

1. As mayor, how would you move to fully restore Davis Square and why should we trust what you say?

I appreciate the history of the Davis Square neighborhood, and I am aware that it is not an artifact in a glass case. We need to balance respecting the history and features of the square but we should not be of the mindset that the only solution is to restore it to a condition it had in the past. For an active public space, balancing commercial, residential and municipal service needs requires a forward-looking framework. We must not limit our choices, to the way things once were and the way things are now. My focus in Davis Square, as in the rest of the city, will be on maintaining and improving the space, increasing accessibility and improving equity in the treatment of stakeholders. This means improving safety for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists, improving access for people using mobility aids, supporting and collaborating with businesses, and improving access to public facilities like the parks, the Community Path, the West Branch Library and the Post Office. Priority consideration should be given to local, independent businesses and organizations, when compared to the needs of chain stores, and other formula retail establishments.

2. We believe brick walks can be installed level and without accessibility issues (as at Kenney Park and the recently restored West Branch Library). What will you do to restore the brick walks and plazas of Davis Square?

The brick walks and plazas are expensive to maintain, and many broken and missing bricks are unsafe for pedestrians. Asphalt patches improve the utility of walkways, but diminish the visual appeal of the square. Fixing the brick walkways, with similar brick surfaces, may not be the most effective long-term approach.

3. How would you make the city accountable to DavisNow and the Davis Square community for following through on agreed work to be done?

As mayor, I will meet with individuals and community groups from around the city, to understand their needs and concerns, and make inclusive, constructive policies. I also would be curious to know if the DavisNow group has solid representation of all cross-sections of the community- POC, immigrants and working class families? If not, I would definitely want to have a program that specifically looks to incorporate the voices of those not represented at the table and what their concerns and needs are in our city as well. In addition to that outreach, the existing Resistat programs, organized by ward, and City Council public meetings, provide substantial venues for direct community feedback, to the city administration and its legislative representatives. The Commission for Persons with Disabilities, and city staff working in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Services, provide additional avenues for residents to address accessibility concerns.

4. What is your position on making Elm Street a pedestrian street?

As I mentioned above, I will strive to balance the needs of the many people who spend time in Davis Square. With sufficient study and feedback from the city planners, the public safety and public works departments, and the residential and business communities, it is very likely that we would pursue a pedestrian plaza pilot program on Elm Street.

5. How would you fund the restoration of Davis Square?

Beautification, repair and maintenance costs, on the scale identified by Davis Square Now, approximately \$750,000, should be addressable within the city budget. We can use funds from an expected infrastructure bill as well as stimulus funds to help fund as well.