



# #QUESTIONS4CANDIDATESDETROIT17

JULY

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
ADVOCATES OF DETROIT

2017

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE SURVEY

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# INTRODUCTION

## DETROIT CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE SURVEY

Welcome to the Community Development Advocates of Detroit (CDAD) survey of city council candidates **#Questions4CandidatesDetroit17**. As Detroit enters its second term as a council by district city, CDAD recognizes the critical importance of supporting residents in shaping the conversations around issues that are significant to their communities. This includes creating tools for residents to evaluate candidates that will best represent their concerns. The goal of this project is to build the ability of the public to advocate on its own behalf and to create a platform for community voice in shaping the direction of their neighborhoods.

The survey was voluntary and provides a comprehensive overview of candidates in this year's city council race. The survey includes responses from 100% of incumbents currently serving. Overall, twenty-eight of the thirty-three surveys sent were returned for an 85% response rate from all candidates running.

Candidates were asked to state their understanding of the role they are running for as well as their perspectives on social and racial equity issues concerning neighborhood residents. This project serves as an opportunity to highlight issues that are significantly impacting Detroiters and to develop momentum for resident action and advocacy.

### How can you use the survey effectively?

- Share with family and friends who are seeking information on their candidates for city council.
- Click the interactive table of contents to read the candidates responses from incumbents and candidates in your district and at-large.
- Ask these questions yourself using our electronic rack card located in the methodology section. Use the questions to engage candidates for city council or mayor at forums or events.
- Use our hashtag **#Questions4CandidatesDetroit17** when sharing your stories and experiences on social media.

Thanks,



LaToya Morgan, MPA  
Public Policy Manager



CDAD

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# AT LARGE

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DETROIT CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE SURVEY

## JANEE' L. AYERS, Incumbent

At Large



### List your three most important duties if elected as a member of city council.

Duty to be of service to constituents. Whether providing information, cutting city red-tape or getting other help to citizens, I make service a priority. Since 2015, my office has helped more than 1000 Detroiters, including nearly 500 citizens returning from incarceration in need of social and job services.

Duty to maintain integrity, transparency and accountability to the public.

It is critical that Detroiters maintain confidence in our city operations and officials; part of that is being accountable to the public for our office budgets, our staffing and how we use city resources.

Duty to put the interests of the city and citizens first. The decisions before council are often difficult, with passionate advocates on both sides. In every case, I do my best to educate myself on the issues, seek opinions, and make decisions in the best interest of our city – no matter how difficult or unpopular.

### How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?

There is no greater challenge that Detroit faces than to grow in a way that bridges the economic and social capital divide that exists in our city. Those divides often track race but not always.

Even before voters enacted a Community Benefits Ordinance (CBO), I personally held developers accountable to the community and “giving back” to those areas of the city and citizens that are less advantaged. I have been pleased to see how the CBO is working and that developers have been responsive and engaged in the process.

I believe, however, that a key to achieving greater equity is ensuring economic opportunity for all Detroiters through job assessment and training, education and good-paying jobs. As we rebuild and invest in the city, Detroiters must be included. In addition, as a city we must resist and/or mitigate national policies that attack the health and economic well-being of Detroit families.

### CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. How would you engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016?

As an At-Large Member on City Council, I am fortunate to be a part of every CBO engagement group in the city. I believe a key to a successful CBO process is robust and diverse engagement of the community. That's why I and my office team work to engage citizens in CBO groups, whether through our office communications, community “coffee-hours,” or when attending neighborhood meetings. It is our goal to deepen and broaden citizen engagement so that every Detroiters has the opportunity to be heard, and to be part of the very important process of revitalizing our city.

## Janee' L. Ayers, Incumbent

At Large



### **From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods? Explain how you would address these issues.**

Detroit neighborhoods, as singular entities, continue to struggle with myriad critical issues but two of the most pressing are blight and crime. Blight is one of those issues that can be the genesis of lawless activity. Untended property attracts vandalism, loitering, and other criminal acts. Vacant buildings can become havens for trash, stray animals, squatters, and criminals. Consequently, neighbors and law abiding citizens avoid those areas, further isolating the untended property and creating a vicious cycle and environment for blight to proliferate. Combating blight is a critical crime prevention and quality of life concern.

If Detroiters feel unsafe in their neighborhoods, the city will never grow to its true potential. Crime is a critical issue of equity. It disproportionately affects poorer, less racially diverse neighborhoods. Like most urban centers in America, we must continually innovate to deter, prevent and combat crime—whether gun violence, car theft or other violent crime.

### **How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?**

Detroit has a rich history of neighborhood and citizen engagement as it relates to historic preservation; we are advancing those processes and engagement with respect to development. In terms of blight, I have learned that Detroiters want one thing: get rid of it! While being mindful of property-owner rights, I have been cracking down on negligent property owners. I authored and passed an ordinance denying any owner of a blighted or dangerous building further permits on other properties until they addressed their blight issues. We should not let land speculators or absentee owners take advantage of our most challenged neighborhoods.

### **If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.**

I am very proud of the work I did on the blight ordinance noted above that is already being enforced and making a difference. I am also proud of an initiative I authored and passed which allows seniors who qualify for discounted solid waste service to apply only once for the service instead of having to re-qualify every year. It was a simple change in how the city does business, but one that ensures our seniors don't need to worry about missing deadlines and being charged more than they should for important services.

### **If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?**

Question not applicable to candidate.

## BRENDA JONES, Incumbent

At Large



### List your three most important duties if elected as a member of city council.

It is my duty to create laws and suggest policies and practices that provide effective solutions to improve the quality of life of all Detroiters. Once laws are enacted, it is my duty to ensure that they are being enforced and operating within guidelines to benefit the residents of the City of Detroit. It is my duty to review and approve the city's annual budget. During City Council budget hearings and discussions with all City of Detroit Departments, I review and analyze how the departments plans to prioritize public funds, prior to voting on the budget. Throughout the year, I review and vote on contracts, tax abatements, land sales, development agreements and grant funding. It is my duty to ensure that departments are spending public dollars efficiently and responsibly, and to ensure those funds are being dispensed fairly and inclusively.

### How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?

I am the bridge that connects all relevant stakeholders in development. As the eyes, ears, and voice of the community, I will continue to work with the administration, developers, and all development entities. It is my responsibility to ensure that both the development officials and all members of the community are able to have meaningful conversations, where ALL residents are able to have their input in development discussions that involve public support.

### CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. How would you engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016?

I have attended Pilot meetings for the Pistons Practice Facility, Wigle, and Herman Kiefer redevelopment projects. I appoint community members to NAC's who possess strong leadership skills, and a record of involvement in the community. I keep open communication with my NAC appointee, to ensure that the NAC process is fair and that objectives are being met and that all members are being respected. I will work ensure that process and policies are clear to the community.

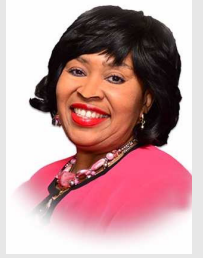
### From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods? Explain how you would address these issues.

Our communities and neighborhoods must be clean and safe. I sponsored the Animal Care and Control Ordinance that creates additional regulations to address dangerous animals.

I am launching a Detroit Commission of Human Trafficking. Michigan is second in the nation in Human Trafficking and many of those actions are happening right under our nose in Detroit. I am working to strengthen laws, provide training, align resources, and give victims hope to get away from this horrible crime.

## **BRENDA JONES, Incumbent**

At Large



**How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?**

I proactively communicate with Detroiters to inform all of changes occurring within their neighborhoods. Residents feel comfortable reaching out to my office to provide their suggestions on blight remediation, new laws, and public policies. For example, residents in the Boston Edison and North End area opposed the rezoning of Mt.Olive Baptist Church, reaching out to me via email and phone. The community was heard and the rezoning did not proceed.

**If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.**

Over the past two years, the City of Detroit has seen a surge in community involvement within the developments and changes that are happening in the neighborhoods. Not only is the community being included and considered in development, every community was engaged in the City-wide park improvement plan and is being engaged in several planning projects. I plan to continue to advocate for community involvement in all areas.

**If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?**

Question not applicable to candidate.



# BEVERLY KINDLE-WALKER

At Large



## List your three most important duties if elected as a member of city council.

The most important duty of any Detroit City Council Member is to come to the "Council" table prepared to do the business of the City of Detroit as a legislative body. Restoring the Detroit City Charter and working in the framework of the "Plan of Adjustment" is central. As a Council Member I will actively monitor budget spending, contracts, line items, risk management oversight and other quality of life policies that are proposed by the Mayor.

## How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?

The Detroit City Charter will be my guide. The citizens of Detroit have the right to expect that the City will provide for its residents basic human services in order to maintain a civil society. I will work to ensure that all persons rights, in accordance with applicable laws, are upheld and respected. I will operate on the premise that the concerns of residents of this City have value and should be included in development projects. A real Community Benefit Agreement helps.

## CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. How would you engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016?

The extremely high threshold make it a bit unrealistic to effect community involvement in most development projects. I will help monitor to achieve community "engagement" through the Neighborhood "Advisory" Councils. In the meantime the Council should be working on language to make amendments to the ordinance that will reflect the concerns of residents.

## From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods? Explain how you would address these issues.

I have three, the lack of a comprehensive city-wide housing strategy, the Detroit Land Bank Authority and the Wayne County Treasurer's auction process of delinquent tax- reverted properties, particularly of occupied homes. I have studied this issue for years but will reserve expressing it in this space because the issue is more complex than this space will allow.

