

Ken Harris

Age: 35

Education: Clark Atlanta University, BA Psychology, Clark Atlanta University, MA Counseling Psychology, Wayne State University, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, Specialist Candidate, Lewis College of Business, Doctorate of Humane Letters

Felony Convictions: No

Campaign Website: www.HarrisforCharter.com

Campaign Contact Number: (313) 638-2052

What do you consider to be your relevant experience that qualifies you to be a Charter Commissioner?

- Founder & President/CEO, Detroit Black Expo 7,500 Members
- Director of Minority Business Development, MMBDC
- Chair, Michigan Black Chamber of Commerce
- Former, Chief of Staff, City of Southfield Mayor
- Former, Director of Greek Affairs, Wayne State University
- Former, Counseling Psychologist, St. John Hospital
- U.S. Small Business Administration Minority Business Advocate of the Year
- Crain's Detroit Business 40 under 40
- Who's Who in Black Detroit Most Influential
- WWJ 950 Emerging Leaders Under 40

How do you feel about Detroit's current "strong mayor" system of government?

I believe in a strong Mayor form of government for the City of Detroit. Detroit is the 11th largest city in the country and the residents should decide which qualified leader shall represent them in that particular capacity. But, I also believe the Detroit City Council should be empowered as well in a Council by District city government.

How do you think we should change the City Charter to improve the Ethics and Accountability of our elected and appointed city officials?

We have to strengthen our ethical guidelines in the Detroit City Charter and empower the ethics board to enforce those guidelines. More importantly I believe the ethics board should be elected by an independent body to avoid conflict of interest. Detroit needs complete clarity and transparency when it comes to holding our leaders accountable.

Do you favor electing City Council by districts? If NO - Why? If YES -What kind of district structure do you foresee?

I support Council by Districts in the City of Detroit. It is time that leaders elected to serve and represent the people of Detroit are held accountable by their neighbors. I would like to research how many Districts will be needed in the City of Detroit – based on current demographic and population trends, so that each resident has proper representation, along with the possibly of combined at-large seats as well. Council by District also means “Economic Empowerment” allowing us to rebuild the City of Detroit district by district with a unified economic agenda.

What should be the guiding principles under which Charter Commission should identify, deliberate, and address issues?

- Leadership
- Vision
- Experience
- Research
- Teamwork
- Advisory
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Dedication
- Information
- Integrity
- Insight
- Character
- Communication

- 21st Technology
- Accountability
- Responsibility
- Effectiveness
- Goals and Objectives
- Timeline
- Completion of Charter Revision