

James E. Tate

Age: 34

Current Occupation: Resigned/Former 2nd Deputy Chief - Detroit Police Department

Education: Wayne State University - 1998 - College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts with a Bachelors Degree in Radio/TV/Film

Felony Convictions: None

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Why are you running for Detroit City Council?

I am running for Detroit City Council because I care about our community, I care about the future of this city and I am tired of the city looking the way it does and its residents feeling like they do. Our city services are poor (at best), fear of crime has become an accepted part of resident's lives, and too many of our elected officials are ethically challenged.

We need people in office who not only have a vision but the ability to make that vision a reality. I worked in city government in a high profile position at the Detroit Police Department (DPD) for a number of years. I know what it will take to begin to turn our city around. Our elected officials must work with the citizens as a genuine partnership to address the ills of our community.

I know that being a public servant is a 24 hour job. Everything that you do from the time you wake up to the time you go to sleep has to always be in the best interest of the people.

In me, you have someone who knows the importance of service, sacrifice, and commitment.

What are your top 3 priorities for Detroit? *

Top on my list is creating a better informed community. I will do this by creating a committee comprised of various social and human services agencies and we will develop a pipeline of information that will be disseminated out into the community. Accessible information and support will be made available on matters such as parental assistance with children who have behavioral issues, adults who truly don't know how to conduct proper parenting, as well as programs targeting personal financial literacy. I believe that an informed community has the ability to make better decisions and is more willing to create partnerships with local government.

Number two, I will work on increasing enforcement on ordinances that we already have on the books such as ordinances against the blight that is plaguing our community. Many structures in our community have been allowed to deteriorate for a number of years and no one is being held accountable. That affects the quality of life for residents and it brings the property value down for everyone around them.

If these individuals or companies are fined for their lack of complying with our ordinances, it would help generate dollars back into the general fund and help chip away at the budget deficit.

Lastly, I will focus on fiscal responsibility in city government. Just like a personal budget, the city can't spend what the city doesn't have. The current budget deficit stands at about \$300 million and our overall city budget is \$3.3 billion. There are certainly efficiencies that can be identified that will slice the deficit. But we can no solely continue to look at cutting jobs as a means to get us out of the red, because it further erodes our city services. When jobs are cut, families are also negatively affected and I believe that if we don't begin to strengthen our families, we will never restore our city. So when you cut jobs and eliminate health benefits, it has a domino effect on the entire family structure. One of the measures to address the budget deficit that I will look at is possibly controversial in our city, but it is leasing the naming rights to some of our public facilities. Let me be clear, this is not selling the facilities. Leasing naming rights simply means that we would receive money from companies who want to place their name on a public facility. The city would have the right to refuse any name that conflicts with the positive image of Detroit. Other cities have successfully utilized this as a means of gaining revenue. While it may be uncomfortable to call public venues something else than their current names, leasing the naming rights of these facilities have the potential to generate millions of dollars, save jobs and keep families in tact.

What have been your 2 greatest contributions to the public good? *

1) As a member of the Detroit Police Department, I created a mentor program at the Department where off duty Detroit Police Officers volunteered their time with at-risk youth. The program is called C2Y (Cops Caring for Youth) and many of the officers who helped establish the program still maintain a connection with their mentees and play a major role in their ongoing development.

2) I also have volunteered my own time mentoring groups of young men in my neighborhood. Last year I gathered two other male mentors from the community and commenced meetings with the male youth every Sunday at 4:00 PM. Immediately, we saw a reduction in neighborhood vandalism and an increase in the young men's civic activities. Some of the young men revealed that they voted for the first time last November because of our interaction and encouragement.

Additionally, I annually volunteer in the city-wide clean ups that aim at removing the debris and litter from our city streets. I also volunteer every year for the city's Angels Night effort and am a member of my residential block club and neighborhood civic association.

What is the unique characteristic that makes you stand out among the 167 candidates running for City Council?

I am the only candidate running for city council who has executive experience in city government that left their job to run for office. Please keep in mind that this was a very secure and well-paying job that carried a certain prestige. There is no "golden parachute" for me if I am not elected and these are very tough economic times. So I know what it means to make a sacrifice and I have proven my commitment to the city of Detroit.

In my former position as the Detroit Police Department's 2nd Deputy Chief, I was tasked with, among other duties, being the Department's spokesperson and served in a very visible position for a number of years. I always prided myself on my professionalism and never brought any dishonor to my position or to the residents that I served. Many of the local, state and federal law enforcement agencies that I have worked with over the years also speak highly of my integrity.