

Q35. What are the top three things that you feel the City should try to accomplish in the next year?

First Priority

- Please help the homeless people find work.
- Better streets in neighborhoods.
- Enforce parking on lawns ban.
- Manpower of law enforcement in residential areas (increase).
- Fix the streets.
- Lowering property taxes.
- Fix stoplight timing for better traffic flow.
- Build more houses in the community.
- Maintain top fire and police protection.
- Fix our streets.
- Get rid of or upgrade rundown houses and junky yards in otherwise good neighborhoods.
- Lower property taxes.
- More visible police.
- Get drugs off streets.
- Better enforcement of neighborhood car parking.
- Enforce laws against non-running cars parked on streets.
- Put more police presence during school hours to patrol speeders in school zones.
- Resurface city streets.
- Loud music.
- Maintain or improve city streets.
- Stop assessing property values and raising taxes.
- Reduce speeding.
- Decrease taxes.
- Street repair.
- Continue to make improvements that will draw people here.
- Tax relief.
- Cut property taxes for seniors.
- Repair and maintenance of city streets.
- Get churches and other tax exempt institutions to pay for police and fire protection and other city services to reduce property tax.
- Cultural sensitivity of police officers.
- Improvements to city parks.
- Affordable housing.
- Junk on properties.
- Equalize property tax with suburbs.
- Lower property taxes.
- Move away from property tax based municipal finance.
- Large reduction in property taxes.

- Stop with the Skywalks.
- An education program for the people to pick up their trash, not to leave it in the streets and parking lots.
- Street improvements.
- Sell the low rent housing units.
- Listen to property owners (respect them).
- Crack down on drugs more.
- Streets along 14th & University.
- Condition of vacant lots.
- Continue downtown revitalization.
- Offering services to encourage young adults to live in Des Moines.
- More walking & biking trails. Grays Park is packed.
- Make sure all schools are funded and staffed.
- More housing downtown.
- Police protection.
- Repair streets.
- Barking dogs.
- Repair of neighborhood streets.
- More police officers.
- New businesses to downtown.
- Fix neighborhood streets & curbs.
- People to fix and clean up properties.
- Clean up yards and fix sidewalks.
- Potholes in city streets.
- Remove junk cars.
- Stop snow plows from throwing snow into driveways and blocking them.
- Deport foreigners, impound their vehicles and put them in jail.
- Lower property taxes for landlords who own small unit apartments (2 to 12 units).
- Better schools, smaller class numbers.
- Follow up on neighborhood requests for cleanup.
- Get rid of the town homes across from Roosevelt High School.
- Streets.
- Budgets.
- Neighborhood sidewalks.
- Clean up yards.
- Address issue of city ordinance concerning stealing trash cans.
- Repair the street with asphalt.
- Junk cars.
- Better streets.
- Sidewalks and handicapped access on 1800 block of Watrous.
- Police protection.
- Keep botanical dome open.
- Enforce city codes in neighborhoods.

- Better maintenance of private property.
- Sidewalk improvements (ADA access).
- Budget, I can't ask others for money if my checkbook doesn't balance.
- Bring property taxes to comparable rate of suburbs.
- Services to maintain elderly residents.
- Guarantee the safety of the drinking water.
- Clean up of vacant lots.
- Attractive city.
- Have a free trash day like we used to have and suburbs have now.
- Developing neighborhoods near downtown area.
- Condition of streets in neighborhoods.
- Finish downtown and I-235 construction.
- Lower property tax.
- Upgrade schools.
- Police department has so much crime/drugs they should be fully staffed.
- Lower taxes.
- Cleanliness.
- Road maintenance.
- Police protection.
- Improve city streets.
- Better streets.
- Enforce the law against drug use in private areas.
- Find ways to encourage retail/restaurants/entertainment businesses in East Village.
- Increase police emergency response capability and visibility.
- Help develop impoverished neighborhoods.
- Improve street conditions on major streets.
- Property clean up.
- Safe streets.
- Fix all city streets.
- Increase landscaping.
- Improve quality of major streets.
- Cap city lights, so light goes down, not out.
- Get the early morning meth heads out of the neighborhoods and yards of the normal people. Some people work off shifts and stay up at night because that is their day. Meth heads think you are doing meth too and try to eavesdrop on your house to see if you are doing it too. I guess to break in and steal your stuff too? I have tried to catch them but can't. Cops think I am nuts. I have had two gunshots next to my bedroom window and truck. I tend to piss them off!
- Diversify downtown development and no more condos.
- Neighborhood redevelopment (near North Side).
- Finishing construction.
- Clean up private property debris.
- All streets are a mess. Please improve them.

