



**2023 Mayoral and City Council Candidates:**

**Jacques Decalo**

On behalf of the Downtown Boulder Partnership, thank you for your time and interest in responding to questions that directly impact the downtown district and business community.

We are looking forward to hearing your solutions to the three questions posed below. We appreciate all of the hard work that goes into running for an elected position and we wish you all the best in the coming weeks. Regardless of the outcome, DBP would like to encourage an open line of communication and partnership in the years to come and look forward to working with the newly elected mayor and city council in 2024!

Thank you.

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**Questions:**

- 1) For the past three years, the downtown district has seen an unprecedented increase in unsheltered individuals. In addition there has been a noticeable increase in the number of people experiencing mental health crises and drug addiction. What tools / resources and partnerships are needed to combat this growing crisis?

**Response:**

- 2) While the Boulder County Commissioners have plans to introduce a wage increase for unincorporated Boulder County in 2024, Boulder, alongside its partner cities, aims for an increase starting in 2025. Do you believe Boulder should have aligned with the county's 2024 timeline? Furthermore, how do you anticipate this wage increase impacting downtown's workforce, businesses, and overall economy, and what strategies would you suggest to offset potential negative impacts?

Response:

- 3) Given the significant developments taking place on University Hill, connectivity between The Hill and downtown is crucial for fluid urban movement and enhancing community experiences. What are the primary challenges you foresee in connecting The Hill to downtown, and how would you leverage or create opportunities to maximize this connection?

Response: