



NAME

Caruso091722.mp4

DATE

October 12, 2022

DURATION

1h 26m 56s

3 SPEAKERS

RC

MS

ME

START OF TRANSCRIPT

**RC**

Anyway, the distinction between myself and Karen is really vast.

**RC**

I started a business on my own with one employee. I built it up over time. I have executive skills. I have a very complex

**RC**

business today that I have been operating. I've stepped away from it now, including, um, being in charge of USD, a very complex

**RC**

business. The city of Los Angeles, as you all know better than anybody, is incredibly complex. So in terms of getting the streets

**RC**

cleaned, in terms of dropping crime, preventing crime, I was responsible for a police department to reform it, change the

**RC**

leadership, bring it. And Bill Bratton with my fellow commissioners, and we worked very closely together to bring in community

**RC**

policing. So I have that experience hiring officers. We're 800 officers short right now, and Karen has no experience in being

**RC**

responsible for police departments. We have massive issues with water and power. We all experienced it in the last two weeks. We were

**RC**

told we don't have enough electricity to charge our cars and not to do that and we didn't have enough water. We don't have

**RC**

enough water. I understand water and power issues very well. I was there 13 years under Tom Bradley when I was very young man and

**RC**

then under Dick Reardon. And we need to do a better job making sure we've got water supplies in this city. So I know how to do

**RC**

that. I understand how government works. I also understand how government fails. I've served three mayors and I built a business

**RC**

that's had to deal with city hall for the last 35 years. And I know what has been working and I know it hasn't been working.

**RC**

And we're we're in a tough situation right now. I think you can call it a crisis, You can call it whatever you want. But we're at

**RC**

an inflection point in this city where real change needs to be made. And Karen will not be a change agent. She's part of the system

**RC**

and the system is broken. And if you want more of the same, I think she's going to be a terrific candidate. If you want to get some

**RC**

real positive good change. I'd be honored to be your mayor.

**MS**

Okay. Thank you. Thank you. Okay. So let's let's talk about the public's perception of safety. How do you

**MS**

define public safety in a nutshell? How do you define public safety?

**RC**

A lot of things I think Marcia's a part of it is a big part of it is how you actually feel. Do you feel safe? Do you feel

**RC**

comfortable going for a walk at night? Do you feel comfortable letting your child walk to school? Do you feel comfortable letting your

**RC**

child go to a park alone? Go to the beach alone? Do you feel comfortable as a family going out to the park or to the beaches? And

**RC**

then there's the reality. The reality is where the 15 year high four homicides, We have more shootings now than ever before. We

**RC**

have hate crimes that overly impact the Jewish community, the Asian community. Hate crimes are up 180%. So we do not have a safe

**RC**

community right now. That's just the reality. And I think it's a shame that it took Karen Bass to have her home broken into and two

**RC**

guns stolen.

**RC**

We're now here to recognize that we've got a crime problem in the city, she said at the last debate. Ten out of ten felt safe. And

**RC**

that just tells me that she's not connected to this community. She spent most of her time in Washington, D.C., and she doesn't listen

**RC**

or hear the people or spend time to really know what's going on.

**MS**

Okay, so.

**MS**

Where will the money come from to help make people feel safer?

**MS**

What are you going to do? Aside from just increasing the police department, what else are you going to do and how are you going to

**MS**

pay for it?

**RC**

Will you have to hire more cops? Like I said, over 800 cops short right now. We went through defunding the police. You know, Eric

**RC**

Garcetti and the city council defunded the police in 2019, and we're paying a heavy price for it now. We have an \$11 billion

**RC**

budget in the city of Los Angeles that I think there is a massive amount of waste and inefficiency in our budget. I would not raise

**RC**

taxes. I do not believe in raising taxes. I believe we have the money there to hire the officers. Unfortunately, we're not going to

**RC**

hire them all at once. Do you know what this year is? This recent academy classes where 800 officers showed normal academy classes.

**RC**

at 150 got 23.

**RC**

If you're hard working, good man or woman that wants to serve and protect, why are you going to work for the city of Los Angeles

**RC**

when they don't let you do your job?

**MS**

So would you hire more, have more sworn officers who are volunteers because there is a contingent of sworn

**MS**

officers who don't get paid? Would you go that route?

**RC**

I think you can have a little bit of that. I think you have to be very careful. That's not going to fill the need. It helps. It's

**RC**

not going to fill the need. You have to hire and train, make sure they are properly trained to serve the community and respect

**RC**

the community and build trust and go through the academy process. I would take the hiring away from City Hall and move it back in LAPD

**RC**

where it was because they have a better view and closer to who they need to hire. You have to hire the right people. Right. And I think

**RC**

that will help. Whoever becomes the mayor is going to send a signal. You are now allowed to be a cop again. If you if Karen Bass

**RC**

becomes mayor, the signal will not be you're now allowed to be a cop. Okay. So are you going to be allowed to be a cop and do the

**RC**

right thing?

**MS**

So in West L.A., the West L.A.

**MS**

Police Department, which serves CD 5 and CD 11, which is where you live in Brentwood and up to

**MS**

Santa monica, we have one basic car for every ten square miles.

**MS**

How can the city possibly maintain a public safety?

**MS**

Persona and reality in City five.

**MS**

With this ratio.

**RC**

You can't. You're right. It's impossible. And that's why we have rising crime. And that's why right now, when you call, if there's a

**RC**

crime, you get go online and fill out a form.

**RC**

An officer doesn't even show up. I was with Christy Vega yesterday at Casa Vega. I'm in Sherman Oaks. One of her employees gets off

**RC**

the bus, gets stabbed by a homeless person on the sidewalk. The cops say, well, if the guy is gone, there's no reason for us to

**RC**

come out. Fill out a form.

**RC**

This is crazy what's happening in the city of Los Angeles.

**MS**

So do you think that social media apps like Next Door and Citizen have magnified the reality of what crime actually

**MS**

is? Because if you read next door every single day, not just crimes against people, but you can't get an Amazon package, I mean,

**MS**

I don't have that problem. I live in a secure building, but I can't think about this for myself. I have to think about all those

**MS**

people who are in the adjacent neighborhoods who can't do mail order because their packages get stolen.

**RC**

And thank God you're thinking about that. That's why this kind of organization, community organization, is so powerful. You

**RC**

can actually demand change.

**MS**

Okay, give me the change. What are you going to do?

**RC**

Well, first of all, you're going to have a seat in my office, in the mayor's office.

**MS**

But really, I think what's happening in the city right now is we've got our elected officials that are so disconnected from the

**MS**

community that they serve. And this is the problem with Karen Bass. She's completely disconnected from the community. I go to

**MS**

South L.A. and I have mothers who have lost their kids through gang violence who said they've been reaching out to Karen and she

**MS**

never shows up. I can give you their names. So what I want to do as mayors, I want to be on the streets, in the neighborhoods,

**MS**

hearing what people need and then making sure that we're giving the services that people need. I'm I've built a whole business in

**MS**

being responsive to people. Otherwise, I would have gone broke. So when you did your individual interview, Nikki Minor was there

**MS**

and Diana, the three of us. Yes. And you promised to have a citizens advisory group, a homeowner

**MS**

advisory group, and you pledged to organize a community advisory group for two way dialogue with

**MS**

HOA leaders throughout the city. How do you plan to do that?

**RC**

Well, just like I said, you're going to have a seat at the table with me. So I'm going to have people dedicated in the mayor's office

**RC**

for every part of the city so that we're close to what is going on in the community and where you need help. If you're if we are

**RC**

all saying things and this is one of the great things built up with CompStat, I'll remember CompStat every morning there was an

**RC**

allocation of officers based on where activity was. Criminal activity was so good.