- Get rid of crime.
- Lower property taxes.
- Street repair.
- East side development.
- Reducing speed of cars/motorcycles and number of cars driving on Ingersoll.
- Cut the price of our trash bags.
- Keep focusing on downtown, looks fabulous.
- Enforcement traffic laws on major streets.
- More bicycle trails.
- Enforcing the laws.
- School issues.
- Increase police presence in neighborhoods.
- Police protection.
- Clean up private properties.
- Get thieves and cheaters out of public service.
- Redevelopment of downtown.
- Honesty in government.
- Street improvement.
- Repair of streets.
- Street construction (235).
- Keep developing downtown.
- Make Park Ave. two lane on each side.
- Enforce removal of junk from private property, especially curb side.
- Improve streets as needed.
- Increase jobs on police department.
- Keep working on getting downtown more involved.
- Fix public streets.
- Spend less money on downtown.
- Reduce noisy motorcycles.
- Make city police department more user friendly.
- Please keep public always in safety on the streets.
- More improvements.
- Neighborhood safety.
- Clean up debris in yards.
- Street repair.
- Enforce traffic laws, especially speed limits in school zones.
- Road maintenance.
- Enforce the parking ordinances on Ingersoll Ave. or remove the parking signs.
- Continue to support new community development.
- Better sidewalks.
- Landscape areas adjacent to I-235.
- Help old people more.

- Deal with the tax disparity between new apartments and existing apartments in neighborhoods. The neighborhood apartment buildings are suffering from unfair competition because of city financial support for new construction.
- Repair neighborhood streets.
- Image.
- Expand biking/hiking trails.
- Police protection.
- Streets.
- Development of new rental complexes downtown.
- Recycling.
- Feeling safe in neighborhood.
- Expand library hours.
- Pools in parks of poorer communities.
- Slow exodus from DSM to suburbs. Explore incentives to stay.
- Finish freeway projects and exits to downtown.
- Lower property tax.
- Traffic control. Neighborhood streets are treated like main arteries without police supervision.
- Use money wisely.
- Traffic.
- Ways to keep up with growth, increase tax base.
- Need to do more with law enforcement budget.
- More should be done about drug and alcohol abuse.
- Schools.
- Police and fire service improved.
- Improving the school system.
- Do more to maintain properties up.
- Remodel all the streets.
- Downtown development.
- Road construction.
- Finish construction on roads.
- Weed out all of the political bees.
- Clean up the slum lords.
- Enforce noise ordinance.
- Street improvements.
- I-235 completed.
- Do something with the Yonkers Building.
- Street repairs.
- Improve streets.
- Code enforcement on private property.
- Need more police officers.
- More city parks.
- Improving streets.

- Restore parks.
- Flow of traffic.
- Street maintenance.
- More water recreation.
- Sidewalk repairs.
- Improve schools and teachers' salaries.
- Provide more safety services.
- More on streets.
- Get highway construction done.
- Better upkeep on residential property.
- Tear down condemned homes.
- Improve streets.
- Stop constructing so much.
- School system.
- Better traffic enforcement.
- Improve the schools.
- Improve the condition of city streets.
- More neighborhoods hooked into NBSD program.
- Get the freeway completed.
- Lower property tax.
- Improve roads.
- Streets, back roads.
- Streets.
- Fire.
- Streets.
- Main streets.
- Garbage collection.
- Lower sales tax.
- Fix streets.
- Lower property tax.
- More green spaces.
- Quality low rent housing.
- Upkeep private property.
- Take better care of rental properties.
- Better driving on city streets.
- Need more police.
- Maintenance of roads.
- Fix streets.
- Clean up parks and neighborhoods.
- Fire and police.
- Police should not talk down to older persons.
- More affordable entertainment.
- Clean up city.

- Keep doing what you are doing.
- Streets.
- Lower rents.
- Listen to residents more.
- Finish I-235.
- Keep inner city viable.
- Road repair.
- New developments for the neighborhood.
- City streets.
- Potholes on side streets.
- Work on side streets.
- School district.
- Lowering tax.
- Improving signs for public safety.
- More places for posting cleanup days.
- Keep up with senior citizen needs.
- Better roads.
- The city development projects.
- Have better communication with residents.
- In-fill housing, add single family homes.
- People driving around town with their radios too loud.
- Replace the city council.
- Picking up yard waste.
- Maintenance of streets.
- Better planning for development.

