

ELNA Board 2015-16 Candidate Questionnaire:

YOUR NAME: _____ John Gascon _____

1. From the website: The purpose of the East Lawrence Neighborhood Association is to facilitate understanding with the City of Lawrence and Douglas County; to maintain and enhance living conditions; to foster communication in East Lawrence and to maintain good relations amongst neighbors, businesses, organizations and other neighborhoods in Lawrence.

As a board member, how would you contribute to ELNA's mission?

As a member of the Horizon 2020 Steering Committee and Board of Zoning Appeals I regularly interact with Businesses, organizations, other neighborhoods, city and county staff and especially neighbors as an advocate for a bright future for East Lawrence.

2. How many full ELNA meetings have you been to in the past 12 months?

As a former ELNA board member and as a passive observer, it is nearly impossible to sit through a "full" ELNA meeting that typically lasts more than 2 hours. I hope to change that by encouraging the adherence to clear and concise actionable agendas and developing new and more efficient ways to collect neighbor feedback and support. I have been to several ELNA meetings in the past 12 months but as a non-board member I can't say I've taken enough time away from my family to sit through an entire meeting from start to finish.

3. Have you volunteered, donated, or attended ELNA events? If so, which?

I am a proud Lifetime Member of ELNA and served on the ELNA Board in 2014. I typically take photos for the annual Block Party which is a family favorite every year. We also enjoy the YART Sale and look forward to having big enough children to start going to the clean-up parties.

4. What kind of project(s) would you like to pursue for the neighborhood?

Other than the exciting East 9th Project and Intersection Repair project, I am looking forward to other opportunities for social gathering amongst neighbors and to develop more efficient methods of helping neighbors in need.

5. How long have you lived in East Lawrence? Why did you move here?

My wife and I moved here 3-½ years ago to start a family as we believe it is the best neighborhood to raise a family. We are happy to bring our third child to the neighborhood in February.

6. What are the major issues facing East Lawrence today?

We have very old housing stock that has suffered from several years of deferred maintenance. It is going to be a challenge to save these wonderful homes and the character of the neighborhood in a sensitive manner while still inviting new families to help populate our school.

7. How would you characterize the essence of the neighborhood?

Funky, like George Clinton, but not the old leftovers in the back of your fridge.

8. What other community / city boards/ groups do you belong to or attended regularly this past year?

Board Member of the North Topeka Arts District

Board Member of the City of Lawrence Board of Zoning Appeals

Committee Member of the Horizon 2020 Steering Committee for the City of Lawrence Comprehensive Plan

I've also attended LAN (Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods) City Commission, Planning Commission and East Ninth Steering Committee Meetings when I could fit them in.