**RC**

Policing is about not only keeping criminals accountable, but it's about preventing crime. You prevent crime by having senior

**RC**

lead officers on the street and enough patrol cars being seen same and people avoid it. Right. And that's what I want to do. We're

**RC**

going to get a lot of information by working closely with community councils to get those kind of kind of input on a daily, weekly,

**RC**

monthly basis, whatever it is.

**MS**

Okay. So will you let me know who in your office is going to be in charge of this?

**RC**

Once I'm in office. Okay. Now you get me an office, okay?

**MS**

Okay.

**RC**

That's why we're here.

**MS**

Okay, well, we're here really, to just find out what you think and how you're going to pursue your plans. And and so at this point,

**MS**

given that we've now talked about perceptions of public safety and some of the basics and the lack of visibility of police and the

**MS**

dismal response times due to staffing, I'm going to turn it over to Mike and he's going to pursue this and drill down with you on

**MS**

public safety and a couple other topics.

**RC**

Thank you.

**MS**

Okay.

**ME**

Okay. Your website says you're going to add 1500 officers to LAPD before the end of your first term. How was the 1500

**ME**

chosen? And is that net new 1500 or is that on top of attrition?

**RC**

Okay. So we are now in a situation where we were 20 years ago when I was the head of the police commission.

**RC**

We're losing more officers than we're gaining, so we're going backwards because of the way the department is being managed. So

**RC**

just to get up to what's budgeted, we need 800 officers.

**RC**

On top of that, I believe once we're back to budget, I believe we need another 5500. We are even at the budgeted

**RC**

numbers. You know, we are the most underserved and represented big city in the country per capita.

**RC**

And we've got to have a balanced force. So I think you need to be up to whether it's 10,500, 11,000 officers.

**RC**

It's going to take, quite frankly, to do that three or four years to hire.

**ME**

With hiring. It's one thing to say you're going to be able to you're going to hire these people, but we haven't been able to for

**ME**

a couple of reasons. Why haven't we been able to hire people? What has to change so that you can hit your

**ME**

1500? We're authorized for how many officers? Right now it's at 9,700.

**ME**

So that would mean that you want to get to 1500 beyond that. Right. How are you going to. That's a big.

**RC**

Job.

**ME**

How are you going to do it? How are you going to pay for it? And how are you going to make people want to work for the LAPD? Given

**ME**

the political environment.

**RC**

Is great because. Great news is I inherited the situation 20 years ago.

**RC**

You remember it was after the Rodney King beating. Right. And we were losing more officers than we were pulling in the academy.

**RC**

And crime was spiking. And we were losing more officers because Bernie Parks put in a complaint system that was so

**RC**

onerous that it did not allow the police to do their job. Police were frustrated and they quit. We have a mayor, we have a

**RC**

commission that for the last four years is not allowing cops to do their job. They're quitting and they're going to other cities

**RC**

and other agencies. What I did 20 years ago, I would do again, have the right leadership, send the message that you're going to

**RC**

go to LAPD, which is the best police department in the country. You're going to be able to be incredibly well trained and do

**RC**

your job. 20 years ago, Bratton, my fellow commissioners and I hired 800 officers within two years. A big part of it

**RC**

is culture. Nobody wants to go to work.

**RC**

I don't care if you're delivering mail, if you're told you're not allowed to do your job and you're scared to do your job and

**RC**

you're treated unfairly. And that's what's happening right now in this city in terms of the money, the budgeted dollars are there to

**RC**

get us back up to budget. So let's get back up to budget and then we'll build off of that. But again, we've got \$11 Billion budget

**RC**

in the city. Half a billion alone goes to the city attorney's office. I'm not quite sure. And they don't prosecute misdemeanors

**RC**

anymore. So I don't know what they're doing with half a billion dollars. But I'm going to look at every line item. I'm a businessman. I

**RC**

can read a budget. I can understand a budget and hold people accountable for a budget. Karen has never managed a budget in her life

**RC**

other than a group that she was a part of, which is a very different kind of thing and a very small budget. Her congressional budget

**RC**

is probably 2 million a year. Okay.

**ME**

So We've talked About officers.

**ME**

We have a Political climate right now where there's.

**ME**

Defunding. There's repurposing.

Your website states When emergency strikes. We all want our first responders to Arrive quickly and save lives, and we need to Foster

a culture that Respects and shows gratitude to our first responders. The question is, do you really believe that everybody wants

this? Does everybody want to respect and show gratitude to Our first responders.

**ME**

Especially given the campaigns for controller, city attorney, and several council districts?

**RC**

Don't even get me started. I mean, listen, we've got Karen Bass endorsed Faisal Gil.

**RC**

Faisal Gil is against these. He has been clear in saying, I'm not going to prosecute misdemeanors in the first hundred days. I

**RC**

want to get a lay of the land and figure out what's going on. Who the hell needs to figure out what's going on? We all know what's

**RC**

going on. Right.

**RC**

You said he doesn't want any more cops. And by the way, he's anti gay, does not believe in gay rights endorsed by Karen Bass. When I

**RC**

called her out on it, she said, I withdraw my endorsement. She endorsed him a year ago. It shows lack of judgment, also shows lack

**RC**

of character and strength, that you can pull an endorsement that quickly by just raising the question. You've got the gentleman that's

**RC**

running for city comptroller that said he's not going to pay the police. You've got the woman that took over Gil Cedillo seat, who's

**RC**

an abolitionist. She doesn't want to defund the police. She wants to abolish the police. This is the time that you need to have

**RC**

somebody in the mayor's office that strong has character, has backbone, you know, and can literally say, Listen, stop. Slow down.

**RC**

Let's listen to the people that we are here to serve for the service of others.

**MS**

So what do you do?

**MS**

Because the charter, the city Charter Has created a very strong city council and has weakened the mayor's office.

**RC**

So all the more reason to have a strong mayor, you have a weak system. You need to have a strong mayor that every city

**RC**

department had reports to the mayor. The mayor appoints every commission. Right.

**RC**

So I'm going to appoint people that actually understand that they're there to serve the public. I'm going to appoint people that are

**RC**

going to reduce costs and increase service. I'm going to make sure you have a police commission that holds the police accountable

**RC**

to treat each community in the city with dignity and respect, but at the same time enforce the law. Good.

**RC**

And by the way, Karen Bass has said she's going to take officers who are from behind the desk and out into the street. That is not

**RC**

going to solve a problem. That is a drop in the bucket. And you need and I know you will ask her very pointedly, are you going to

**RC**

hire more cops, yes or no? Are you going to remove encampments from the street, yes or no? Right. Because she's. He's all over the

**RC**

place. Okay, so.

**ME**

About per capita police.

**ME**

What is the right number? I mean, based on. Based on Population. Way, way, way back in 2000, when

**ME**

the general plan or framework was put in place.

**ME**

They said we need 17,000 officers. And so the question is. Well, two fold.

**ME**

Number one, how do we get to.

**RC**

Remember that study. I think there were some studies that said we need 20,000. New York City, I think has 40,000. I was with the

**RC**

mayor of New York City over the weekend to talk to him about some of the issues he's facing. I feel strongly that if we get to

**RC**

10,000, 10,500, we've got a force that we can mobilise.

**RC**

I mean, the one thing that we do have in Los Angeles because of the vast geography that we have, is we have a helicopter system that

**RC**

is very effective on preventing and fighting crime. So let's get to that number. Like I said, 20 years ago.

**RC**

Bratton was able to get the crime rate down by 30%. I'll take 30%. Okay, So look.

**ME**

In the public safety Area and there's no mention of the fire department. Yeah. And so can you

**ME**

discuss your Plans on the fire department funding Intentions and assess where we are now?