## BEVERLY KINDLE-WALKER

At Large



**How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?**

Citizens District Councils should be re-instituted as mandated by the Charter but were stripped by the Emergency Manager under the "bankruptcy" Grand Bargain manifesto. Citizen Advisory Councils should be implemented in areas where CDC's are not required under urban renewal statues. There any several community organizations that people could plug into to help ensure improvements to the quality of life projects/issues in addition to engaging proactively with elected officials.

**If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.**

Question not applicable to candidate.

**If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?**

To seek new revenue streams, increase in public safety spending, and prioritizing the operations of the Coleman A. Young International Airport. We just need to get serious about these three areas as they have great potential to help stabilize the City of Detroit for the future.

# ALISA MCKINNEY

At Large



## List your three most important duties if elected as a member of city council.

My three most important goals are:

-To persuade old and new businesses to hire native Detroiters

-To challenge the City Council to get more Detroiters involved with cleaning up Detroit neighborhoods: i.e. trash removal and blight removal and boarding up vacant houses

-To improve levels of education for Detroit City Youth by advocating for the following: a) Classes that teach manual skills; b) Engaging community colleges to create more classes for school dropouts; c) Holding the State's major universities more accountable for their low enrollment of Detroit students.

## How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?

I see my role as challenging the City council to immediately get more involved in the business and economic life of the City of Detroit. I would passionately insist that the city gets more committed to improving the commercial, business and economic life of Detroit, including directly challenging new and old businesses to hire native Detroiters.

## CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. How would you engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016?

In addition, I would better inform residents about major parts of the ordinance by having better communication between the Council and city residents. There is a 'disconnect' when it comes to downtown and the neighborhoods. There is also a 'disconnect' when it comes to the City's developers and its residential communities.

## From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods? Explain how you would address these issues.

Alisa McKinney feels the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods are Blight and Crime. Ms. McKinney would address these issues by cleaning up Detroit neighborhoods on a continuous basis, which will also provide jobs especially in the private sector. I would also use my entrepreneur talents to create more jobs.

# ALISA MCKINNEY

At Large



**How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?**

Alisa McKinney's plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects, include, but are not limited to: blight remediation, historic preservation and development. This would be done by encouraging communities to organize more block club groups, and block club meetings and to elect representation to attend area meetings including meetings of the Detroit City Council, thus enabling the Council to stay more engaged with the decisions of the neighborhoods.

**If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.**

Question not applicable to candidate.

**If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?**

As A new candidate Alisa McKinney's top three policy priorities are Jobs, Blight and Education, primarily because these three policy priorities will reduce crime, clean up the city and bring jobs to the residences of Detroit. Currently, present Detroit City Council members "say" that jobs are an important priority; but in reality they "do" very little about increasing the available jobs for Native Detroit's. Moreover, the City of Detroit must better manage trash pick-up rather than just issuing blight tickets.

# MARY WATERS

At Large



## List your three most important duties if elected as a member of city council.

-Go to work. In three terms as State Representative representing Detroit in Lansing I had a perfect attendance record. That experience is why I know how to fight for state dollars for Detroit.

-Ensure that city services reach all neighborhoods in Detroit. Police & EMS response for the Eastside, Westside and Southwest Detroit must be as high a priority as it is for Midtown and Downtown Detroit. Blight removal and trash pickups must be top priorities. A clean neighborhood is a step toward a safe neighborhood. Environmental health hazards like toxic fumes from the incinerator and oil refineries must incur severe penalties.

-Fight for jobs and work to improve living conditions for single mothers. Council must stop being a rubber stamp for rich Detroit friends of Donald Trump doling out corporate welfare to billionaires while the people are not guaranteed jobs for stadiums and other wealth building projects.

Checks & - *Answer exceeded 150 word limit*

## How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?

There must be a culture of inclusivity created by those that would lead Detroit. How can we buy into the malarkey that Detroit is a comeback city when eighty-four percent (84%) of our children live in abject poverty? For example, I will work to improve the inhumane living conditions confronting single mothers in Detroit. That work will lay the foundation to address derivative issues that stem from wealth inequality and the systemic racism that has spawned the ugly reality of "Two Detroits".

There must be profit sharing with city residents when Detroit gives away land and developers sell for a profit for any purpose other than that for which city property was conveyed. Detroit needs a community benefits agreement with real teeth that will penalize beneficiaries of city tax breaks or fiscal shape shifting that results in dollars allocated for schools or other entities going to for profit enterprises.

## CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. How would you engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016?

Council should revisit the threshold dollar limits that trigger a community benefits agreement. \$75 million is too high and there must be fiscal penalties for non-compliance that are enforced without blaming the victims of historical exclusion from hiring and contracts. Representatives from Detroit businesses and neighborhoods must be included from initial planning to presentation stage. Council members must not choose people that will carry out personal agendas. We need independent people that are a true reflection of their neighborhood and Detroit based businesses.



# MARY WATERS

At Large



**From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods? Explain how you would address these issues.**

Neighborhood Safety & Economic Development. Enforce Public Acts 185-192 of 2013 for Blight and move to foreclose on those bad actors. Blight is a cancer in our neighborhoods. If we use clear window boarding, it is a more attractive view. Plywood will no longer work. It's an invitation to criminals. Finance and build decent housing for single mothers on previously blighted lots. Neighborhoods deserve rapid police & EMS response with police foot patrols and a bonus for police officers that live in Detroit. We need to encourage with startup dollars and entrepreneurial training the establishment of neighborhood cluster food stores and other small businesses that are not just liquor stores to build our communities with distinct flavor while employing people in those neighborhoods. Economic development plans should come from the people who live in the community. We should empower the people when it comes to their neighborhoods.

**How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?**

We must do much more than hold community council meetings every now and then or monthly. We need to be in Detroit neighborhoods everyday with community outreach offices and at least four mobile city hall units that bring city resources to those that will not come downtown for any reason. If we truly want to include the people of Detroit in their city government then Detroit government must go to the people in a qualitative manner.

**If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.**

Question not applicable to candidate.

**If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?**

-Budgetary Process. Detroit should adopt a "Zero Based" budgetary process. Every operation of city government should be required to justify its existence every budgetary cycle by detailing what citizens got for every dollar invested in that unit with no exceptions to determine the worth of that unit of Detroit City government to the people of Detroit

-Checks & balances. City Council is a legislative body for the purposes of providing a check and balance on the executive branch of the city (the Mayor). Citizens are cheated when council becomes a mere extension of the mayor. No more rubber stamping.

-Securing Detroit's Fair Share of state, federal and private sector dollars. We must work all of government from state to federal to ensure that Detroit gets its fair share of dollars through effective relationship building and lobbying ourselves not just through slick consultant based firms.

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# DISTRICT 1

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DETROIT CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE SURVEY

## JAMES TATE, Incumbent

District 1



### List your three most important duties if elected as a member of city council.

Fiscal oversight of the City's budget: by keeping expenses below revenues thus building up funds for the present/future. This helps the city improve its ability to improve city services. I remember the challenges that I inherited after being first being elected.

Spurring meaningful and sustained locally based economic development in District 1: by boosting the city's ability to assist small business within the commercial thoroughfares. I have found many of these business owners are residents of the district or live nearby.

Community engagement/awareness of projects that are taking place in the district: by continuing to host at least three community meetings a month and providing residents with access to information and individuals (public/private sector) that play a role in the shaping of their community. Our electronic messaging as well as visits to standing community meetings also aid in the dissemination of the information.

### How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?

By engaging with members of the community and sincerely listening to their concerns about development happening in their communities and doing my best to balance the need for need/desire for new development with the concerns of those affected by those who live closest to the location (as well as other residential voices). I also assist minority and disadvantaged vendors/contractors with any issues that they may have in obtaining entry into projects that are taking place in the city.

### CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. How would you engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016?

I would first begin by learning all that I can personally about the project and how the city/developers plan to potentially engage the community beyond the statutory obligations. The goal is more than the 1 mandated meeting. This will happen at my initial notification of the project. I would ensure that those in the impact area are notified via the City's process as well as utilize all of the various methods of communication currently employed in my office: electronic messaging, my various monthly meetings as well as standing community meetings to inform residents about the development as well as the process (including the NAC nominations). I will remain actively involved in all phases of the process including (if necessary) spearheading hearings the following disputed findings of violations.

### From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods? Explain how you would address these issues.

The lack of hope for those in underserved communities and our failing school systems. Without hope, an individual only "plans" for the day and fails to prepare for the future...

## JAMES TATE, Incumbent

District 1



...And having adults with children who feel this way often leads to a generational continuance of that attitude where the children are also left feeling like they are stuck in a position that they can never elevate from. This becomes an accepted reality of life. The educational attainment suffers and crime increases. I will continue to reach into the neighborhoods and schools to provide inspiration and information that aims to provide access to training (Skilled Trade Employment Program), jobs (Detroit Youth Employment Consortium) and mentoring (Task Force on Black Male Engagement). Crime is a major issue in Detroit, but identifying and working to eliminate the root causes that leads one to commit illegal activity is the best solution... not imprisonment.

