Chaffee County Economic Development Corporation

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RE: Micha Rosenoer | Buena Vista Candidate Questionnaire Responses

- In a few sentences, please briefly share why you're motivated to run for public office, and why you believe you're qualified to serve in this context. (your response will be printed on the in-person Forum Program).
 - Buena Vista is at a tipping point the decisions we make in the next few years will decide the longterm future of our business community, workforce housing, and natural resources. As a nonprofit leader, land planning professional, former elected city councilor, and working mom, I have the personal and professional experience necessary for a Buena Vista Trustee. I've worked with government for the last twelve years on primarily rural economic development and outdoor recreation issues, and I've been advocating for Buena Vista's future since 2014 when I helped protect Browns Canyon as a national monument. I'm excited to work with our community to ensure Buena Vista continues to be a place where working families and small businesses can flourish.
- 2. I support changing codes and processes towards increased use of Administrative decisions by public sector staff, while focusing public input on changes to the code itself.
 - Strongly Agree
- 3. Development approval times are:
 - o Prohibitively slow, thereby discouraging development
- 4. As you are likely aware, the Chaffee County 2020 Comp Plan stated, "keep the country country and the towns towns". What does this statement mean to you and how would you use this guiding principle in setting land use policy?

- Ensuring we encourage density and growth around existing infrastructure and urban cores, while protecting open space and working lands for future generations. Planning for smart growth means being thoughtful about our zoning code and how we support development in and around our communities; I want to see us protect the open spaces and rangeland that draw people to our community, while building additional housing (and not just single family housing!) around our downtown and existing neighborhoods.
- 5. The Town's government is sufficiently connected to, and collaborative with, the school district.
 - Somewhat Disagree
- 6. How can the Town's government encourage/support/facilitate increasing work-based learning programs for local youth?
 - o I'd love to see the school board and town trustees work together on a more consistent basis to assess student needs and create programs within our community that serve those needs. We should be working to ensure our students have a variety of options post-graduation, including higher education and vocational training programs, right here in our community, and are prepared to be competitive for local jobs of all types.
- 7. Passing a local ordinance requiring the installation of broadband infrastructure as a part of all new development is a must.
 - Somewhat Agree
- 8. Internet infrastructure should be treated as equally important to other utilities (water, sewer, gas, electricity) in infrastructure projects.
 - Somewhat Agree
- 9. What is local government's role in increasing broadband availability and reliability for the community?
 - The local government's role is to advocate for a livable future for our community, one in which a year-round economy supports sustainable tourism and full-time residents alike. Access to broadband is crucial for the education of our students, livability of our towns, and the competitiveness of our businesses. We need the Buena Vista Board of Trustees working with the state, federal government, and private companies to bring broadband access to more of our community.

- 10. [BV/Poncha] has enough water to meet municipal, housing, and commercial development growth.
 - Somewhat Disagree
- 11. In the face of inadequate current water supply Town should...
 - A mix of the town purchasing water rights and requiring that developments also plan for smart water use and the cost of water as well.
- 12. What is the most important next step for Town in regards to water or wastewater?
 - We need strategies to purchase water rights that already exist in our community and be able to sell them back to local businesses and developments at a reasonable price. We also need to require infrastructure improvements that take our water shortage (which will likely increase over time) very seriously. We need to conserve water where possible, incentivize and require responsible use, and buy and manage water rights that serve our long term community plans.
- 13. Producing housing that is accessible to our local workforce requires public subsidy in amounts that directly affect affordability levels.
 - Somewhat Agree
- 14. Density is directly linked to affordability (i.e. increased density lowers the cost of each housing unit).
 - Somewhat Agree
- 15. Encouraging housing development, including market rate housing, is helpful to the overall health of the housing market and to the community.
 - Somewhat Disagree
- 16. Housing policy is a local government responsibility.
 - Somewhat Disagree
- 17. What specific policy would you change or advocate for that would have a tangible impact on workforce housing if elected?
 - Support deed restrictions for future housing developments built in partnership with tax dollars or the Chaffee Housing Authority, and support funding mechanisms that permanently support the Chaffee Housing Authority, including a mill levy or property tax increase.

- 18. New rules & regulations for environmental sustainability should be weighed against, and modified for, their impact on the health of local businesses.
 - Somewhat Disagree
- 19. Environmental sustainability is inextricably linked with innovation and technology.
 - Somewhat Agree
- 20.The single most important action [BV/Poncha] can take in 2024 to advance environmental sustainability is...
 - Buy water rights to keep water in the Arkansas River and support land trusts in their work to conserve agricultural lands for future generations. Also working with SDCEA to continue developing renewable energy projects and supporting conservation easements on local agricultural lands.
- 21. "Closing question: What question have we not asked that you'd like to share (and answer?)"
 - I'd love to see the Buena Vista Trustees and the local business community partner on developing more programs to support the workforce for our local small businesses. Things like expanded childcare options are crucial to ensuring people can work in town long-term and over the course of their careers.