

Name: James Tate

DOB: 12.21.74

Employer: Currently unemployed

Occupation: N/A

How Long? N/A

High School Diploma? Yes

School? Detroit Benedictine

Year? 1993

College Degree? Yes

School? Wayne State University

Year? 1998

Advanced Degree(s)? No

Please list any previous public office to which you have been elected or appointed, beginning with the most recent: 2nd Deputy Chief, Detroit Police Department's Office of Public Information (4 ¾ years); Communications Coordinator, City of Detroit (9 months).

1. I am seeking a seat on Detroit City Council because I care about our community and I care about the future of our city. I feel that as an elected official, I can use the power of influence of public office to encourage collective problem solving.
2. I believe that proper communication is the key to building strong relationships. Detroit City Council must do a better job pulling together all of the city's stakeholders and providing them with the information that affects them. This helps to foster goodwill and trust.

There must be an explicit respect for accuracy and desire for transparency. As an elected official, one must also demonstrate compassion. My professional career has been primarily in the field of communications. Prior to my appointment with the City of Detroit in 2003, I served as an assignment desk editor at WXYZ-TV where I greatly contributed to the news content that was broadcast daily. In that role, it was my responsibility to provide accurate information to the public on issues that affect their lives and at the same time ensure the protection of individual sources from any harm as a result of information disclosure to me.

In my years as a City of Detroit employee, I learned how our local government works from the inside, witnessed first-hand the various areas where improvement is required and made strides to address those issues whenever possible. I also successfully collaborated with a number of law enforcement agencies numerous projects that have traditionally not ended amicably.

In my "personal" life, I have mentored several young men in my neighborhood and encouraged them to change their lifestyle in a manner that is conducive to their productivity in society.

3. I anticipate spending at least \$65,000 on my campaign. I have collected approximately \$3,000. I have two major contributions and several smaller contributions of \$20 or less.

4. I believe that the three most core functions of our city government are: fiscal responsibility, public safety and garbage collection.
5. Governmental departments or functions I would be willing to eliminate are: Airport Department and Detroit Animal Control (Identify a means to privatize them). The Detroit Police Homeland Security "Unit" should be eliminated or at the at most have a member of the Detroit Department of Homeland Security serve as a liaison with the Detroit Police and Detroit Fire Departments.
6. All service departments should be reviewed for effectiveness or redundancy and adjusted accordingly. By concentrating on integrating services, eliminating redundancies and maximizing existing revenue streams, I believe the current deficit can be reduced immediately, and right-sized for elimination, going forward. This can be done while improving city services and with no additional financial burdens on Detroit's taxpayers.

There is also great need to evaluate the number and qualifications of appointees because we need the right people in the right positions that can serve efficiently and effectively.

Because of the rising cost of employee health benefits, it is important that we identify ways to decrease this expenditure. We have to take a hard look at carriers, provider networks, coverage levels and premium contributions before making final decisions on plans provided to city workers.

7. Without a significant increase in general fund revenue, it is not possible to keep pace and demolish all of Detroit's nearly 80,000 abandoned structures. Clearly, the need far exceeds the dollars available. One suggestion to increase the numbers of demolished structures would be to tap into federal stimulus dollars that are being allocated to the city of Detroit (if it is allowed within the guidelines).

More thought also must be placed into the cost efficiency of rehabbing some of these structures instead of demolishing them. The rehab may be more costly than a demolition initially, but prove to be more beneficial in the long run if a family moves in and provides tax revenue.

Another option would be to enlist non-profit organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity, to utilize their grant funding to demolish abandoned homes (similar to a plan that is taking place in Saginaw). Even though this is a novel effort, it too will only yield modest results.

8. Yes, I do support efforts to concentrate residents in a smaller portion of the city. I believe that if funding is made available, the sections of the city that are highly sparse in population should be sectioned off with a barrier that prevents trespass. Homeowners who reside in the designated area would be asked to voluntarily relocate to another neighborhood. If these home owners relocated within Detroit,

they would not have to pay property taxes at that home for a designated number of years. If they chose to relocate outside of the city, they would receive monetary compensation (not equal in scope to the tax break). This large area of uninhabited land could potentially be used to attract retailers seeking a location in Detroit.

9. I do not support the agreement based on the structure that allows each of the 5-member committee to have veto power. In my opinion, this will only create gridlock in the decision making process relating to Cobo issues. That is my biggest sticking point on the deal and I would work with all involved parties to modify that provision so that we can get the much needed repairs done.
10. It is of the highest priority that the city of Detroit improves its relationship with the rest of the metropolitan region.
11. I believe that identifying a means to merge SMART and DDOT operations would provide better bus service and be more cost effective for both entities.
12. In order to raise revenue, I would be willing to sell the naming rights to some of the city's most prominent assets such as Belle Isle, city owned parking structures and recreation centers.
13. I believe that it is a good idea for the city to raise money by selling for an up-front cash payment from public parking or the Detroit Windsor tunnel tolls only if the deals are "leases" and not actually selling off the assets.