### **How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?**

As a member of Council, I have assisted in removing bureaucratic barriers that hamper our ability to demolish abandoned and dangerous properties in a more expeditiously and efficiently manner. I also will further my relationship with the Historical Designation. In 2016, the city had planned to demolish the former Redford library on Grand River to make way clear the area for the new next to the new 8th Precinct. While many residents wanted the precinct at that location, they saw no need to demolish a perfectly sound and "historic" building. I first sought historic designation of the building and then gathered the city officials and the administration and organized meetings in the community in opposition of the demolition. Eventually the executive branch retreated on plans to demolish the building and it will soon serve as a community resource center that will stand side by side with the new 8th precinct.

### **If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.**

The medical marijuana ordinances that outlines zoning and licensing for Medical Marijuana Caregiver Centers (commonly called dispensaries) in the City. Realizing that the facilities were operating illegally and beginning to overrun the commercial corridors in the City, I moved to shutter all illegal operations. Rigorous research lead me to interactions with medical marijuana patients who displayed clear health benefits from consumption. I also found other documentation that supported reasonable regulation vs. an outright ban on the facilities. Following several intense open community conversations at the various meetings that I host, I convened patients rights advocates, Medical Marijuana patients, Medical Marijuana Caregiver Center owners and most importantly resident to assist in the legislation which I sponsored that would be compassionate for patients as well as respectful to residents who reside in the vicinity where the facilities would be located. (<http://www.detroitmi.gov/How-Do-I/Find/Medical-Marihuana-Information>). My colleagues passed both ordinances nearly unanimously.

### **If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?**

Question not applicable to candidate.

# TAMARA SMITH

District 1



## List your three most important duties if elected as a member of city council.

Upon election as a member of city council, the three most important duties will be to introduce educational economic development within district 1, implement community policing in an effort to prevent sex trafficking and other miscellaneous crimes within the district, and to offer alternative educational resources for K-12.

## How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?

To develop and implement a workforce emphasized on economic diversity amongst ethnic groups and minority's, requiring a broad of members additional to city council to oversee.

## CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. How would you engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016?

Under proposal B, I would engage the community by allowing residents to meet with potential investors/developers, by developing an additional council & a city's planning director.

## From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods? Explain how you would address these issues.

The two most important issues that are impacting our neighborhoods are crime, & job creation. By becoming a policy maker, I will introduce educational economic development that will surround jobs in the skill trade industry. By bringing skill trade job training, liveable wages, & a sustainable lifestyle this will cause an instant decrease in crime.

## How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?

My plans to get community input on neighborhood quality of life projects are to ensure that the citizens are informed, & feel included though effective partnerships, a broad inclusive agenda, & develop an action plan that all will feel empowered.



## TAMARA SMITH

District: 1



**If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.**

Question not applicable to candidate.

**If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?**

My top three policy priorities will be advocating for reliable affordable energy, making sure carjackers or any serious criminal activities are not taken lightly, and prosecuted to the fullest intent, develop alternative educational resources for K-12

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# DISTRICT 2

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DETROIT CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE SURVEY

# LINDA BERNARD

District 2



## List your three most important duties if elected as a member of city council.

District 2 consists of the “Haves” and the “Have-Nots”. My 3 most important duties are as follows:

- Respond to the needs, concerns and issues of all residents and businesses in District 2.
- Ensure that the city operates transparently, efficiently, within budget, and in accordance with all legal requirements.
- Drive jobs, business opportunities, development, financial and social resources to District 2.

## How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?

My role is to be an advocate, as well as a gatekeeper to make sure the highest principles regarding racial and social equality are realized for Detroiters, before all others. I am an expert in government contracts, and I created the Contracts and Business Law Section in the City’s Law Dept. I wrote the city’s procurement Code, including the Minority, Small Business and Local Preference Set Aside provisions and they withstood legal challenge. I am the only candidate that has the proven expertise and ability to negotiate contracts that ensure significant participation by African Americans and other minorities on a proportional basis.

## CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. How would you engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016?

This was a great and much needed initiative. Congratulations to CDAD! Also see 7 below. And I will use broadcast and social media.

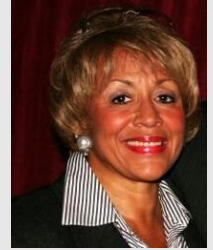
## From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods? Explain how you would address these issues.

Issue: Public Safety- Solutions -

- Increase the budget allocation for Neighborhood Police Officers (“NPO’s”), not militarized ROBO-COPS and heavily armored security services.
- Provide jobs and intensive job training for African Americans. People who work are less inclined to commit crimes

# LINDA BERNARD

District 2



Issue: Lack of Investment in Small Businesses – Solutions:

An equitable distribution of public resources by District;

Give the Districts increased control of economic resources for their District;

Decrease/ Eliminate the costs of doing business in the city, which are attributable to city policies and ordinances and that act as an increased tax on small businesses, citizens and homeowners.

**How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?**

-Personally meet with every block club and community association in District 2.

-Request copies of their meeting agendas and minutes to get an understanding of their current operations. Request that they add an item to their agenda entitled blight remediation, historic preservation and development in order to get direct community input through neighborhood channels on these subjects.

-Establish a manned office in the District for people to report their issues and concerns.

-Use the power of my office to be involved and responsive, and improve the District by effectively using the media.

**If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.**

Question not applicable to candidate.

**If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?**

-Eliminate/ Decrease the “ Detroit Tax” – (Sometimes called the Black Tax) - The taxes, fees, penalties charged by the City to Detroit residents and businesses which are in addition to their property taxes, as well as the insurance costs of people who live in Detroit. The failure to have auto insurance is resulting in the criminalization of the Black Community.

-Develop a D2 Network - Develop a prototype linking me/ City Council with all block clubs/ community associations, businesses and residents in District 2

-Increase neighborhood policing and provide more resources and training to community patrol.

**GEORGE CUSHINGBERRY JR., Incumbent**

District 2

**List your three most important duties if elected as a member of city council.**

Exiting State Financial Control with a continued effort for transparency in appropriations, financial management, auditing, and Promoting Literacy Improving communications with my constituents through the understanding of the Social Dynamics between individuals and organizations.

Promoting literacy through Reading, Education and Academics to spur Jobs and Economic Growth as a city.

**How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?**

As a City Council member my role is to listen to the concerns of my constituents good or bad, and develop a comprehensive policy inclusion on any business that wants to business in our city. I strongly endorse and support all Union Apprentice programs that reach out and train people who want to learn how to do something. Our children under 30 have an immense amount of talent that needs to be nurtured and guided toward professions in skilled trades and engineering programs for example. I support the skilled trade's task force that council President Brenda Jones chairs because there are some very good and interesting trades that citizens can learn and make a good living from.

**CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. How would you engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016?**

I would use the support of organizations like CDAD to educate and enlighten citizens who want to work on projects to link up with organizations like International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. I would strongly emphasize that there are a lot of Sisterhood of Electrical Workers too, just like in other organizations. 95% of all trade jobs are gender neutral and for a young person or a seasoned veteran, there are opportunities to make a good living doing interesting and challenging work. Most trade unions have great apprentice programs. If you are wanting to change careers or needing a first time job trying to find yourself, looking into apprentice programs may be an option for you.

**From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods? Explain how you would address these issues.**

The two most important issues impacting neighborhoods in my district is crime prevention and blight remediation. We are strongly encouraging people to put down their guns, come from behind the keyboard on the smart phone and talk to each other one to one in person. Mental health issues and conflict resolution is an issue in the city that need to be resolved through mandatory conflict resolution training for repeat offenders of domestic violence and bullying.



**GEORGE CUSHINGBERRY JR, Incumbent**

District 2

**How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?**

We look for community input from our constituents using social media, phone calls and, going out into the community and listening to people who come to District 2 to work, play, shop. Open recreation centers with public and private partnerships will add to the quality of life. The Department of Recreation has been given priority status because of the positive impact of their work. From the efforts and training by Recreation department employees youth who hung out at these places grew up to be men and women working in the Detroit Police and Fire Departments giving back to their neighborhoods. Swimming deaths are the second leading cause of death to youth in our community and this must change at once! I will look to increase the Rec Department's budget to allow for more programs for our children, youth and senior citizens.

**If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.**

This information can be found by going to the following website: [www.detroit.legistar.com](http://www.detroit.legistar.com) Search Criteria: Name=Cushingberry Drop Down Selection = Ordinances. All with date and ordinance number

15-3354 Ordinance New Business 9/19/2016 Submitting report relative to Ordinance Combining Citizens' District Councils and Community Advisory Committees. (President Pro Tem George Cushingberry, Jr., requested the Legislative Policy Division to draft an ordinance to combine Citizens' Districts Councils with Citizens' Advisory Councils.) (REFERRED TO THE PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STANDING COMMITTEE ON 1-8-15)

14-0605 Ordinance Voting Action Item 8/7/2014 Cushingberry, Jr., an ordinance to amend Chapter 18, Article XII of the 1984 Detroit City Code, by adding Division 7, "Special Assessments for Snow Removal, Mosquito Abatement and Security Services", Subdivision A, "General Matters", Sections 18-12-123, Subdivision B, "Petition", Sections 18-12-125 to 18-112-128, Subdivision C, "Establish of District and Assessment", Sections 12-12-130 to 18-12-142, and Subdivision D, "Contracting for Provision of Services", Sections 18-12-145 to 18-12 - *Answer exceeded 150 word limit*

**If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?**

Question not applicable to candidate.