**ME**

Yes. And your Solutions?

**RC**

It's a good point. We need to update it. I've been meeting a lot with the fire department. I've been going to fire stations, meeting

**RC**

with their leadership, their union leadership. They have been the funded for the last 20 years. We have stations that are

**RC**

basically closed.

**RC**

We have to get units across the city.

**RC**

They're mobilizing. They're trying to move around quickly so that they get to us. I think the men and women of the fire

**RC**

department and the paramedics department do an incredible job with a small amount of resources that they have. So what I've got



**RC**

to do is work more closely with them and find out the right funding levels that they need for their equipment and also for personnel.

**RC**

But you're absolutely right. The fire department and paramedics have been underfunded and it started 20 years ago.

**RC**

We've got to turn it around.

**ME**

So now, I mean, I don't know if you're aware that on a daily basis, maybe 120 firefighters short and we're shutting down 40

**ME**

to 50 companies citywide. That means the truck of where we are right now wasn't available or the rescue.

**ME**

So. How.

**ME**

How will you measure success of your policies? It's to say, But how do you measure success?

**RC**

You measure. And so to your point, I was at a fire station the other day, I think it was up. So my area, they've got a truck. They

**RC**

can't move because they don't have the personnel, they can't rule it out and we just can't have that. So I'm going to leave it to

**RC**

the fire chief and the leadership of the fire department, who I think are exceptional to come to me with a request of what they need

**RC**

so that we get the response times. Los Angeles should be the best city in the country in terms of response for

**RC**

emergencies, both for police and both for fire and paramedic. We pay an enormous amount of taxes in the city and we should be getting

**RC**

that kind of service. Okay, so we're.

**RC**

I was.

**ME**

Affordability and homelessness are blended together. Do you think they're the same issue, different issues?

**ME**

And if you can explore affordability from a pre homelessness standpoint versus just to a desire to live in an otherwise expensive

**ME**

area?

**RC**

Well, I do have a housing plan to get posted next week. We just finalized it. That's very detailed. I also we just posted our

**RC**

sustainability plan. On the housing front, by every estimation, we're about 500,000 units short.

**RC**

And the city of Los Angeles, we have overregulated the building of housing to the point that people don't want to invest

**RC**

capital in the city of Los Angeles. We have made the permitting process so onerous that it takes 2 to 3 years to get a building

**RC**

permit. It has now become so discretionary, there's no predictability as to whether or not you're ever going to get a permit. And

**RC**

so we see capital going to areas outside of Los Angeles. You look at Glendale, look at Culver City, look at Santa Monica. The

**RC**

business of a city is a competitive business. So we need to have more housing. We need to reduce the cost of the housing and reducing

**RC**

the cost of the housing means. There's got to be predictability. We have to shorten the time performance either yes or no, but a

**RC**

shorter period of time. And we also have to where we want to have lower income housing. I believe the city of Los Angeles needs to lean

**RC**

in and help. For example, instead of Department of Water and Power front loading all the costs of services that needs to be

**RC**

brought to a site. Dwp could amortize it over ten to 15 to 20 years to reduce the upfront cost. Is the way the city creatively can

**RC**

reduce cost to get more affordable housing. But what's happening now is you have younger people who can't afford to buy in Los

**RC**

Angeles, which affects building businesses in Los Angeles. We have teachers that are driving an hour and a half to 2 hours to go

**RC**

to work. I think we should have a program just for teachers on housing that is affordable to teachers, to law enforcement

**RC**

and to firefighters and paramedics. So we have people that are serving our community, living closer to where they work and being

**RC**

more productive. Right.

**RC**

Okay.

**ME**

It's great to say that we need to do that, but we live in a world of constraints. We have, as you mentioned earlier, a constraint

**ME**

on power. We have constraints on water. We have constraints of first responders. How do you.

**ME**

On one hand acknowledge the constraints, but on the other hand say that we need to build more. Because if you build more, aren't you

**ME**

reducing quality of life? If you build more than the infrastructure can handle.

**RC**

Good question. I'm not trying to ignore the constraints. You have to be aware of what your constraints are. I run my whole business

**RC**

that way. But I also believe that there's a solution to every problem out there. So we do have to have the infrastructure. We do need

**RC**

to have more power. We do need to have more sustainable power. We do need to have more water. There's no question about that. We

**RC**

also need to have more housing. So the question is, how do you balance all of that and what's the rate of increase of building

**RC**

more housing in order to reduce the cost of living here? I know what we can't do. We can't do what we've been doing right. We

**RC**

can't allow the housing costs to keep rising. We can't allow us to ignore and not do anything about the water shortage that we

**RC**

have. We're pumping billions of gallons a day in the ocean. We do not have a reclamation process in the city. It's crazy. I deal with

**RC**

the city of Glendale. We use reclaimed water to landscape My project in the Palisades. I wasn't required to reclaim water. We save

**RC**

our own landscaping water.

**RC**

It goes into a tank, it gets cleaned, and we deliver it to the city to irrigate the park in the Palisades. We did that on our own. So

**RC**

there are solutions to it. They need to start now. Is everything going to get fixed by the time I leave office? No. But I'm going

**RC**

to work down hard to get a lot done and at least get us on the right trajectory that we're planning for the future.

**ME**

So there's the chicken and the egg question. Do you build first and then build the infrastructure later? Do you build the

**ME**

infrastructure first and then build the housing?

**ME**

And I know the tempting answer is to say you do them both at the same time, but the infrastructure is already behind. We're down

**ME**

on police, we're down on fire. We're down on many other things. Which comes first, the chicken or the egg?

**RC**

It's like any business. You have to build your infrastructure to support growth. Otherwise you're going to have more problems.

**RC**

And so you have to do that. Listen, there's things that are more immediate. We need to build shelters and sustainable housing to

**RC**

get people off the streets and to get encampments off the streets. That's a major priority. There's no question about it. But

**RC**

we also have to take a look at and I would want to work closely with organisations like yourself. How are zoning is laid out across

**RC**

the city so we can add more density eventually in areas that can handle the density right and not impact single family

**RC**

residential neighborhoods.

**ME**

What a coincidence. That's my next Question. Okay. I'm going to move to homelessness.

**ME**

But on that you're on your website, you have two statements. One is the solution is referring to affordability. The solution is

**ME**

obvious. We must build more housing of all types in all neighborhoods in a smart and community appropriate way. Rick will support

**ME**

neighborhood character and advance for more advocate for more density and height in transportation corridors. There are some

**ME**

single family areas that directly about quote unquote, transportation corridors. I'm thinking of Terri's area, for example.

**ME**

How can you do both?

**RC**

Where we're sitting is a good example. We're sitting in Century City here that could have more density of housing, I think. You've got

**RC**

office buildings that are sitting mostly vacant because the workforce has changed so much. I was at remember 100 Wilshire in

**RC**

downtown LA was built about probably 20 or 30 years ago. It was the Chase building. I was in there the other day that was converted to

**RC**

residential about a decade ago. It's the one at the end of the harbor Freeway has spectacular views like this. You know, the

**RC**

occupancy rate of downtown LA is now in the our office space, 15%, 15%.

**RC**

So we should be looking at converting these buildings. Right. You're even not even increasing density and you're actually

**RC**

helping from a traffic standpoint because your traffic patterns are much different. Right. But you're not going to be able to

**RC**

convert those buildings until you clean up downtown because it's so impacted by homeless encampments and crime that people

**RC**

don't want to live down there. Right. So there's creative ways to change this. Again, here's a distinction between the

**RC**

congresswoman and myself. I know how to do that. I'm a builder. Right. She's never built anything. So that's a very quick way

**RC**

to get more housing. Do it quickly without even adding density.

**MS**

How do you overcome the state mandate on density? Mainly the SB nine SB ten mandate On Housing. But that is a density

**MS**

issue. How do you overcome what the state has prescribed.

**ME**

When you when you talk about reuse, what you were just talking about. Do you think that we should go after

**ME**

vacancies and re-use before we go after new construction or increased densification?

**ME**

What is what is the order? Because I think we have, at least as of the last census, just here in CD five, they report 8800 vacant

**ME**

units. So the question is, why are we building more putting more burdens on the infrastructure while we have that many

**ME**

vacancies?

**RC**

Yes. You know, I've heard that I've got to dig into that because as a person who has built building buildings and

**RC**

relies on collecting rent, I don't understand why you would build a building and leave it vacant. I mean, I know. I don't understand

**RC**

it. So I don't want to give you an answer that I don't fully understand. I want to be intellectually honest. I pride myself in

**RC**

that. So we'll give. You some information. But I want to understand why they're doing that. What's driving that? Right. It's a

**RC**

massive. Yeah. So I'd like to talk to some of the owners and say, Why are you not in unison?

**MS**

And to bring this to criticize the land value here or CD 11 Land value doesn't support affordable housing,

**MS**

given how they've defined how you're supposed to build affordable housing. The yellow is CD five.

**RC**

Can I go back to something I'm saying?

**MS**

You can.

**RC**

Just let's think about it again. The conversion of office. Because the financial pressure on office building

**RC**

owners is now massive.

**RC**

It's unfortunate that there's been such a dramatic shift on how we're all working. I mean, looking at us today, right. The

**RC**

majority of the people are on a Zoom call. So. In order to make that shift.

**RC**

I think you can buy some of these office buildings. Very. Very right priced and the conversion, you could be bringing units

**RC**

online that would be much more affordable. Yeah.

**MS**

Go ahead.

**RC**

Move on. You got it.

**ME**

So let's talk about homelessness for a bit. Um.

**ME**

I took a look at just last night. I looked at your website and Karen's website. As somebody who doesn't know either candidate,

**ME**

just I'm looking for the first time and the two websites seem indistinguishable. You're both going to hire a

**ME**

homeless czar.

**ME**

You're both going to declare an emergency. Can you tell us?

**ME**

What's how are how are your plans different And and how do we how do we make that choice?

**RC**

Well, let's start with Karen's own words in an interview with The Wall Street Journal. Karen said, I am not going to be able to

**RC**

solve the homeless problem in four years. The best I'm going to be able to do is provide light at the end of the tunnel. So

**RC**

she's already given up and she hasn't taken office. Those are her words in The Wall Street Journal. Her plan that she put out has

**RC**

evolved to look more like mine, which is true. But she wants to build half the shelter beds that I'm planning on building. And the

**RC**

big difference between her plan and my plan is, I believe, based on all the evidence and talking to the experts, we have to get people

**RC**

off the streets and then give them services. She wants to give more services to people and leave them on the street. When you do

**RC**

that, a couple of things happen. One is the cost of provide mental health care, drug addiction care, Retraining on the street is

**RC**

about \$35,000 a person.

**RC**

If you bring them in and have them properly housed and sheltered. It's about 10,000.

**RC**

So you can treat three times as many people once you're bringing them off the street and inside than doing it on the street. The other

**RC**

day I walked Skid Row again with people concerned. If you know people concerned. I was down there visiting the downtown Women's

**RC**

Center and I asked them, said, my feeling is this problem can be completely solved. They said it absolutely can. It has not been

**RC**

solved because of lack of will and strength of leadership. Karen is going to give you more of the same. She's had 20 years

**RC**

representing the city of Los Angeles. She has never introduced or passed one bill on homelessness in 20 years. So why all of a

**RC**

sudden is she going to be able to fix it now when she becomes mayor? When you go to the women's at the Downtown Women's Center,

**RC**

15,000 women are living on the streets of Los Angeles every day and night, 15,000.

**RC**

They serve 5000.

**RC**

Karen Bass will tell you that people are going to refuse services. I asked Amy, the head of the Downtown Women's Center, how many

**RC**

women have refused your service? Zero said, How do you do it? We bring them in off the street.

**RC**

We don't judge them. We meet them where they are. We build trust and confidence. And then we start talking about services.

**RC**

People's concern. 97% of those they treat do not fall back into homelessness. But if they want to build housing in the

**RC**

city of Los Angeles, it takes six years. The problem isn't the services.

**RC**

The problem is the city is so overregulated and so tied up in bureaucracy. Even those that are saving people can't build housing.

**RC**

And I know how to build and I will fix that. And we can solve this problem and save lives.

**MS**

Okay. Let me just get off that for one second. So you want to build more housing?

**MS**

In Council District five.

**MS**

We are wrung out with people who want to build more housing and they are impacting the existing neighborhoods.

**MS**

So how will you build housing? Where will you build housing to make sure that the existing quality of life

**MS**

doesn't deteriorate from more density.

**RC**

Housing I was just talking about? Or for those that are on the streets that need to be moved into supportive housing. So people's

**RC**

concern walk me through their new building. They finally got built. In fact, it was a conversion near Skid Row.

**RC**

And I had my two two of my sons with me. It was so nice.

**RC**

Outdoor courtyard, rooftop deck units that have a bathroom, living room, full kitchen. Right. I look at this. No, The way that I

**RC**

think most all of us would look at it, but for the grace of God. One of our kids ended up homeless and on the streets. How would we

**RC**

want one of our kids being taken care of? How would we want them to live? I wouldn't want to build units for people that are homeless

**RC**

that I wouldn't want myself or my own family being comfortable in. And they're doing it okay. But right next to Downtown Women's

**RC**

Center, they've had a project for six years. They've been trying to get built right next to them. Okay.

**ME**

I'll do one more question on this, because I'm getting the time Signal from Marcia. I'm getting the hook.

**ME**

Your plan calls for declaring an emergency, which puts more power in the hands of the mayor. It also says that you want to

**ME**

eliminate lawsuits, stopping housing and work with the city attorney to strengthen environmental review.

**ME**

Right now, land use is already a fairly murky process. Things are being approved just within the planning, and there's no notice.

**ME**

People don't find out. Sometimes lawsuits are the only, only thing that you can do. So when you talk about eliminating lawsuits, stopping

**ME**

housing, what does that mean?

**RC**

We all would like to live in a world that doesn't have lawsuits, right? The reality is sometimes you have to do that. And I

**RC**

understand that completely. What I'm talking about there is. Especially when you're dealing with the homeless situation, the

**RC**

amount of lawsuits that have been levied on the city of Los Angeles that frankly, our city attorney and mayor have agreed to have

**RC**

restricted the city in getting the problem fixed to the point that nothing is happening and the problem is only getting worse. So

**RC**

you need to have a mayor that stands up and says, no, that's not scared of a lawsuit. I'm going to defend the right of the city to go

**RC**

help people who are dying on the street.

**ME**

Got a question from a homeowner board member.

**ME**

What are you going to do that?

**ME**

Nobody else has come up with to resolve homelessness. What are you going to do? That. Will allow you to solve this

**ME**

problem where everybody else has failed.

**RC**

Well, I don't know what everybody else has done, but I tell you what I'm going to do no different than I've run my business. I'm

**RC**

going to listen to the people like I have been who are actually on the streets every day and doing great work. Like people's

**RC**

concern where you have 95% success rate.

**RC**

And build programs around success instead of continuing to have failures and have more people dying on the

**RC**

streets. Skid Row alone.

**RC**

I know, I know. There's encampments all across the city. Skid Row alone. Five people a day are dying. Five people a day. Seven and

**RC**

a half tons of trash are being picked up every day.