Second Priority

- Creating good paying jobs.
- Let public know of different services available to them.
- Enforce cleanup of private property.
- Snow removal on side streets.
- Crime.
- Stop giving out tax abatements.
- Reconstruction of the streets.
- Maintain condition of streets.
- Improve traffic flow.
- Coordination with other city governments for services and purchasing.
- Find other revenue sources, earnings tax.
- Better green bin pickup.
- Cut crime in rental properties.
- Enforce removal of weeds and garbage in yards.
- Add more bike and walking trails at the local parks, such as Easter Lane Park.
- Improve the sewer storm systems.
- Rental property upkeep.
- Enforce cleanup of rental property.
- Traffic controls in my neighborhood.
- Cut unnecessary programs.
- Decrease police force.
- Preservation of older buildings.
- Improve safety.
- Do away with tax rebates on new homes.
- Repair of streets.
- Improve city streets.
- Transportation to work for low income people.
- Sidewalks on Merle Hay Road.
- New business development.
- Cleanup of private property.
- Move toward more regional service provision.
- Change policy regarding property taxes. They should be raised/lowered by vote, not assessments.
- More policemen.
- Take care of low rent housing units' yards.
- Improve police services.
- Hold parents liable for kids' actions.
- Quality of public school teachers.
- Condition of vacant houses.
- Emphasize neighborhood pride.
- Improving & remodeling city schools.

- Recreation facilities.
- Controlling spending, put money toward education.
- Better image.
- Clean up junk houses.
- Clean up property.
- Junk yards, cars & property.
- Repair of major city streets.
- Better streets.
- Fix roads.
- Snow removal on side streets.
- Mark property lines so you know where one ends and the other begins.
- Yard cleanup.
- Make sure that board members know what is going on. No rubber stamp members.
- Larger police force.
- Fire whoever approved the town homes.
- Schools.
- Merle Hay traffic pile ups.
- Get rid of old cars.
- Fire employee in charge of waste removal.
- Tear down abandoned buildings.
- Junk in yards.
- Get rid of the planters on River, they are a traffic hazard.
- Streets.
- Improve neighborhood streets.
- Better animal control services.
- Make yard waste pickup affordable.
- Franchise fees, get rid of them.
- Reduce property tax burden.
- Quit assuming that everyone has cable TV and Internet.
- Maintenance of brick streets.
- Safe city.
- High cost of leaf and shrub pick up.
- Bring in more businesses.
- Provide adequate parking.
- Garbage fees.
- Senior citizens to receive relief from taxes.
- Spending of tax dollars.
- More involvement by the people.
- Safety.
- City communication improvements.
- Street maintenance.
- Enforce laws regarding private property, trash, graffiti, weeds, dead trees, etc.
- Better education.

- Better animal control, more workers.
- Find ways to encourage business in Court Avenue area.
- Continue with downtown renovation/construction.
- Do whatever possible to keep taxes reasonable.
- Continue to recognize the value of recycling older buildings.
- Good planning for more business.
- Enforce speed limits.
- Increase recycling program to one time a week and free yard waste.
- Bike trails.
- Clean up area west of fairgrounds.
- Focus on neighborhood development.
- Major street repairs.
- Fixing streets up, mainly SE 14th and McKinley Avenue.
- Continue public safety improvements including police presence.
- Better police patrol. It seems they only stick to certain areas.
- Improving overall look/appearance of Ingersoll neighborhood/businesses.
- We are penalized for having a nice yard with trees and hedges.
- Ingersoll development.
- Enforcement traffic laws in neighborhoods.
- Enforcement and upkeep of rental homes.
- More recycling pickups.
- Lowering property taxes.
- Complete construction jobs before starting more (roads).
- Move new DOT licensing station into Des Moines city limits.
- Fire.
- Make downtown trails and parks a priority.
- Spend taxes wisely to benefit the community.
- Traffic improvement.
- Communication of events.
- Diverse jobs, not huge corporations.
- Fix up the pool by Southside Library.
- Street repairs, I called on ours, people comment on how bad it is all the time. It is embarrassing. And I pay \$3700 a year in property taxes. Our street looks like a mine field.
- Increase jobs on fire department.
- Have a neighborhood cleanup (free haul away for large items).
- No new facilities downtown that no one will use.
- Enforce ordinance of cars and vehicles parked too long in yards.
- Make stoplights less aggravating. I spend a lot of time sitting stopped at lights, especially late nights when there is no traffic around in any direction for long periods of time.
- The street light is out. Can you come fix it?
- More trails to run/bike on.
- Investigate complaint calls better.
- Enforcement of junk car laws.