## ROY McCALISTER JR.

District 2



### List your three most important duties if elected as a member of city council.

By Detroit City Charter, the main function of Detroit City Council is the fiduciary legislative body for the City of Detroit, therefore my three important duties will be:

- The financial and legislative oversight for the City of Detroit.
- Representative and Voice for the people of District 2; being assessable, transparent and a working councilman for District 2.
- Enhancing the quality of life for a diversified district in the areas of careers, safety, growth and development.

### How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?

As a retired Detroit Police Officer and Military Officer, both endeavors required an oath to Accept and uphold the U.S. Constitution, which require performing duties in an equal and unbiased manner regarding racial, social, gender, religion and cultural, etc; therefore, I have live, worked and taken pride to ensure the rights of everyone is represented and upheld in fair and an impartial manner. In reference to development being inclusively done in the city, my first obligation is to ensure development is conducted within District 2; matters involving the overall development within the city of Detroit, I look to continue building relationships and working with State and Federal legislators to ensure Detroit is inclusive in funding for development.

### CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. How would you engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016?

Proposal B passed in November 2016 was/is not a favorable and true proposal of Community Benefits Agreements. As a Precinct Delegate #235, during the process in the drafting of a fair and true community benefit agreement, I engaged my community with the language of both Proposals A (which also had it flaws) & B. As the Council Representative, I will continue to push for a more community involved proposal when this piece of legislation returns for review in 2018. That it involves community input, jobs on development within the communities of Detroit. I will fight to ensure the language in the 2018 proposal is designated and benefits the people of Detroit and not the developer(s).

### From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods? Explain how you would address these issues.

There are several issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods, one being the lack of attention; but to minimize down to my 2 perspectives, I will say Careers and Crime...

## ROY McCALISTER JR.

District 2



... It is my opinion that both issues go hand-in-hand. Jobs are created the Mayor's Office; therefore, as the District 2 Representative, I plan to work towards creating careers for sustainability and family quality of life in areas of education, development, blight removal, safety and security within our communities. To combat crime, there must be community involvement, engagement, and a pro active working relationships not only the Detroit Police Department, but all law enforcement agencies servicing Detroit. In reference to crime and our mentally challenged, I also look to venture into other avenues of treating individuals with mentally illness rather than incarceration as the treatment solution. Once these two perspectives are accomplished, there will be more pride from within, less tolerance to - Answer exceeded 150 word limit.

### **How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?**

Blight remediation is combated by organizing communities for clean-up projects, identifying and heavily penalizing those who illegally dump in Detroit; seeking organizational financial support; as well as seeking grants for improvement and beautification initiatives. Historical preservation again starts with community involvement to identify historical sites/landmarks and buildings; then working with historical organizations to assist in the preservation of such entities. The development of more recreation centers for both youth and seniors. Bring in more apprenticeship and certification schools and programs into the City of Detroit. Development will be a key factor during my tenure as District 2 representative; fore development means building, growth and preservation, and not necessarily in a destructive fashion by destroying our historical landmarks and history. Growth and preservation is a great ingredient for viable communities, like District 2.

### **If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.**

Question not applicable to candidate.

### **If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?**

- Community Benefit Agreements Development and Inclusive Career Development
- Quality of Life issues for sustainability
- Identify, create and enhance attractive measures for increasing more homeownership in Detroit.

Career Development enhances individual sustainment and quality of life. Increase homeownership improves tax revenue assessments for more and better city services, community upkeep, beautification and pride. Each of these policies brings about growth and viability into District 2, which hopefully will be a template for all of Detroit, making our communities within Detroit sustainable, marketable, and overall competitive on a global scale through careers, job, technology and financially stability.

# HELENA SCOTT

District 2



## List your three most important duties if elected as a member of city council.

- Serving the citizens and addressing their concerns to ensure continuous growth and development within District #2.
- Reviewing and approving contracts submitted by the Mayor and other City Departments, in addition to reviewing, changing and/or approving the city budget.
- Reviewing and approving/or not approving legislation that pertains to the city of Detroit, including the following: the sale or disposition of City Property; settlement of Civil Litigation involving the City; employee request for Legal Representation; requests for rezoning of property; development agreements; complaint petitions from the public regarding City Operations and Departments.

## How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?

As a Councilwoman in District #2 I would make sure that contracts generated for my district and the city of Detroit guarantee that Detroiters are hired first regardless of their ethnicity, religion, or social background.

## CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. How would you engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016?

I believe transparency is key. Residents need to be aware of the stipulations regarding Community Benefit Agreements. As a Councilwoman, I would make sure that District 2 is informed of the agreements that are passed and are aware of how these agreements affect them. I would also be sure to advocate on their behalf, making sure their concerns are addressed in these agreements.

## From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods? Explain how you would address these issues.

The two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods are economic job development and safety. With regard to economic job development, I would like to see the number of business within the 6 mile, 7 mile, and Livernois business districts increased. Doing so would enable business owners to hire more Detroiters within District 2, which would in turn help the District to thrive economically. With regard to safety, I would like to see Project Green Light expanded to more businesses within the District in order to reduce crime. I would also like to work in conjunction with the Police Precincts to give block club groups and organizations the resources necessary to create or expand their own neighborhood watch groups.

# HELENA SCOTT

District 2



**How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?**

I would engage District 2 in neighborhood quality of life projects such as blight remediation, historic preservation, and development, by holding information forums for residents. These forums would serve as an opportunity for different City service departments, such of the Public Works Department and Building Safety Engineering and Environmental Department, to provide citizens with pertinent information regarding their departments so they can work with them to address issues affecting our District.

**If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.**

Question not applicable to candidate.

**If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?**

My top three policy priorities include:

-Economic Development—I want to encourage economic development to enhance career and job opportunities in District2.

-Public Safety—To increase public safety I want to expand Project Green Light throughout District2.

-Neighborhood Revitalization—I want to increase neighborhood revitalization by eliminating blight and abandoned homes.



# NGUVU TSARE

District 2

Write-in Candidate



## List your three most important duties if elected as a member of City Council

- Represent, protect, and advance the interests of Detroit residents
- Ensure the funding and excellent implementation of city services
- Provide in-district leadership to galvanize local organizations and associations to collectively address our neighborhood's challenges

## How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?

As a representative of an 80% African American city, it will be paramount for me to ensure racial and social equity, especially given our city's history of racial discrimination against the Black community. I will take the lead on ensuring that the residents of my district and the city of Detroit are not only included in development decisions, but are the ones guiding it.

- Push for more job training programs that teach local Detroiters how to run construction companies, real estate development organizations and affordable housing developments
- Advocate for more affordable housing units in all new developments
- Direct city funds to strengthen non-profits and community groups serving disadvantaged groups
- Homeless youth
- Veterans
- Returning Citizens

## CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. How would you engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016?

- Work with the Planning Director to have more than the one required Public Meeting regarding the impact area of any impending development project.
- Lead residents in putting pressure on the liaison from the Legislative Policy Division to make public, in immediate fashion, all upcoming meetings and activities associated with the community engagement process related to impending development projects.
- Take the lead in finding passionate and qualified community residents to sit on any Neighborhood Advisory Council that is created in response to impending development projects.
- Work with my colleagues to get the 2/3 votes needed to allow for as many meetings between the NAC and the developer as deemed necessary by the NAC.
- Diligently monitor the actions taken directly after each meeting to ensure that the Community Benefits Report is given to the NAC before it is submitted to City Council.
- Immediately notify residents if any terms of the Community Benefits - *Answer exceeded 150 word limit.*

# NGUVU TSARE

District 2

Write-in Candidate



**From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods? Explain how you would address these issues.**

The top two issues impacting our neighborhoods are crime and lack of economic opportunity. In addition to pledging to give the support and resources the Detroit Police Department need to continue driving down crime in our neighborhoods, I have developed an initiative called "One Dollar One Dream."

The One Dollar One Dream Initiative is a program that our business may choose to opt into, allowing their customers to add a dollar to their purchase that would go into a District 2 account. On an annual basis a group of District 2 community leaders will allocate the funds raised to help residents in our district purchase their first home, start their first business if they're adequately prepared, and assist current small businesses in the district undergo renovation projects to either increase business or scale. The benefits of this program would be:

Reduce crime by filling vacant homes in our - *Answer exceeded 150 word limit.*

**How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?**

As an activist and organizer, community input has been the foundation of my political convictions. If given the honor of serving as the Councilman for District 2, I intend to conduct bi-monthly community meetings in different parts of the district to give our residents an additional vehicle through which to hold their political leadership accountable to them.

Weekly email to update residents on things impacting their neighborhood coming out of city hall

Actively engage on NextDoor to keep residents informed and gather their feedback on items they are concerned with

**If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.**

Question not applicable to candidate.

**If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?**

-Economic Empowerment

Our city cannot compete if our residents do not have an adequate opportunity to provide for their families. I will pursue livable wages for our residents by advocating Detroit join the Fight For 15 movement and increase our minimum wage to \$15. I will also pursue the strongest possible benefits for our residents from companies receiving taxpayer dollars, but not required to enter into a community benefits agreement.

-Education

Despite the fact that City Council has no jurisdiction over DPSCD, we should be implementing policies that show our city's commitment to its students through city-wide tutoring programs and city-funded after school programs. Detroit is already doing much to support our students with programs like Grow Detroit's Young Talent and the Detroit Promise Scholarship. I want to take our commitment to our youth even further.