**RC**

The amount of human waste on the sidewalks. It's just it is so inhumane.

**RC**

Our our leadership, including Congresswoman Bass, has allowed this to happen. And shame on them.

**RC**

They should be held accountable for it from our mayor on the way down.

**MS**

Okay, so I'm going to talk or ask and listen about a topic that is a great concern, and that's

**MS**

government corruption. Trust in elected officials.

**MS**

So how would you describe the culture in city hall?

**MS**

Give me five words.

**RC**

Well, I think the culture is is not is not a culture of serving for others.

**RC**

I think there's a lot of good people in city hall. I think there's an incredible amount of good people in city hall. But listen,

**RC**

we've had three council members that have been let out of office in handcuffs by federal agents. We have a city attorney's

**RC**

office that was raided by federal agents. We have a senior member of Mike Jr's office that pled guilty to corruption.

**RC**

We have the head of DWP, now former head of DWP that was found guilty of corruption and is in jail. We have one council member that

**RC**

went to jail. We have another council member that's on his way to trial. And we have my opponent, Congresswoman Bass, as reported by

**RC**

the L.A. Times, citing the federal prosecutors that she is now critical to a federal

**RC**

corruption and bribery case, that she took a scholarship that she was that she never applied for 95,000.

**RC**

That she got a master's degree and had classes waived so she did not have to take the same level. Of course, load that every

**RC**

other student getting the same master degree had to take. The email that was released by the LA Times from the dean of that school

**RC**

said, I'm going to give Mark Ridley-Thomas the same deal that I gave to Karen Bass. Mark Ridley-Thomas has been indicted for that

**RC**

deal. And the dean the other day just pleaded guilty to that deal. Karen Bass is in the middle of this corruption case. And then



**RC**

there's another email reported by the L.A. Times that says the Dean and Karen Bass have worked together to draft legislation to go

**RC**

through Congress so that the school gets millions of dollars of taxpayers money. That is a quid pro quo.

**MS**

They were totally against pay to play here.

**RC**

Well, we should be everybody here. Well, but Karen Bass has a pay to play deal. So that's reported by the LA Times and federal

**RC**

prosecutors.

**MS**

So let me ask you a question, because.

**RC**

How are you going to be governor when you're in a cloud of corruption? I mean, when you're employed? Well, I just I just get

**RC**

riled up by not looking.

**RC**

I don't want another job. I do not want another job at all.

**MS**

So let me ask you a question.

**RC**

This is about for me.

**MS**

Okay. So. When when we interviewed you in March, Nikki and Diana Platkin and I interviewed

**MS**

you, we asked and you signed an agreement with the coalition that you would come to a candidate's forum, and

**MS**

we explained it to you. We have both candidates there. We ask the questions. You answer the questions. Now, you've said a lot

**MS**

of things about Karen Bass. It would have been my dream to have her sitting right next to you so she could respond. But when we

**MS**

tried to set the forum up. You declined on your signed agreement.

**RC**

And I'm Here.

I know you're here, but you're here on your terms. You're not here. Let me finish. Not on our terms. We want it to have both of the

candidates in the same room being asked the same questions. And you maneuvered or said, Well,

no, I'm not going to do that. Just a minute. And you're here.

But now we don't have to invest in the same room with you to respond to the issues that you're describing.

**RC**

You ask her, though, and you're very smart and you'll ask her. And in fairness, my team, before I came to that meeting, said

**RC**

Rick will not agree.

**RC**

You cannot ask him to agree to do a debate.

**MS**

They didn't say it to me, But but.

**RC**

That was the understanding. So here we Are and I'm here and I have great respect for this organization. But we're going to be at a

**RC**

debate Wednesday night. She's going to be standing next to me. It's going to be televised. But Skirball Center and I'll do

**RC**

as many televised debates as she wants to do to do it in this form. Given what was happening in the primary where you had

**RC**

protests and everything else going on, it could have turned into just a mess.

**MS**

This is where we are.

**RC**

This house cared about corruption.

**MS**

This is a private meeting that was about our guns.

**RC**

Those concern where are the guns at? Why did you have guns? Were they registered.

**MS**

Guns? Those concerns are fallacious here because this is a private meeting. But and nobody gets in. This is a Security building

**MS**

and nobody gets in the zoom without us knowing them. So that's we are. But no, that's not the question. The question is

**MS**

trust. You've said I'm going to do all these things and here's my plan. How do we know that you won't find

**MS**

rationale for saying, Well, I said that, but here's the reason why it can't be done. You also signed a constituent Bill of

**MS**

Rights saying, I'm going to meet with you and here are the things I'm going to do. Here's how I'm not going to have a bloated mayor's

**MS**

office. How do we know now since you Kind of walked back from what you signed regarding a candidates

**MS**

forum with both candidates, how do we know that you're not going to walk back on this constituent bill of rights? Where's the

**MS**

trust?

**RC**

I didn't walk back. So I disagree with your premise and I did not walk back. Second of all, just look at my track record.

**RC**

Ask every community that I built a project as Rick and his company always lived up to their promises as Rick and his company always done

**RC**

the right thing. Are you glad he built in your neighborhood? Does he support your local schools? Does he support your

**RC**

synagogues? Does he support your churches? Disease Support the community? I've lived my whole life that way.

**MS**

So the Glendale American, I have to sue your company to get the defects taken care.

**RC**

Of what.

**MS**

They had. You have never.

**RC**

Been sued by the City of.

**MS**

Glendale. Not the city of Glendale. The people who think it's the people who own the Americana. Aren't you doing a defense of the

**MS**

condos? The condos, whatever?

**RC**

The condos were built by a different entity that we had to take over because that entity went into bankruptcy. So I assume those and

**RC**

we did the right thing and everything is being repaired. So, no, that's a mischaracterization.

**MS**

That's not okay. So I apologize. Thank you for correcting me.

**RC**

That's all right.

**MS**

So let me.

**RC**

Answer. Perfect.

**MS**

So true.

**MS**

So true. So let me just ask you that.

**RC**

Can I say one other thing? Yeah, sure. I've served the city since I was 26 years old, starting with Tom Bradley. I don't have I've

**RC**

never had an ethics violation against me. You should look up the amount of ethics violations that Karen Bass has caused in the

**RC**

Assembly. Including now reporting money from big oil. Let's start with that one.

**MS**

Okay. So how will you tackle the inefficiencies of civil service workers who say. I've seen mayors come and go, Oh.

**MS**

This guy is this guy. I'll be here for a term or two and then he's out. So I'll still be here. What are you going to do to inefficient

**MS**

civil service workers?

**RC**

That's always that is always a challenge. Because you're right, many people in city hall say, I will outlast the mayor. The mayor

**RC**

is going to be here four years or eight years. I'm going to be here 20 years. You have to you have to do it. I did it at LAPD.

**RC**

I did it at DWP.

**RC**

It's all of this stuff is a heavy lift. It's a tough job and you have to have experience, walk in the door knowing how to run a big,

**RC**

complex organization with a lot of employees. L.a. City has 80,000 employees. Massive. Karen Bass, with all due respect,

**RC**

has never signed the front of a cheque. She's only signed the back of a cheque, and that's. That's nothing wrong with that. But that's a

**RC**

very different experience and how you manage when you're not responsible for a payroll.

**MS**

So. So what's your hiring strategy going to be for general managers? We're particularly concerned about the planning city planning,

**MS**

Building and Safety, Department of Sanitation, DWP.

**MS**

What's your hiring strategy? How are you going to do this?

**RC**

It's a great question. It's an important concern. No different than I run my business, hire the brightest and the best who

**RC**

are passionate about what they do that are really dedicated to public service but are very creative, innovative thought leaders.

