose a “Streamlined Business Support Program.”

This program will simplify permitting, update zoning laws, and provide tailored support for entrepreneurs, especially those offering diverse retail and services.

Key Components in my plan of action:

One-Stop Business Portal

An online platform that gives entrepreneurs easy access to information on zoning, permits, and licenses. User-friendly solutions!

Fast-Track Permitting

A quicker permitting option for small businesses to get approvals without long delays.

Business Liaison

A dedicated contact in local government to assist entrepreneurs with permits and regulatory questions.

Training and development workshops!

Community Feedback

Regular town hall meetings to hear from local business owners and gather their suggestions.

Business to business networking opportunities

Incentives for Diversity

Grants or tax incentives for businesses that promote a diverse mix of retail and services.

This streamlined approach will help foster a vibrant local economy and support new businesses in Goose Creek!

2.) Traffic congestion has been an issue all throughout the region not just in Goose Creek alone. This is not a problem that just started. It’s been an ongoing issue for quite some time and here are a few ideas I propose to bring once I start my role as council member.

My plan of action:

Affordable Housing Development

Incentives for Developers:

Encourage the construction of affordable housing near major job hubs through tax breaks or zoning adjustments.

Mixed-Use Developments:

Promote developments that combine residential, commercial, green space and retail spaces to create vibrant, walkable communities.

Enhanced Public Transit:

Collaboration with other organizations for bus transportation throughout the city. This is a long-term goal, but it is doable by working and collaborating with business partners such as the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce.

Transit-Oriented Development

Plan housing projects near transit stations or main roads to make commuting easier and more affordable for local workers.

Cycling and Walking Infrastructure:

Bike Lanes and Trails:

Invest in safe, dedicated bike lanes and walking paths to encourage non-motorized commuting.

Community Engagement

Public Forums:

Hold regular meetings with residents to gather input on their commuting challenges and housing needs, ensuring the plans align with community desires.

#3) To reform the City's purchasing and procurement policies and prioritize local businesses, I propose the following strategies:

Streamlined Application Process

Simplified Registration:

Create an easy-to-navigate online registration portal for local businesses to streamline the bidding process and reduce barriers.

Training Workshops: Offer workshops to educate local businesses on how to navigate the procurement process and submit winning bids.

Small Business Set-Asides

Designate Contracts for Local Small Businesses:

Set aside specific contracts exclusively for small and locally-owned businesses to enhance their competitiveness.

Supplier Diversity Initiatives:

Encouragement for Diverse Suppliers:

Actively seek out minority-owned, women-owned, and veteran-owned businesses to ensure diverse participation in procurement processes.

Community Feedback and Collaboration

Regular Consultations with Local Businesses:

Facilitate forums where local businesses can provide input on procurement policies and suggest improvements.

Collaborate with Local Chambers:

Partner with local chambers of commerce and business associations to identify potential bidders and encourage participation.

Transparent Reporting

Public Tracking of Local Spend:

Create a public dashboard that tracks how much the city spends on local businesses, increasing transparency and accountability.

Promotion of Local Vendors:

Highlight Local Success Stories:

Share successful case studies of local businesses that have won contracts to encourage others to participate.

Showcase Local Suppliers:

Include local suppliers in city promotional materials to raise awareness among departments about available local options.

Policy Review and Adaptation:

Regular Assessment of Policies:

Periodically review and adapt procurement policies to ensure they remain effective in promoting local participation and meeting community needs.

4.) To create and maintain attainable commercial space for local businesses in Goose Creek while balancing the presence of national chains, I propose the following policies and incentives:

Commercial Space Affordability Incentives

Subsidized Rent Programs:

Establish programs that provide financial assistance or rent subsidies to local businesses, helping them offset costs, especially in high-demand areas.

Property Tax Incentives for Local Businesses:

Offer property tax reductions for buildings that lease space to independent, locally-owned businesses, encouraging landlords to prioritize them.

Mixed-Use Development Zoning

Encourage Mixed-Use Developments:

Promote mixed-use zoning that combines commercial and residential spaces. This can create a vibrant community atmosphere while providing lower-cost retail opportunities for local businesses.

Business Incubator and Support Programs

Establish a Business Incubator:

Create a dedicated space that offers shared resources (like office space, meeting rooms, and technology) for startups and small businesses at reduced rates, aiding their growth and sustainability.

Support Services:

Provide workshops, mentorship programs, and business development resources to help local businesses compete effectively.

Accessible Financing Options:

Local Business Loan Program:

Initiate low-interest loan programs or grants specifically for locals to help them secure commercial space and grow their enterprises.

Partnerships with Banks:

Collaborate with local banks and credit unions to develop favorable loan products for small businesses.

Promotion of “Shop Local” Initiatives:

Campaigns and Events:

Launch campaigns and regular community events focused on “Shop Local” to encourage residents to support independent businesses, enhancing their visibility and customer base.

By implementing these policies and incentives, Goose Creek can foster an environment where local, independent businesses thrive alongside national chains, ensuring a diverse and vibrant commercial landscape that benefits the entire community.