-Support for Senior Citizens

I believe any community should be judged - *Answer exceeded 150 word limit.*

# TYRA DEAR-WILLIAMS

District 2



## List your three most important duties if elected as a member of city council.

- Respond to Citizen Inquiries
- Pass ordinances/resolutions
- Create opportunities that will develop Detroit Neighborhoods

## How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?

My role is to be a leader in the community in advocating for racial and social equity and inclusion in Detroit. Detroit is attracting new development to the city and as part of the legislative body it is my duty to enact those ordinances, resolutions, and agreements that will help to foster inclusion and advancement. Development projects must be held accountable, when it comes to being inclusive. Strong language must be used that emphasizes a none tolerance policy.

## CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. How would you engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016?

Work with neighborhood organizations, community groups, and hold community meetings concerning the ordinance and development. Use newsletters and websites in District 2 to inform members of developments and encourage participation. Use the NAC to communicate neighborhood concerns and engage residents.

## From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods? Explain how you would address these issues.

-Safety-Set up neighborhood safety zones and networks working with neighborhood organizations, block clubs and community groups. "if you see something say something"

-Jobs and jobs training-improves quality of life

## How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?

Communicate Communicate. Websites, Newsletters, community meetings, working with Churches, and other Community Organizations to help put the information out and encourage participation, hear what the community is saying and how they are reacting, also to get ideas, feedback and develop action plans.

# TYRA DEAR WILLIAMS

District: 2



**If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.**

Question not applicable to candidate.

**If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?**

-Neighborhood Safety -people will not live where they don't feel safe

-Community Action programs for youth- our youth need productive programs to get involved in after school and on the weekend.

-Support Small Business Growth-small businesses employ 50% of the workforce.

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# DISTRICT 3

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DETROIT CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE SURVEY

# CEDRIC BANKS

District 3



## List your three most important duties if elected as a member of city council.

Represent the Residents of District 3 – As a Pastor for many years I have actively honed the skill of listening and standing up for those I represent. Both are needed to do the role of city council member and I will absolutely bring that to the table. I am a man who will fight for the people!

Development – City Council controls a lot of which businesses and projects come into and stay in the city and some things have been allowed to proliferate that the residents were not in agreement with, so once again a big priority is to stand for the people.

Bring Results – The residents of District 3 have a lot of issues and concerns that need to be addressed, many of them are hurting or struggling, or just need help to make their community a better place. My goal is to bring results to District 3!

## How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?

New development that is done in the city needs to continue to include affordable housing and we need to provide more resources to those who want to stay in their current establishment but may be struggling to do so. Additionally, we should welcome those who want to be a part of this great city!

## CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. How would you engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016?

The residents absolutely deserve to be at the table with the developer discussing the changes that are going to go on in their neighborhood and rightfully asking for benefits that their tax dollars entitle them to. The existing ordinance does not appropriately provide that outlet in my view, but as a city council member I can look to make sure it happens anyway.

## From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods? Explain how you would address these issues.

Crime/Poverty – Both can be addressed by more jobs and resources. As the founder of a CDC I have provided training and jobs to many for years, even to felons and mentally challenged individuals. For resources I am well-connected to many organizations in the region through my television show “The Community Shall Be Restored” which airs every Saturday night at 8pm on Comcast 90. Episodes are also online at [www.cedricbanksfordetroit.com](http://www.cedricbanksfordetroit.com). The show is known for bringing resources to the community! As a city council member I would be able to do even more for the residents as far as jobs and resources in order to diminish the crime and poverty rates in District 3.



# CEDRIC BANKS

District 3



**How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?**

The input of the residents is always to be considered. One of the individuals in the community could have the answer to something that no one else has even thought of, so it is very important that the community has a voice on these issues and as a city council member for District 3 it would be my responsibility to represent the community.

**If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.**

Question not applicable to candidate.

**If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?**

Neighborhood Initiatives – there has to be more done in the neighborhoods in addition to just the downtown area. So I would look to see even more happening in the communities as far as normal city services, blight reduction, new development, recreation centers, infrastructure, etc.

Economic Development - particularly small businesses, as this will spur more job growth and continue positive morale in the city.

Schools – although this is not under the direct control of city council, there are programs that the city does control that directly effects our youth so I want to see that our youth are getting the help that they need to compete in this era, to succeed, and stay on the right path.

# RUSS BELLANT

District 3



## List your three most important duties if elected as a member of city council.

To maintain a dynamic relationship between District 3 residents and City Council proceedings to encourage involvement in policy and governance issues. To serve as an informed member of the legislative branch of City government that initiates ordinances and referenda and reviews, amends and approves budgets and policies of the executive branch. To receive concerns and identify neighborhood problems that the City can constructively address.

## How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?

I believe that the disparity between policies for Downtown-Midtown compared to District 3 is striking. I call it the Tale of Two Cities - one prospering, even if unevenly, the other struggling. Policies regarding water shutoffs, property tax foreclosures, school closings and lack of job development are most dramatic in District 3. We need new approaches that reverse our District and citywide depopulation and rebuild neighborhoods.

## CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. How would you engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016?

The passed ordinance is a denial of community engagement and needs to be amended by 1) dramatically lowering the dollar threshold where community benefits discussions are applicable, and 2) creating a community body to be at the table for identifying how the community will benefit when investors receive public assistance for their projects.

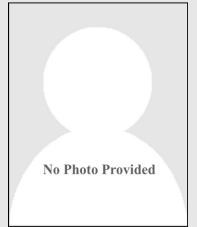
## From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods? Explain how you would address these issues.

Mass water shutoffs are related to fivefold price increases over the last dozen years. Water affordability must be implemented for low income residents, including seniors as well as households with children, whose education is harmed by shutoff conditions.

The City owns 27% of all District 3 property due to tax forfeitures. I'll ensure that property taxes are charged at actual property value. An Assistance Ombudsman will bring existing program assistance to challenged residents.

# RUSS BELLANT

District 3



**How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?**

I will create an independent Community Advisory Council per City charter to advise my office and continue my engagement with dozens of community organizations. I support historic preservation and will seek community and expert input. I will seek support for economic development ideas that will bring jobs to District 3, including some that I am incubating now.

**If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.**

Question not applicable to candidate.

**If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?**

Making Detroit living affordable on water services pricing; property tax policy; widespread and affordable public transportation. Enhancing public safety by increased staffing for improved response times and by improving retention policies of public safety workers and all City workers. A determined effort to return services in the areas of dead and dangerous trees, sidewalk repair, street drain cleanouts, pothole and large area street repair or resurfacing, as well as scheduled street cleaning.

## SCOTT BENSON, Incumbent

District 3



### List your three most important duties if elected as a member of city council.

Passing balanced budgets, approving/monotoring contracts and advocating for resources on behalf of my bosses, the residents if the 3rd District

### How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?

Advocating for oppprtunities on behalf of Detroit's at risk populations, which are presominately communities of color, for contracts and other business oppprtunities. In addition, supporting good policy like Prop B which ensures neighborhoods directy impacted by large developments have an opportunity to negotiate with developers to mitigate the negative impacts of that development.

### CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. How would you engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016?

The same way my office has continued to support the residents of the 3rd District and City as a whole, by ensuring the ordinance is carried out to the letter of the law. In addition, my team works to ensure residents are aware of all meetings and movements of existing and potential developments.

### From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods? Explain how you would address these issues.

Crime and job creation. I will continue to send public safety resources to DPD to ensure Detroit's police department is able to provide a high level of service. I will also keep fighting for the location of additional job creating developments in Detroit like LINC Logistics and FlexNGate. Both of which have brought over 600 jobs to the 3rd District

## SCOTT BENSON, Incumbent

District 3



**How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?**

Meet with local community groups and continue to advocate for their participation in these types of projects. My district office is a great location for groups to meet and get information on development projects.

**If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.**

My office initiated a modification to the SOB (strip club) ordinance, which allows the City of Detroit to better regulate rogue strip clubs in the city. My district had over 13 strip clubs, many of which were legally nonconforming uses located in neighborhoods. As a result of this ordinance, we have permanently closed two strip clubs.

**If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?**

Question not applicable to candidate.

# OLIVER GANTT

District 3

Write-in Candidate



## List your three most important duties if elected as a member of city council.

Three most important duties if elected as a council member: 1) To serve the people in District 3 with hard concentration in areas as blight, community communication through truth, honesty and most definitely transparency; 2) To enhance and enforce policies and procedures that will effect council members as well as our citizens, business owners, developers in district 3; and 3) With respect to crime in our communities, bringing to not just the youth, but our teens to at least 35 year olds awareness regarding health and well-being and knowledge as to what we as a unified community can accomplish and change for the better granted we can as a community put together things they need and shall cling to as an inheritance for the future generations already in route. I have a duty to reach out to these young men and women who are the fabric of the inner-city community. - Answer exceeded 150 word limit

## How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?

My role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city, is by personally overseeing and reiterating with fellow staff that such development in Detroit has to be equal in social and racial equity and that all residents of Detroit regardless of color, background or religious preference are welcome and needed in order to recreate a much better district 3, and Detroit as a whole.

## CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. How would you engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016?

How would I engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016 (Community Benefits Agreement): In short, I would engage the residents via a newsletter mailed to them through the United States Postal service, social media outlets, and news papers, as well as through public events. Further, as a representative it is my duty to ensure that residents are truly represented on community needs and desires, which include job negotiation (if we can negotiate jobs for those within the particular district, then this may guarantee employment opportunity for those who qualify), and where applicable , affordable housing and other benefits.