**RC**

I've been able to attract people who are always smarter than me, and that's going to be my goal is to surround myself with really

**RC**

brilliant, dedicated people.

**MS**

So how do you overcome the cronyism?

**RC**

But that's the culture. You don't accept cronyism. You have to lead by example. More is caught than taught, and you have to be a

**RC**

good, strong leader that has integrity and character and not tolerate any kind of shenanigans.

**MS**

So what's your termination strategy? How will you. What are the metrics? What tell tell us how you're going to evaluate metrics.

**RC**

You're going to be depending on exactly what the job is. But everybody's going to have goals. Everybody's going to be accountable

**RC**

for meeting their goals. Again, no different than I've run my company or any good company is run in terms of best practices. You're

**RC**

going to have a lot of coaching. You're going to help people along to be successful. You want to do that so people can grow and be

**RC**

successful. But at a certain point in time, if they're not doing their job based on metrics, you're going to have to fire them

**RC**

and bring somebody new in.

**MS**

Will, most metrics be public.

**RC**

Sure, it's a public operation, the city's public.

**MS**

So we will know when the.

**RC**

I'm going to want your input on.

**MS**

Them. Happy.

**MS**

We're all happy to do that. So you get to appoint one person to the Ethics commission.

**MS**

How are you going to do make that person?

**MS**

Could drive how you think about ethics versus how all the other appointees think about ethics.

**RC**

Well, you know, that's sort of a force of good leadership, right? You're going to have to have somebody who's very strong, who's

**RC**

very clear eyed, who's purpose minded, and certainly an expert on ethics to do that. So that's with any position I'm going to be

**RC**

appointing. I get forward to Metro and you've got to have very smart people on the Metro board.

**MS**

Okay. So your website says you will appoint an independent ethics czar on day one to advise on all issues and ensure city business

**MS**

is conducted in a manner that prevents conflicts of interest. Isn't that what the comptroller is supposed to do?

**RC**

The controller should be doing that. But I want to have my own ethics czar making sure that we don't have the ongoing corruption

**RC**

that we've been having. And to your point, the pay to play.

**MS**

And isn't that what the ethics commission is supposed to do?

**RC**

Well, to your point, the ethics commission isn't all appointed by me, so they're not all accountable to me and somebody is

**RC**

accountable to me.

**MS**

So you're adding to the bureaucracy?

**RC**

I'm adding a person, somebody.

**RC**

And it's a very important job given what we've just been living through.

**MS**

So how will you work to remove city council from all land use decisions? Because we see that City Council

**MS**

politicizes land use decisions that they're their donor contributors, campaign contributors want.

**MS**

We've seen motions to override the planning commissions and the planning the area planning commissions. What are you going to

**MS**

do about that?

**RC**

Well, I get a I get a veto power, so I'm going to hold people accountable. But to your point, this is what I was saying

**RC**

earlier. It's been managed where there's no predictability, there's no rules to follow, and it's unfair to people. It's unfair to

**RC**

people that are currently living here. It's unfair to people that want to invest here. And we should have zoning, like many other

**RC**

cities do, that are locked down. Once it's locked down, it's buy right, get rid of all the shenanigans around it, because that's

**RC**

what's led to corruption.

**MS**

So you're planning GM will not allow variances.

**RC**

In a perfect world, which is maybe a little bit too optimistic, they would be zoning by right. That the community gets comfortable

**RC**

with. It gets codified. It's neighborhood by neighborhood. Right. And then once you have buy. Right, you should not be you should not

**RC**

need variances. Right.

**RC**

Unless there's some exigent circumstance that comes along, because that's where you start getting into corruption.

**MS**

We know that.

**RC**

I know.

**MS**

We know that. We're basically opposed to variances that people need to follow the law and that the law has to apply to everybody.

**MS**

Agree with you on equality. So Eric Garcetti set up the mayor's fund for Los Angeles. Did you ever personally or did any of your

**MS**

Caruso companies ever contribute to that fund?

**RC**

You did so.

**MS**

You know, this fund is another avenue for pay to play.

**MS**

Because we have evidence now that people and developers and companies that contributed to the fund got special

**MS**

treatment. How do you respond to that? Your company contributed. Um.

**RC**

Well, I can tell you, I never felt like I got any special treatment. We've worked very hard in the community. If you look at the

**RC**

project up in Pacific Palisades that we built, we met with thousands of people I did personally. We're building right next to

**RC**

single family homes, building into a district where Mike Bonner was not necessarily the most friendly developer kind of

**RC**

councilperson, but the community fashion that project. The community really informed what we were going to build. We had a 15 zero

**RC**

vote. He did it under a mitigated negative deck. We didn't have one lawsuit on that project. And I think if you talk to anybody

**RC**

up on the Palisades that's beloved now is their downtown. So there was no favors needed because I had the community support. And

**RC**

that's the way I've built every project. I have never tried to force a project in any community. It's always been with community

**RC**

support. The only time I've ever gotten pushback is from big mall owners that haven't wanted competition, and

**RC**

they fought me. When I tried to build the Grove, they fought me when I tried to build the Americana because the indoor mall is

**RC**

archaic and they don't want competition. But the community has always supported me.

**MS**

No, wait. I want to ask. I want to go to specific issues. Well, go ahead. Go ahead.

**ME**

So so, Rick, on on these big behested payments, the mayor's fund. When you look at the list, a lot of these

**ME**

companies who are giving huge amounts of money, which are not limited to 1500 dollars, are the projects that are before the city of

**ME**

Los Angeles. At the time that the behest payment is made, hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars.

**ME**

Do you do you see how that could look like a conflict of interest? And will you continue that practice when you are mayor to have the

**ME**

mayor's fund LA and an a room in city Hall dedicated to drop off the check on your way in?

**RC**

Yes, that is a great question.

**RC**

And this campaign is a good example of that. Karen Bass has a Washington based PAC that is raising money to support her campaign.

**RC**

She's got every lobbyist in town donating money to her and all her other billionaire friends donating money to her. I'm basically

**RC**

self-financing because I don't want to hold an allegiance to anybody. I want to wake up every day and say, what is the best thing to

**RC**

do for the residents of Los Angeles? That's the way I'm running my campaign. That's way I'm going to run the mayor's office. Okay.

**RC**

Thank you. Okay, actually. Question Great.

**MS**

Question. Yeah. Let's let's just move on to some specific issues. So let's talk pipelines because we talk

**MS**

about traffic, we talk about density and how that impacts the infrastructure of traffic and traffic flow.

**MS**

We have bike lanes, So they're taking away a lane of traffic, you know, for car traffic. Are you going to continue the policy of

**MS**

installing bike lanes or what are you going to do on that?

**RC**

It's a good question and it really depends on the neighborhood in the street, because we do need the capacity for cars and we also do

**RC**

need capacity for bikes and we do need to keep people safe on bikes. But you can't take lanes out of every street going across the

**RC**

city. Now, we also have now. Which I think is important.

**RC**

We've lost either some lanes or sidewalks because of outdoor dining. So it's further cram down the area of

**RC**

space. But that has to be looked at, really, neighborhood by neighborhood. And I'm a big supporter of leaving the outdoor dining to

**RC**

support the restaurateurs and the small business owners. Got to be a balanced community by community. This is a great

**RC**

place where organizations like yourself need to help inform me and my staff when I'm mayor on what works and what doesn't work and where

**RC**

we can have a bike lane that isn't overly impacting vehicular traffic and not also taken away from outdoor dining. There's a

**RC**

lot of competing interests there.

**MS**

So we also have the issue of valet parking. Let's say I'm Melrose and Beverly, where the valet parkers take all the parking spaces.