- Develop regional government.
- Crack down on illegal fireworks.
- Enforcement of codes.
- City parks and recreation.
- Lock up the meth addicts. I live next door to one.
- Less suburban sprawl.
- Better flood sewers.
- Make inner city more bicycle friendly and safe.
- Schools.
- Make changes in recycling yard and house units. Determine when people could rake leaves in street for pickup.
- Repair city streets.
- Economy.
- Provide recycling for apartment buildings.
- Fire protection.
- Tree planting by city.
- Teacher-kid ratio in schools. Smaller classrooms.
- Improve appearance of private property.
- Give people a break with yard cleanups (listen).
- Provide incentives to develop empty lots.
- Balance budget.
- More development of housing.
- Pricey developments like the Events Center (Wells Fargo Arena) must be put up to a vote by the people who pay the property taxes in Des Moines.
- Pay police officers better pay and give them more help.
- Streets.
- Parks more user friendly.
- Street conditions improved.
- Improve city schools.
- Development of downtown.
- Street maintenance.
- Improve traffic laws.
- Street development.
- Education.
- Parks.
- Provide more funding for disabled, with no age restrictions.
- Raise the fees for private mowing.
- Neighborhood cleanup.
- Settle funding sources.
- Planning to connect MLK to I-35/80.
- Use franchise fees instead of property taxes.
- Sidewalks.
- Upgrade Southside area.

- More one-way streets downtown.
- Reduce property taxes.
- Street repair.
- Traffic flow.
- Enforcement of noise ordinance.
- Special events.
- Tear down condemned property.
- Continue roadwork.
- Condition of the streets.
- Restore the street lights in my neighborhood.
- Focus on rental properties.
- Hire more police officers.
- Lower taxes.
- Parks.
- Police.
- Property taxes cut.
- Streets and streetlights.
- Fix streets.
- Plan before they do projects to the city.
- Street curbs need maintenance.
- More police.
- Flow of traffic.
- Center for kids.
- Get junk cars off roads.
- Clean up older neighborhoods.
- Sidewalks are not kept clear of tree limbs.
- Careful of what they develop.
- Fix streets.
- Completion of I-235.
- Better police response times.
- Focus on poor housing conditions.
- Strong resurgence in the Court Avenue area.
- Police and fire department keep the quality up.
- Urban railway.
- Faster snow removal on side streets.
- Cleaning up yards.
- Sidewalks.
- More caution information signs in construction areas.
- More entertainment available.
- Archie Brooks and Tom Ulysses need investigated.
- Wake up the police department.
- City council.
- Keeping citizens informed of city issues.

Third Priority

- Improving pay for public school teachers.
- Diversify images used for tourism and business growth.
- Stop building freeways so people can live outside Des Moines.
- Police response to gang fights in residential areas.
- Improve school system.
- Safety in the neighborhood.
- Revitalize downtown.
- Make money available for owners of historic homes.
- Effective use of tax revenue.
- Add downtown parking.
- Stop drugs.
- Kids running loose all hours of the night with no supervision.
- Des Moines should patrol neighborhoods more often.
- Property upkeep-garbage, cars parked in yards, and weeds cause bugs.
- Limit the terms a council member may be on the council.
- Improve number of parks and trails.
- Get rid of the community development department.
- Improve streets.
- Get rid of empty buildings (businesses).
- Improve traffic flow, more left turn lights where needed.
- Improvements to downtown.
- Medicare.
- Retain Rice School site as green space.
- Facilitate development south and east.
- Refine government spending. The budget looks as though politicians put it together and not economists.
- Streets repaved.
- Give children priority services. Parents need help.
- Site kids in cars with no seatbelts.
- Drugs in the neighborhood.
- Continue to provide recycling for everything.
- Maintain downtown.
- Continued improvement of downtown.
- Support our teachers.
- More tourism.
- Help the homeless.
- Get rid of tax abatement.
- Abandoned houses.
- More funding to police department for youth programs.
- Better schools.
- Have one day a year for everyone to put out junk and have it picked up for free.
- City programs and services.