## From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods? Explain how you would address these issues.

From my perspective the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods are: 1) Crime and Safety, and 2) Blight. ...



# OLIVER GANTT

District 3

Write-in Candidate



...I would address crime and safety by engaging the residents highlighting the importance of speaking up when you know someone close to you has committed or is in the process of committing a crime. I would encourage residents to put camera systems on their property as a deterrent. Where it is still extremely dark on most inner-city blocks I will encourage residents to put flashlights by each door in their home to shine into the darkness. I also will implement a flashlight program, where I will personally arm the youth and senior citizens with harmless hand held flashlights to shine light on the blight and to alert people that they have stepped outside of their homes and probably in route to the bus stop during dark morning hours, or - Answer exceeded 150 word limit.

## **How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?**

I plan to incorporate community input by inviting those who wish to preserve/rebuild/assist in projects which reflect the whole of a block, neighborhood and district.

## **If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.**

As a new candidate, my top three policy priorities are Health, Safety Awareness, and Promoting the re-establishment of strong and dedicated neighborhood block clubs.

Health is very important, this has nothing to do with an obesity problem per se, but an overall get healthy to live a longer life effort by promoting going to a gym, a walk around your neighborhood park, eating healthier foods as opposed to not just fast foods but more nutritional foods being prepared in the home. Not just about what goes in the mouth, also in the brain. You are what you eat! So, promote watching less to non-violent programs and attentive to what we allow in our ears....

Safety Awareness, I intend to implement a flashlight program due to the lack of lighting on most inner-city blocks. Even though there is one or two new LED lights, even when standing under them you still can barely see anything down your block. So as a safety measure flashlights will be given to citizens via a program called: Lighting Up The City of Detroit. This is a program which will have community and media involvement in - Answer exceeded 150 word limit

## **If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?**

Question not applicable to candidate.

**DENNIS GREEN**

District 3

**List your three most important duties if elected as a member of City Council.**

- Restructure/Develop the Forest department,
- Reinvent the Neighborhood Office's into "Media Hubs/Centers"
- Increase Safety Programs for All Aspects of Civil Engineering Duties.

**How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?**

As A Citizens who have worked in many forms of employment and also served in the US Army. Detroiters have always had an open door policy for all citizens. My supervisors in both the military and as a civilian men and women showed me the power of diversity.

**CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. How would you engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016?**

Citizens are looking for work and are willing to work, get prepared to work and just need a voice, like myself, who they know works for a living. Communicating is the Key.

**From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods? Explain how you would address these issues**

Unemployment and Lack of Reinvestment with current homeowner owners. Continue to have conversations about jobs coming up, how to prepare for those jobs, and what classes to take if needed for the jobs. Different licenses if needed. Bring back home improve grants payable to local contractor's to replace windows and gutters, paint and repair porches. Minor stuff that really is major.

**How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?**

Communication, Communication, Communication in all forms and technology available.

# DENNIS GREEN

District 3



**If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.**

Question not applicable to candidate.

**If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?**

-Jobs and temp. jobs: eliminate crime overnight and bring a sense of pride by to themselves

-Home Improvement grants for home owners: DTE had worst storm in its 89 year History, A lot of Seniors Need Help. Grants not LOANS.

-Forest Department will be transferred to the Transportation Department for Safety concerns of Home Owners, Businesses, Pedestrians and Bicycles.

**ADAM R. MUNDY**

District 3

**List your three most important duties if elected as a member of city council.**

If elected as a member of the Detroit City Council, my most important responsibilities will be writing (or rewriting) city ordinances, balancing the city's budget every fiscal year and making sure District 3 is represented in every way, having a voice in the overall forward movement of the City of Detroit.

**How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?**

By supporting, encouraging and providing forums & townhalls, workshops, etc. that focuses on improving race relations not only in District 3, but the city as a whole.

**CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. How would you engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016?**

I am very much in support of a Community Benefits Agreement, however, I did not support Proposal B.

**From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods? Explain how you would address these issues.**

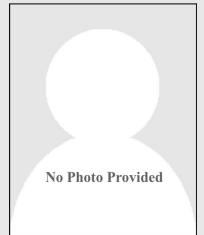
The first issue is having safe and secure neighborhoods. I want to explore the possibility of providing in-district incentives to attract our public safety officers back as residents of the city. The second issue is the high unemployment rate. I want to create pre-employment programs in the district, ensuring residents are qualified and prepared to get and keep gainful employment.

**How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?**

I will have initiatives to fight minor and major blight in the communities, hosting board-up events in the neighborhoods, encouraging residents to participate in those efforts while being fiscally compensated.

**ADAM R. MUNDY**

District 3



**If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.**

Question not applicable to candidate

**If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?**

First, neighborhood development and restoration--District 3 is not been given the attention it deserves and I want to be the one to make sure it shall, going forward. Secondly, reducing crime in the neighborhoods. Zip code 48205 is claimed to be the worst area code, I want to change that opinion. And lastly, but surely not least, ensuring a better quality of life for our senior citizens. I want to provide them with the utmost assistance with City services.

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# DISTRICT 4

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DETROIT CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE SURVEY

# ANEMASHAUN (ANE) BOMANI

District 4



## List your three most important duties if elected as a member of city council.

Provide viable services for the residents of Detroit, respond to their neighborhood concerns and represent the interests of the commons

## How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?

As a community activist, I have dedicated my life to racial equality through my leadership as a historian and fighter for the majority Black population in Detroit. The majority population must have a major seat at the table to decide the direction of Detroit, because people of African descent have been the most disenfranchised, but little is known about their major contributions to civilization, including America. Strong Black Detroiters, who will not sell out for fame or fortune

## CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. How would you engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016?

Monthly newsletters, community forums and door to door engagements.

## From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods?

Explain how you would address these issues. Black business, youth development and political participation. Bring in Black developers, construction people and mentoring programs, that are based at some of these closed community recreation centers.

## How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?

Try to bring back community district councils to advise the administration of community concerns.



## **ANEMASHAUN (ANE) BOMANI**

District 4



**If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.**

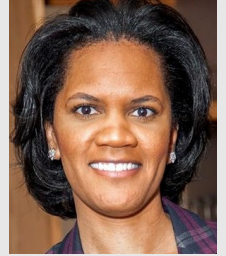
Question not applicable to candidate.

**If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?**

Black entrepreneurship, neighborhood sustainability and youth development. To mentor and encourage future youth leaders and community reconstruction.

# LATISHA JOHNSON

District 4



## List your three most important duties if elected as a member of city council.

Improve our neighborhoods, create accessible job training programs, and mitigate blight.

## How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?

My role is to be the voice of the community. I will work for residents in the community to ensure programs and resources reach Detroit residents and provide for equal opportunity. I think it's extremely important to require that Detroiters are employed by developers who receive tax abatements but I also believe it's equally important to prepare Detroiters for ALL types of employment opportunities.

## CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. How would you engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016?

I will ensure residents understand the ordinance that was passed in November 2016. And, when development happens in District 4, I will work to drive residents to the process by communicating within the community to encourage a diverse Neighborhood Advisory Council; continually working with the developer and residents to ensure a fair and equitable development project for the community.

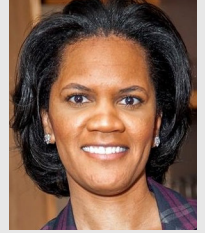
## From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods? Explain how you would address these issues.

Blight. I will work to encourage owner-occupants to purchase properties from the Detroit Land Bank Authority. I will do this by giving owner-occupants a two-week priority to bid; therefore, keeping investors from over-inflating the purchase price of the home.

Lack of job training programs for the current job market. Provide access to job training programs by supporting the reopening of rec/community centers where job training can take place to ensure Detroiters are prepared for jobs.

# LATISHA JOHNSON

District 4



**How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?**

It is important to remember that City Council members serve the public and cannot take that public for granted. I plan to host town hall meetings when important policy issues are being discussed and will attend community meetings to understand the issues throughout the district.

**If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.**

Question not applicable to candidate.

**If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?**

Neighborhood Commercial Improvements. Support changes in legislation that prevents commercial property owners from entering into a payment agreement for vacant properties. It has lead to blighted corridors.

Community Benefits Ordinance. Review the total investment thresholds. Allow for greater transparency so all info is made available to NAC members in a timely manner for review and suggestions.

NEZ. Support extending the date and expanding the boundaries. Encourage neighborhood revitalization.

## ANDRE L. SPIVEY, Incumbent

District 4



### List your three most important duties if elected as a member of city council.

Approve the city budget Make sure the city completes this third year with a surplus so Financial Advisory committee can be moved from our city business. Approve all contracts Approve the necessary items needed to operate our city but do do in a financially responsible way. Write and present ordinances Improve the quality of life for all residents by bringing ordinances that can be enforced.

### How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?

Life experiences and my vocation prior to the Council prepared me and while on the Council I've had opportunities to interact, serve and fight for all who live in Detroit. I have given great effort to see to it that development in our city is inclusive. Unfortunately cooperation from the administration, other levels of government and the development community makes it difficult to fulfill my ultimate aim of making sure there are opportunities for those who come with viable projects.

### CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. How would you engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016?

I have shared the ordinance with constituents via the District 4 app, District 4 website, the bi-annual District 4 newsletter and by attending community meetings. It is important for citizens to know what is going on in their neighborhood, particularly when a new, major development desires to come. I will stress that citizens attend all meetings associated with a particular development under the CBA ordinance.