**MS**

So how do you propose to deal with that parking issue?

**RC**

Well, wasn't I don't know the right answer to that. I'd have to take a look at it. Know I've seen it. I know where. I know what's

**RC**

going on over there. But I did the Melrose walk twice with the residents of Melrose. That neighborhood has been so impacted by

**RC**

crime, by graffiti, by dirt, the amount of stores that have closed. I was talking to one of the the owners of one of the

**RC**

restaurants there. He's actually on my Instagram. He's been there 15 years. He has to close his doors now at 8:00 because after

**RC**

8:00 he gets robbed and he said, I'm going to lose my business. I mean, it was just heartbreaking of what's happened on Melrose.

**RC**

So we have to prioritize things that are going on. And valet parking is probably important, but we've got to make those

**RC**

businesses safe. The neighborhood's safe. I give that community a lot of credit what they're doing, investing with their own

**RC**

cameras to try to fight crime. But it's dirty.

**RC**

The streets are filthy. You have the road takeovers that are going on on Melrose. I was there walking with police when somebody was

**RC**

racing up and down the street. They just didn't care. The cops are right there.

**MS**

So we'll be looking for your plan. Maybe you can put that on your website or what? On how to handle the parking and the shortage of

**MS**

parking and the situation where people who want to go to a restaurant have no parking spaces because they're all taken by the

**MS**

valleys. And and when a restaurant goes through planning, you know, they want to get all of the approvals and everything. They

**MS**

double book on the parking.

**MS**

So it's really a problem. We'll look for that plan.

**RC**

I don't want to promise you the plan between now and November 8th. I just want to be honest that, yes, I will look at it and work

**RC**

with the community to solve it. But there's some other problems that are much more desperate.

**MS**

Yes.

**RC**

Good at this point.

**MS**

So good prioritizing. That's time. How will you finance the repaving of the deteriorated streets and sidewalks?

**RC**

Well, it's in the budget. It's not all being utilized just like Quimby. Funds aren't being utilized. We need more perks. So I love



**RC**

when people say we don't have enough money to do things, and then we've got surpluses sitting in the budget of really important

**RC**

things like parks that don't get done. And so we have the money in the budget to do it. It's not being done right. We had money in

**RC**

the budget to actually clean streets. Why aren't we cleaning streets anymore? We're so reliant on on bids to be doing the work of

**RC**

government now.

**MS**

Business improvement District.

Right. Just not that's not fair either, you know, So there's a lot of things we've got to fix. Most of it are actually pretty simple

to fix, by the way. Okay.

**ME**

And there are any number of special funds that exist, as you pointed out.

**ME**

And a lot of them have a lot of money in them. But it's not being but it's not exposed to the public.

**ME**

And it's there's so much there, it sort of demands a system.

**ME**

So do you have plans to put systems in place to disclose this so people know that it's available?

**RC**

Yeah, this goes to what I was saying, that I want a comprehensive review starting literally day one of the budget and have an

**RC**

independent audit of the budget outside of the city personnel of what money is there, how it's being used, is it properly spent,

**RC**

is there waste? And we could do that pretty quickly. What I would bring in an auditing firm from the Big three and have it

**RC**

independently and make a report that would be public. That would go to me as mayor.

**MS**

Wouldn't the controller be doing that? Isn't that the controllers job?

**RC**

It should be the MS: controllers job.

**MS**

What are you going to do when the controller says, I'm not paying this. I'm not signing the check for the police department payroll?

**RC**

What are you going to do? The controller does not have the legal authority to withhold payment to a city employee that's doing their

**RC**

job. He would be violating the law, in my opinion. I would hold him accountable.

**MS**

Okay. And let's see.

**MS**

Can you tell us a little bit about your disaster planning plan? Because we've had earthquakes, we've had mudslides.

**MS**

So what is your how are you going to address disaster planning?

**RC**

You know, it's a good question. I've read the disaster plan that the city has. It's actually a very comprehensive plan. I think

**RC**

the real question right now is do we have all the pieces in place that we can actually mobilize very quickly? God forbid, when

**RC**

there's a disaster and there will be one? You know, we've gone through earthquakes before and whatnot. There will be. But that's going

**RC**

to take a real deep review with the people that are in charge of disaster planning to make sure we have everything in place. And I

**RC**

certainly worry right now because we're so low on police and we're low on paramedics and fire that God forbid there was a

**RC**

disaster. That's why we've got to put our full attention on getting more police and fire and paramedics hired.

**MS**

Okay, Mike.

**ME**

Okay. I'm going to move on to political climate and sort of miscellaneous questions. So right now, many are predicting a

**ME**

recession. Housing bubble, inflation is at A Fairly high level right now.

**ME**

All of these things will impact the tax base and revenue on a going forward basis.

**ME**

And but for the recent money coming in from. Covid.

**ME**

We have a structural deficit already in the city. The question is for everything. Where does the money come from, if not taxes?

**ME**

And everybody usually says, Oh, I'm going to cut waste. But the amount of dollars that we're talking about it would take to fix

**ME**

everything and bring everything to where it should be is huge. So how do you take into account? External macroeconomics when you're

**ME**

trying to figure out where to where to get money.

**RC**

It's a question and it concerns me.

**RC**

Now, the good news is, given what Congress and the president have passed, there's a lot more funds that the city can get,

**RC**

should get and will get to help with infrastructure and other things in the city. We've got a state that's got a surplus. We

**RC**

need to get our fair share and make sure we get our fair share down here to get invested in our infrastructure. But clearly, with

**RC**

inflation rising, with the cost of money rising, the ten year bond rising, it's putting pressure on everybody living in Los

**RC**

Angeles. The cost of living in Los Angeles is getting more and more expensive. Groceries are up now almost 15%. So these are table top

**RC**

issues that are critical, which means the city has to find ways to reduce the cost of being in the city of Los Angeles. We just

**RC**

have to have very little influence on inflation, but a lot of influence on being more effective in delivering services. And

**RC**

it's going to be a shared responsibility.

**ME**

Clearly.

**RC**

We just have to do it. But we do have the federal funding, so that's going to be a big help.

**ME**

In the primary we saw.

**ME**

What can only be described as fairly far left. Candidates do better than expected. The city attorney race features somebody who

**ME**

is. Now fairly far left the controller's race the same thing.

**ME**

Several of the council districts. What are your feelings about about that?

**ME**

And and where is that coming from and. Do you think people understand what those policies are or they're not, or are they not paying

**ME**

attention? And how do you get them to pay attention?

**RC**

I don't know the right answer. Mike It's a great question. What I would suggest is everybody's got to really do their homework.

**RC**

On everybody who is running and really think about. Today.

**RC**

Are you happier how your neighborhood and community feels? Are you happy with the direction of this city? And is who you're

**RC**

going to vote for help you get to a more livable Los Angeles, whatever that dream may be. I'm worried about the people who are

**RC**

running for city attorney and running for controller. I'm obviously worried about the direction that Karen Bass will take this

**RC**

city. And that's why I'm working so hard to make sure that I have an opportunity to win. But yeah, everybody really needs to do their

**RC**

homework. And they need to probably also be listening to all of you as leaders in their community.

**ME**

And one of the issues and it sort of ties back to the scandals is That every Election features candidates

**ME**

making promises that they're going to solve the Problems. And what we see are problems getting worse. While

**ME**

scandals and pay for play go up.

**ME**

And that causes people to think, what's the point? Why even pay attention? So how do you get across your feeling that this is an

**ME**

exceptionally important election and get people to believe one last time that this really matters and it's worth their time to

**ME**

do that research?