- Update public transportation.
- Clean up the south side.
- Streets.
- Give me my trash can as I didn't steal it from myself.
- Get businesses in downtown.
- Public facilities, parks, etc.
- Increase traffic control signs in neighborhoods.
- Better street maintenance.
- You put greenery in parks while I watch people dig them up to take home.
- Keep lines of communication between the city and residents open.
- Re-instate citizen Advisory Boards that advise programs and funding.
- Repair and maintain infrastructure.
- Improve major streets and help build up Eastgate Shopping Center.
- Keep property taxes from being raised.
- Security of people visiting downtown.
- Hire more policemen.
- Enforce laws on the books. We have paid taxes for over 50 years, never had an abatement or relief of any sort.
- Fix what we have, don't build new.
- Streets.
- Tax restructuring.
- Encourage rehab of old buildings instead of destruction.
- Leave the parks to the people.
- Enforcement of law to keep private property litter free.
- Stop tearing down buildings in West Gateway and let the scars heal.
- Find sources of revenue other than new taxes or tax increases.
- Seek out ways to regionalize services such as fire, police, sanitation and libraries.
- Keeping the city streets clean.
- Don't raise taxes.
- Clean streets.
- Increase liveliness of downtown.
- City redevelopment.
- Streets.
- Enforcement of traffic laws (too many speeders and run red lights).
- On a personal note, large item garbage pickup day once a year in my neighborhood.
- Keep up the good work.
- Giving tax breaks to small business owners.
- Making schools safer for our children.
- Increase number of special recreation facilities so older kids have more things to do in public parks rather than vandalizing them.
- Clean up city parks.
- Work on timing traffic lights on Ingersoll and heading in and around downtown.
- Quit wasting taxpayers' money on ill conceived, wasteful projects.

- Snow removal.
- Yard waste collection.
- Better support the schools—funding, teachers, etc.
- Cheaper parking downtown and cheaper shows and attractions downtown.
- Enforce ordinance of people collecting junk.
- Keeping the public involved.
- Quit building arches over the freeway and put the money towards law enforcement.
- Continue to improve depressed neighborhoods.
- Put a stoplight at 48th & Hickman.
- Stop the panhandlers on Ingersoll. I'm tired of being asked for money on the street and find it utterly disgusting.
- Schools.
- Snow removal.
- Keep Riverwalk and west Gateway on schedule.
- Make city cleaner by having a particular day when individual streets are cleaned so cars would not be parked on them.
- Give police what they need to do their jobs.
- Expand library buildings.
- Hold the line on expenses.
- Tree planting programs for resident's property.
- Clean up city neighborhoods, not just main streets.
- Repair neighborhood streets.
- Help low income families to be able to afford various events and happenings.
- Develop Eastgate or turn it into a park.
- Police/fire protection? Emergency planning.
- Improve streets.
- A better way of dealing with yard waste.
- Stop giving into the Mexican community. We live in America, not a suburb of Mexico.
- Communications.
- Overall appearance.
- Parks and recreation improved.
- Small neighborhood parks.
- Trash pickup for large items should be part of the trash service without paying extra.
- Police.
- Bring more entertainment amenities.
- Better watchdogs on government spending.
- Clean up drug traffic.
- Too many cars parked in the streets.
- Move in a metropolitan direction.
- Find diverse ways to communicate with residents.
- More city funded events.
- Traffic flow.
- Park upkeep.

- Neighborhood cleanup.
- Help for low income and elderly homeowners.
- Redevelopment of downtown.
- Work on safety.
- Safer neighborhoods.
- Improve parks.
- Higher minimum wage.
- Taxes.
- Streets.
- Honesty of city council.
- Need new buildings.
- More firemen.
- Safety in neighborhoods.
- Maintenance of sidewalks.
- Be nicer to people.
- Construction on streets takes too long.
- People do not stop at stop signs.
- Increase police and fire service.
- Revitalization of the inner city.
- Better voice for neighborhoods at the city level.
- Parks going well.
- Bike trails.
- More minority issues.
- More parks if possible.
- Increase safety for pedestrians.
- City council should be open and responsive to the residents.
- Be careful who is put in offices.
- Make sure city codes are enforced.
- Alternatives to higher taxes.