## ANDRE L. SPIVEY, Incumbent

District 4



**From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods? Explain how you would address these issues.**

The two most important issues impacting our neighborhoods are neighborhood development and public safety. I have and will stress the importance of investing in neighborhoods as we've seen downtown and in midtown. I have historically voted for contract that gives our police department the necessary tools need to fight crime. I have and will continue to partner with the NPO's and will encourage more block clubs to participate in the Neighborhood Patrol program.

**How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?**

I disseminate information to constituents via the District 4 app, District 4 website, the bi-annual District 4 newsletter and attending community meetings. My office monitors and also receives information from citizens regarding blight and they are well informed when new development will impact our district. I work closely with the City Planning Commission staff which oversees our historic preservation projects and appoints citizens to serve on Historic District Advisory Boards.

**If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.**

In 2014, I led the passing of the Gas Station Camera Ordinance which required all gas stations to have cameras on the interior and exterior of the building. This ordinance was also a precursor to the current voluntary Project Green Light program which I am leading to become an ordinance in which I hope to get passed by late summer or early fall.

**If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?**

Question not applicable to candidate.

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# DISTRICT 5

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DETROIT CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE SURVEY

## MARY SHEFFIELD, Incumbent

District: 5



### List your three most important duties if elected as a member of city council.

As a member of City Council, my first responsibility is to be accountable to, and representative of, the will of constituents when promulgating laws and approving financial transactions on behalf of the city.

Next, I believe my responsibility is to make City Government transparent and accessible to the residents of my District and the City.

Finally, my third most important duty is to take government and resources directly to the people in an effort to significantly improve their quality of life.

### How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?

It is incumbent upon me as an elected official, as an African-American woman and as a descendant of a giant in the Civil Rights movement to play a prominent role in ensuring racial and social equity and that development is inclusive in Detroit.

To that end I have sponsored an affordable housing and housing trust fund ordinance, I supported Proposal A - a true CBA ordinance, I fought to save the Senior Home repair grant program, held Save Our Homes and Save Our Schools rallies and meetings and protested against water shut-offs and foreclosures.

### CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. How would you engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016?

I have committed to ensuring that any development in District 5 will follow the CBA ordinance to the letter of the law and in instances where the ordinance falls short work with the community, developer and administration to add language which respects the community and protects the interest of the residents and City.

I will publicize all community meetings with the developer and ensure residents are included in the discussions early in the process. I will also work with residents to help define their needs and wants and urge the developer to respond to, and meet, all reasonable requests.



## MARY SHEFFIELD, Incumbent

District: 5



**From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods? Explain how you would address these issues.**

In my opinion, the two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods are poverty and the lack of resources and the lack of quality education. All other issues such as crime and blight are by-products of the poverty and lack of education and jobs.

Since taking office I have attempted to address these issue through my monthly Conversations with the Councilwoman, by authoring resolutions to show support for the Detroit Public School system, by hosting annual Occupy the Corner events, by mentoring young girls and by ensuring that tax incentives are equitable and given responsibly.

**How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?**

As I have done since taking office, I will host monthly community meetings and annual District 5 planning meetings to elicit the community's priorities for City government. I will use the responses and sentiment from District 5 residents in those meetings to establish my District 5 legislative agenda and to offer amendments to the administration's budget.

**If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.**

I was in full support of Proposal A and voted against sending Proposal B to the ballot with respect to the competing community benefits agreement ordinances. After Proposal B was successfully placed on the ballot, I immediately gave my public support for Proposal A and hosted a meeting to inform the public of the differences and why Proposal A represents a true community benefits ordinance.

**If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?**

Question not applicable to candidate.

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# DISTRICT 6

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DETROIT CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE SURVEY

# TYRONE CARTER

District 6



## List your three most important duties if elected as a member of city council.

The three most important duties of a city council member are: Conduct the legislative duties consistent with the position, be the Chief Advocate for stakeholders in the district, and work with other Council members and the Mayor for the betterment of the entire city.

## How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?

I see my role as being a large one, especially because District 6 is the most diverse district in the city. Any development in the city must include input from the host community.

## CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. How would you engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016?

As a resident of a host community (48217) that had an opportunity to negotiate a binding community benefits agreement in 2009, but had little or no support from our elected officials, I know first hand the importance of community engagement. I will hold informational meetings throughout the district with the purpose of educating the community what community benefits are and why we need to have them in writing.

## From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods? Explain how you would address these issues.

Safety (crime), and the rising costs associated with living in the city. To address the safety, we can explore expanding "green lights" to targeted residential areas. Also, partner with organizations such as the Urban Safety Center at Wayne State to address some of the issues. According to most, if not all residents, the cost of insurance (home and auto), is a another reason that residents are leaving the city. We must find a way to bring equality for residents on this issue.

# TYRONE CARTER

District 6



**How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?**

My goal is to have employ staff members from various neighborhoods in the district and incorporate the information received from community meetings into blight issues, historic issues, and development. As a lifelong resident and long time homeowner I know that being elected can be temporary, but being a homeowner/resident can be for decades, so resident input will be a priority when discussing and deciding these issues.

**If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.**

Question not applicable to candidate.

**If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?**

Safety, the increasing cost of living in the city, and education. Each issue is intimately linked to the success and growth of the city. If people do not feel safe, they will move. Insurance, and increased fees are draining the already shrinking resources of seniors, retirees and working families. The education system needs immediate attention if the city plans on retaining current students, and attracting families with children.

# RAQUEL CASTAÑEDA-LÓPEZ, Incumbent

District 6



## List your three most important duties if elected as a member of city council.

Council's role is to legislate and to serve as a check to the Mayor's Office in relation to the budget, development projects, city services, etc. I also feel that resident services is the third, and perhaps the most important function of Council, although this is not an official role of the legislative branch.

## How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?

I believe that the role of government is to ensure that resources are equitably distributed to make sure that everyone has the same opportunity to lead a healthy, happy life. As such, I try to use the platform of City Council to elevate the voices and needs of our most disenfranchised communities in Detroit to ensure that development is addressing their needs. I do this through community outreach via my two service centers, door knocking and a multitude of community meetings.

## CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. How would you engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016?

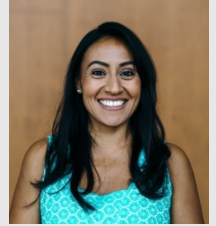
Soon after being elected, I began negotiating community benefits with Olympia Development on behalf of the Cass Corridor neighborhood. Although we did not win on many of our asks, this process taught me the importance of engaging residents long before development deals come to the table. Under the current ordinance, I have worked to make sure residents are trained and informed before meeting with the developer, fought to extend the time frame and pushed to make the process transparent.

## From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods? Explain how you would address these issues.

1) Lack of community infrastructure and 2) investment of City resources: Many of the most under-served neighborhoods in the City have very few non-profits, schools, churches, block clubs, etc. In addition, these areas tend to have a high percentage of seniors and/or children living in poverty and are the most under-served by the City. I've been working to address these issues through neighborhood capacity building and community organizing through door knocking and training residents.

# RAQUEL CASTAÑEDA-LÓPEZ, Incumbent

District 6



## **How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?**

I run my office like a non-profit and community outreach and engagement is key to any initiatives we put forward. I currently collect information via door knocking, community meetings and my two offices. In addition, my team and I attend over 500 community meetings annually and we host an additional 10-12 throughout the year. The input we receive is used to guide our policy agenda, meeting topics and mobile service office.

## **If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.**

My office created the municipal ID program for the City, in an effort to reduce barriers to resources and information for some of our most marginalized communities in Detroit. Returning citizens, the homeless, immigrants, children and seniors all struggle to obtain an ID and the municipal ID card removes some of those hurdles by broadening the list of acceptable documents. This legislation was born from a community need, created in collaboration with the community.

## **If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?**

Question is not applicable to candidate.

# FELICITA LUGO

District 6



**List your three most important duties if elected as a member of city council.**

*Did not respond.*

**How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?**

Racial and social equality have always been important ingredients in the city's growth and stability. City council and their members can keep this conversation going and lead the city into even more stable neighborhoods. It is also vital that businesses continue to develop and expand in the city limits and employ residents.

**CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. How would you engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016?**

Being transparent in all city council business encourages its members to remain accountable to the residents. All new developments and businesses need to be held to the same standards because of the direct impact it has on the residents.

**From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods? Explain how you would address these issues.**

The primary issue I am supporting is safety. The second issue is blight. The two seem to be related. For example, many vacant and abandoned lots and houses as well as dilapidated places of business can cause major safety hazards because of the dangers the weakened structures represent and the temptation for people to use the vacant buildings for illegal activity. I will address the issue by appropriating funds for the tear down of dangerous structures which will help to improve safety.



## FELICITA LUGO

District 6



**How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?**

All of the above mentioned areas concerning quality of life directly impact the residents. Most projects improve quality of life, which can welcome and encourage neighborhood support and input. Communicating with the residents like holding block meetings will encourage their input and sustain stronger, more united neighborhoods.

**If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.**

Question not applicable to candidate.

**If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?**

Safety, blight and transparency.