**RC**

That's a great question that scares me. There's a level of apathy out there. There's no doubt all around the city. All around the

**RC**

city. Nothing's going to change. It's only going to just keep going the way it is. And so I'm out there telling everybody that more

**RC**

than ever, your vote counts. Your vote is your voice. I will hear you. People feel unheard in this city, unrepresented in this

**RC**

city. And I get criticized for spending a lot of money on this race. But it takes a lot of money to get this message out. And and

**RC**

hopefully people will really. Friends calling friends and neighbors calling neighbors. We've got to get together and we've got to

**RC**

make a change in the city. We've got to vote in this city. And I hope it happens. But let me if I can just add on. Karen wants to make

**RC**

this vote about ideology.

**RC**

Not about issues or track record. Ideology for her is bashing me that I'm like Trump. I am not like Trump. I'm nothing like

**RC**

Trump. I opposed Trump when he announced running for president. I'm on the record opposing Trump. I never gave Trump a dime.

**RC**

Never went to an event for Trump. And I wish this man would just go away. I've been very clear my whole career about this that Donald

**RC**

Trump has been in or around office. She also talks about that I am not pro-choice. That couldn't be further from the truth. I am

**RC**

pro-choice. I believe in a woman's choice. I also believe Los Angeles should be a sanctuary where women can come to the city

**RC**

and feel safe. I've been very open about supporting Proposition one. It's going to be on the ballot. I urge everybody to vote for

**RC**

this. There is not an inconsistency with my faith. And I'm very upset that she and her supporters have weaponized faith saying that

**RC**

because I'm a Catholic, because I've supported Catholic causes, somehow I am not pro-choice. That is just not true. Joe Biden

**RC**

is Catholic and pro-choice. Nancy Pelosi is Catholic and pro-choice. I was talking to Jerry Brown the other day. This is a man

**RC**

that was in the seminary thinking about becoming a priest and is pro-choice. So that needs to be cleared up. That's settled. It's

**RC**

over with. We need to be talking about the issues that are facing every Angeleno every day. I join the Democratic Party because I

**RC**

believe in the principles of welcoming everybody. LGBTQ+, any kind of community.

**RC**

I've always been open to. And that's why I left the Republican Party, because it was heading in a direction many, many years ago

**RC**

when I left that I was very uncomfortable and didn't align with my values. And that's why I became a Democrat. So thank you for

**RC**

letting me.

**ME**

It was going to be one of the next questions.

**RC**

Oh, I'm sorry. Well, I heard you myself. I forgot that.

**ME**

One, one, one issue that that happened recently, and especially for those of us that have friends who work in city hall.

**ME**

How would you describe the incident in City Hall where people were disrupting the meeting, tried to jump over barriers where

**ME**

those working in City Hall do not feel safe, including some of the police who were protecting the council. If you can comment on

**ME**

that. How would you as mayor deal with that type of incident? Was it lawful? Unlawful? How do you hold people accountable?

**ME**

And where do you draw the line between free speech and disruption?

**RC**

It was unconscionable. It was wrong. This is an example of what's happening throughout our city that people feel like they do not

**RC**

have to follow the law or good behavior or acting like a good human being and fellow neighbor. That has nothing to do with free

**RC**

speech. Free speech is standing up and using your voice. Having a peaceful march. Those kind of things are free. Speech. Jumping over

**RC**

barricades and threatening people is wrong, and people need to be held accountable. And if I was the mayor of Los Angeles, I would

**RC**

have called a press conference and I would have called it out. This is not going to be tolerated in a public meeting, because what

**RC**

it does is it dampens other people that want to go to that meeting that now may not feel safe to go. And so what you're

**RC**

doing by tolerating that or condoning that is you're really limiting free speech. It has the adverse effect of. I think my

**RC**

expectation is, mayor, is let's all behave nicely.

**RC**

Let's follow the old golden rule. You know, things are not that complicated. And again, that's what leadership is about, is setting a

**RC**

tone, setting a standard, and then bringing people along with us and doing this together.

**MS**

Okay. Thank you.

**MS**

Before we close, I'm going to give you three souvenirs from today's meeting. Don't look so happy. They're not that great. I'm just

**MS**

happy to be with you.

**ME**

And you already have my notes.

**MS**

Okay. All right, so the first souvenir is going to be this report on housing that you can take to your people and figure out

**MS**

why we have this desire to build more housing when we have all these vacancies already in Council District five. The next souvenir is

**MS**

going to be the newsletter that we to see that that the coalition puts out.

**MS**

And what we'd like to do, all of your answers are from when we did the interview in March. What I'd like you to do is you personally,

**MS**

not a staffer, go through this and confirm that you still feel the same way about all of these answers in as you did in March.

**MS**

And you can change anything and just email your question. This question here's the question. There's the answer. And we're going

**MS**

to take your whatever revisions.

**MS**

Karen Bass, she's going to do the same thing and we're going to send this newsletter out again just with the two of you on there, and

**MS**

it will go to about 35,000 people.

**MS**

So be careful with what you say. The next souvenir I'm giving you is I'm going to wrap up some sweets so you can take them home. I

**MS**

think the last time when you were in my home, I wrapped up treats for you. Yeah. Okay. Well, I'm going to enjoy. Okay, Well, okay,

**MS**

good. I'm going to give you some more. So here's the final question before we say our thank you's, give us the one

**MS**

minute elevator pitch on why you are the right person to be mayor.

**RC**

I have the heart.

**RC**

I have the desire to do this for all the right reasons. I've been volunteering for this city for 40 years. I don't want to get

**RC**

paid to do this. Make a dollar here. I want to go work very hard for everybody in this city every now and then, go back to private

**RC**

life. I want no further public office. I'm doing it because I love this city. I've been 37 years in Los

**RC**

Angeles, raised four kids here. All of our children live in L.A.. I feel so grateful to the city. I was able to start a business with

**RC**

one employee and build projects that have made me and my team at the company very proud and hopefully have enriched the lives of

**RC**

those that get to enjoy them. And I want to bring that same enrichment to the lives of this city. My grandparents were immigrants

**RC**

set foot in Boyle Heights. The Caruso family's story starts in Boyle Heights. They didn't know the language and they didn't have

**RC**

a dime. My grandfather was a gardener. My other grandfather was an elevator operator. But they had a big dream and their dreams

**RC**

came true. My dreams have become abundantly true. I have abundance of good fortune, and I'd like to give back because I think about

**RC**

people like my grandparents. If you came to Los Angeles now, would you be able to have your dreams come true? I don't know. I think

**RC**

it's much tougher because of homelessness and crime and corruption and affordability. And if I can make some people's dreams come true,

**RC**

at least help them along the way. My God, how blessed would I be? And how fortunate would I be to do that? And that's where my heart's at

**RC**

and that's where my soul is at. And I just I'm very grateful to just have the opportunity in my life to be able to do this

**RC**

because it is a blessing to be able to step away from a business and have your family support and dedicate your life to your

**RC**

campaign. So thank you for inviting me here. Thank you, Marsha. Thank you, everybody who's in the room. And and I would love to have

**RC**

your support. And I promise I work very hard for you.

**MS**

Okay. Thank you, Rick. Thank you for coming. We're going to. We have some questions from the Zoom candidates, but some of those

**MS**

questions are in the newsletter, so we will address those questions via the newsletter. Can I put a clock on this and say, you get

**MS**

back to me and say five days?

**MS**

Okay. Okay. So, Rick, thank you very much. I'm going to close off the zoom. And just so everybody says, thank you.

**MS**

I'm going to end the meeting.

**RC**

Thank you, guys, for everybody showing up. Thanks, Marcia. Just unbelievable that you're so dedicated. So thank you.

END OF TRANSCRIPT



Automated transcription by Sonix  
[www.sonix.ai](http://www.sonix.ai)