

Detroit City Council Questionnaire

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February 19, 1974

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St. Paul A.M.E. Church

Pastor

Sixteen years in the Christian Ministry

Five years at the present church assignment

High School Diploma 1992

Cass Technical High School

Detroit, Michigan

Bachelor of Arts 1996

Morehouse College

Atlanta, Georgia

Master of Divinity 2000

Colgate Rochester Divinity School

Rochester, New York

Master of Science December 2009

Central Michigan University

Mt. Pleasant, Michigan/Detroit Area Campuses

I have not been elected to any public office.

I have served on the Detroit School Board Transition Team (2005).

I do presently serve on the Wayne County Economic Development Authority and the Wayne County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

1. A new, fresh, energetic group of leaders is needed for our city. I am disappointed with the negative image placed on Detroit, especially by the behavior of our elected leaders. I am ready to serve beyond my neighborhood, my church serve to the greater Detroit community.
2. My profession as a minister literally has me in the community every day and most of my duties are usually associated with people. I deal with people from all lifestyles, with numerous backgrounds and a myriad of challenges. This has served as a microcosm to what I would experience as a city council person. Educationally, I have been able to study a broad range of subjects to make me a well rounded individual. Additionally, my current course of study, which is the perusal of a Master of Science in Administration

with a concentration in Leadership, has further prepared me. I have also found my educational accomplishments to give me the tools to know how to research a particular subject to be able to articulate my findings. Civically, I have been and am a part of several organizations where I have served through tutoring, youth athletics, community outreach, scholarship awarding and community building.

3. My campaign team, more specifically, my treasurer and fundraising team anticipate spending at least \$85,000 for the primary election and an additional amount of at least \$100,000 for the general election. We have collected close to \$30,000 and have some one hundred and seventy-five persons who have contributed.
4. I believe the three most important core functions of government are to provide effective and efficient city services, timely and responsive public safety and to educate.
5. At this point, I am not in favor of cutting any departments until I can thoroughly look over the city's budget, see the specific functions in the departments and how it would affect the operation of the city. With city functions, I would be willing to eliminate the use of city own vehicles for certain departments including the city council.
6. For Detroit's continued solvency, there will have to be some necessary changes from every level of government. Our new mayor, Mr. Dave Bing has already said he would not take a salary if elected. Humbly speaking, when elected to the Detroit City Council, I am prepared to make cuts to the budget allocated for staff workers, cuts to my salary and relinquishing the use of a city owned car. I hope this will at least give the perception to others that I am willing to sacrifice my pay and benefits and hope they would be encourage to do the same if the opportunity presents itself.
7. Tearing down abandoned homes is a priority for me. With an estimated 80,000 homes and or buildings at a rate of 3000-5000 per year, it would take twenty years if we demolished an average of 4000 per year. Barring there are no additional structures added which is not likely. I would speed up the process by:
 - Examining the existing process of getting a structure torn down to see if it can be expedited and/or streamlined
 - Making property owners who have abandoned structures responsible for the demolition solely or with assistance from city
 - Working with facilities who are training workers in the construction industry to form a training partnership to demolish homes as part of the employee training
 - Working with companies who have done work for the city and have received city contracts to see if they will donate time, workers and equipment
8. Concentrating residents in a smaller portion would be beneficial. It would allow our public safety to serve smaller areas, create the change needed to rebuild a sense of community, allow the city services to be more effective and of course, it would save the city in its operational expenses. Short-term uses could be urban gardening to create job and green spaces for residents to enjoy. Long-term would be to have continued green space with the addition of rebuilding neighborhoods as persons return to the city.
9. I support the portion of the agreement that would help to create a regional authority but I did not support portion a five member board with all having veto power. In my opinion, it would be a challenge to get much done if just one veto vote could stop the progress. I would add that since the property is in and owned by the City of Detroit, a board should include more than just one person representing Detroit and the building should not be sold but rather leased to the authority.

10. Highest Priority
11. The city can provide better bus service by researching the possibility of combining its system with the SMART system. From speaking to citizens along the campaign trail, the buses can operate more efficiently by abiding to the scheduled times, offer additional discounts to those already in place for seniors, the physically challenged and youth. Also, by having more buses on the routes with working ramps for persons who are physically challenged in a wheelchair or electric scooter.
12. At this time, I do not believe any city asset should be sold to raise revenue or reduce expenses. This plan seems like a quick fix to solve a temporary problem, which may reoccur. In order to evaluate the proposals of any asset needing to be sold, I would like to know what is needed in the budget, see a current property appraisal and how much it will assist the budget.
13. At this point, I am not in favor of selling any assets nor any up-front payments from the city's revenue sources. I appreciate the creativity of these ideas; however, I do not want to put temporary fixes on systemic problems that may return.