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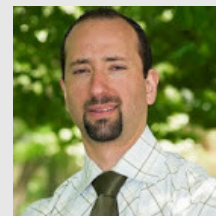
# DISTRICT 7

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DETROIT CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE SURVEY

## GABE LELAND, Incumbent

District 7



### List your three most important duties if elected as a member of city council.

3 important duties include legislative duties and passing ordinances that improve the quality of life for residents in our neighborhoods, advocating for my district in the budget process, and strong constituent service

### How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?

I re-established the Disability Task Force because of my commitment to ensuring equal access to jobs, transportation, and housing for all residents. The City of Detroit must include all community members in the development process regardless of ethnic or national origin, gender, race, religion, or sexual orientation. It is important that residents and community stakeholders are engaged more in the development process, to create more equitable outcomes and put more Detroiters to work.

CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. How would you engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016?

Ten acres of vacant, blighted land in District 7 was transformed into one of the largest urban solar arrays in the United States. Community engagement was critical to this process and my office coordinated community workshops with residents to make sure their voice was heard in the process. I will continue my strong commitment to engaging the community on development projects.

### From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods? Explain how you would address these issues.

Blight and Public Safety are two top issues. Building strong community partnerships at the neighborhood level is key to addressing these issues. District 7's foreclosure prevention program helped hundreds of families stay in their homes with the aid of block clubs and faith leaders. When District 7 was shut out of demolition funding, we fought and brought millions home to our neighborhoods to fight blight.

## GABE LELAND, Incumbent

District 7



**How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?**

I already incorporate community input in District 7 projects. We achieve the best outcomes when we engage block clubs, neighborhood association, and local stakeholders. The revitalization of Littlefield Playfield is a prime example of what is possible when community leaders are at the forefront of a project.

**If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.**

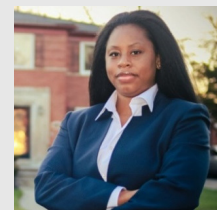
My work and votes on the city budgets, where we finished both the 2015 and 2016 with a balanced budget, delivered millions of dollars in resources to district 7. We now have better EMS response times, better lighting, community policing and a reduction in blighted homes. We have improved delivery of city services to residents in District 7.

**If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?**

Question not applicable to candidate.

# JOANNA UNDERWOOD

District 7



## List your three most important duties if elected as a member of city council.

- Approval of the Mayoral budget
- Negotiating all city contracts
- Writing city ordinance

## How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?

The great City of Detroit has a population of residents that's over 80% African Americans. African Americans unfortunately never had racial and social equity in United States of America. As your next city council member, I will enforce the 51% hiring policy for all development projects that receives 50% or higher public funding. I will negotiate with the developers to provide a standard living wage for Detroit workers. This will reduce some of the poverty in our city.

## CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. How would you engage residents in the ordinance that was passed in November 2016?

I'm currently an advocate for proposal A. I'm collecting signatures to put proposal A back on the ballot. I was involved with the first proposal and helped proposal A win in District 2 and 3. I'm working hard to make sure we get it done this time. I have no interest in the city ordinance that passed because it provides no benefit for the residents of District 7.

## From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods? Explain how you would address these issues.

Crime and poverty are the two prevailing entities that seems to have been the dark cloud over my district for quite some time. Poverty indirectly kills people and destroys families. My district has one of the highest poverty rates in the city. With limited resources, job placements are very challenging. We need real investments for job creations in District 7. I will provide tax incentives for developers that will create standard living wages for residents in my District. Also doing what we call "Cash Mobs" which centers around highlighting and patronizing small struggling businesses.

# JOANNA UNDERWOOD

District 7



**How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?**

I will put together a survey and a street team to canvass the neighborhoods, asking residents what kind of improvement they would like to see from the survey. I will pull money from the city's general funding to help block clubs and neighborhood associations to fight against foreclosures in our community. Hence, it will reduce blight and allow block clubs and neighborhood associations to decide what kind of improvements that are needed on their block.

**If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.**

Question not applicable to candidate.

**If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?**

**Poverty:** Poverty is the cousin of crime. I will create job training programs to bring back skilled trade workers.

**Crime:** I will help reduce crime and protect business owners by writing a city ordinance to mandate that all gas stations have armed security guards in the late hours of the night. This will reduce crime in our neighborhoods and prevent random robberies while providing job opportunities.

**Foreclosures** is a big issue not only in my district, but in the entire city of Detroit. The "Hardest Hit Funding" initiative was originally created to prevent foreclosures, a great portion of the budget has been redirected to aid blight. I will work heavily with Michigan State Housing Authority to ensure that residents in my district are educated about the funding that is available for foreclosed homes.

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# METHODOLOGY

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## DETROIT CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE SURVEY

THE SURVEY DOCUMENT IS NOT AN ENDORSEMENT OF ANY CANDIDATE.

This is a tool created to help inform residents and to raise important issues across the city and in neighborhoods.

CDAD contacted all candidates certified by the Department of Elections as eligible to appear on the primary ballot for August 2017. Write-in candidates included are those who appeared as a write-in candidate by the Department of Elections or those who demonstrated a public campaign presence for 2017 including, but not limited to, a social media pages, website, campaign literature, or speaking at candidate forums. All candidates were asked seven questions with a 150 word limit per response. Excess words in answers were replaced with '*Answer exceeded 150 word limit.*' Responses left blank by the candidate state '*Did not respond.*'

Candidates received the survey twice via email between May 12, 2017 and June 12, 2017. The questionnaires were sent to the campaign emails provided to the Department of Elections. Additionally, follow up phone calls were made to all candidates during the same period to listed campaign contact numbers. Responses are presented as they were submitted, with formatting to ensure uniformity and to ensure fit in the space allotted. Once compiled, the survey was sent to a review committee of staff and community partners for review and to provide feedback on the overall consistent appearance of the survey before release.

Thank you to CDAD staff members and partners for your hard work in reviewing and editing the survey document. Special thanks to our summer interns from Michigan State University, Mikaylah Heffernan and Dean Martin. Finally, thanks to Nicole Weyandt for the design and layout.



CDAD



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# CANDIDATE LETTER

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## DETROIT CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE SURVEY

May 12, 2017

In advance of this year's election, Community Development Advocates of Detroit (CDAD) is requesting your participation in a candidate survey to better understand your agenda if elected as a member of the Detroit city council.

CDAD is a membership organization of 100 community development organizations across the city. Our members include community development corporations, neighborhood improvement organizations, and block clubs all who work across the city to stabilize neighborhoods and attract investment back into the community. We support our members through community based planning, community engagement, and public policy advocacy. CDAD's policy agenda is committed to issues that improve quality of life, ensure healthy and strong communities, and build the power of Detroit residents to advocate on their own behalf.

As a 501(c)(3) organization, we cannot support or oppose any candidate for public office. The survey is an informational tool for our members and residents to evaluate candidates running for city council in their district and at-large. The results will be published via our website, newsletter and through direct emails. Please limit your response to each question to 150 words. Answers will be presented as they are written, up to the word limit. Questions left blank will read '*Did Not Respond.*'

We hope that you will take this opportunity to communicate your views on how you would best represent your constituents in Detroit neighborhoods as a city council member. To meet our publication deadline, please return your completed survey no later than **Monday, June 12, 2017**. A photo is not required but encouraged; if you choose to include one, email your headshot to [latoyamorgan@cdad-online.org](mailto:latoyamorgan@cdad-online.org). Please include candidate name with the photo.

You can respond to the candidate survey questions in **one of three ways**:

- 1 Via email by responding below;
- 2 Online via the link <https://goo.gl/forms/5DCbXdmNiSheRH0E3>;
- 3 By mail to that address below (must be received by deadline).

# #QUESTIONS4CANDIDATESDETROIT17

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVOCATES OF DETROIT

## #QUESTIONS4CANDIDATESDETROIT17

Leading up to the 2017 elections, CDAD is working to support residents to have informed conversations with candidates seeking elected office. We have created #Questions4candidatesDetroit17 as an educational tool to provide residents with critical questions that reflect issues in the community and impact the future of Detroit. These questions are meant to be used during the election season at forums and conversations with candidates for Mayor and City Council. For questions about CDAD policy and advocacy, email [latoyamorgan@cdad-online.org](mailto:latoyamorgan@cdad-online.org)

- List your three most important duties if elected as a member of city council.
- How do you see your role in ensuring racial and social equity in Detroit and ensuring that development is done inclusively in the city?
- CDAD supported the creation of community benefit agreements to inform how development is done in the city. Per the ordinance of 2016, how would you engage residents in new developments where the ordinance applies?
- From your perspective, what are the top two most important issues impacting Detroit neighborhoods? Explain how you would address these issues.
- How do you plan to incorporate community input in neighborhood quality of life projects including but not limited to blight remediation, historic preservation, and development?
- If an incumbent, give an example of a vote or ordinance that you supported to best represent your constituents' needs and concerns.
- If a new candidate, what are your top three policy priorities? Why?

Thank you for your participation.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVOCATES OF DETROIT

## JOIN CDAD!

*Where Detroit Happens*

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

CDAD members receive a number of special benefits toward advocacy, public policy, strategic framework, and industry reform.

- Influence public policy by advancing a collective voice that represents the interests of Detroit communities.
- Participate in Professional Development trainings for Detroit's most pressing issues.
- Receive technical assistance in responding to challenging and shifting neighborhood needs.
- Stay informed about local industry trends and share your events and new programs through our monthly newsletter.

## D[COM]MUNITY

### #GETONTHEMAPDETROIT

The interactive Map and Directory for all Detroit-based community organizations.



@CDADDetroit  
[www.CDAD-online.org/dcommunity](http://www.CDAD-online.org/dcommunity)



