

## Detroit City Council Questionnaire

August 4, 2009 Primary Election

Name Mohamed Okdie  
DOB April 11, 1949  
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Employer Detroit Public Schools (Retired)  
Occupation School Social Worker  
How long? 22 Years  
High school diploma? YES – Lincoln Park High School (1968)  
College degree? YES – AA, Detroit Institute of Tech. 1973  
BA, Wayne State University 1980  
Advanced degrees? YES – MSW, Wayne State University 1985  
PhD (candidate) WSU Applied Sociology

I have never been elected to or have run for any public position except prescient delegate. I have been appointed to positions on public boards and currently serve on the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners. A more detailed list of appointments is illustrated in answer number 2.

1. I am seeking a seat on the Detroit City Council because I love the City and want to help make it a better place to live, work, and do business. I have a lifetime of community activism experience, educational achievement, and a wealth of professional experience from Gubernatorial, Mayoral, and City Council appointments to policy and governing boards.
2. Professional experience includes my appointment by Dennis Archer and re appointment by successive mayors to the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency Board of Directors (15 Years), Governors Task Force on Children's Justice, Michigan Department of Social Services Advisory Council. Civic appointments include New Detroit, the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services, NAACP freedom Fund Dinner Marshal Committee (15 years), Detroit Board of Police Commissioners (current), Detroit Board of Canvassers (current), chair of 13<sup>th</sup> Cong. Dist. Democratic Party Turkey Drive (11 Years). Educational appointments include The Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents.
3. I anticipate spending at least \$200,000.00  
I have Collected approximately \$25,000.00  
Collected from approximately 30 people

4. Public Safety , Health, and Welfare  
Economic and Civic development  
Maintain a balanced budget and facilitate basic city service
5. The elimination of city departments is indeed a tricky one. Firstly it is a function of the executive branch of government. The City Council may react to the elimination of Departments but may not instigate this process. As a function of the Mayor's office it is noteworthy to point out that the Kilpatrick administration has eliminate or combined many of the cities departments already. Therefore it would be difficult to eliminate more without affecting core services. A prudent measure would be to research each Department and eliminate or combine services and then to look at trimming bureaucratic waste within.
6. Benefits such as city cars for many administers in many city departments and city council can be looked at to save money and the use of overtime compensation can reduce some budget strain. Staffing should be examined to look at the need for excessive layers of administrators. When combining city Departments we can eliminate director or deputy director positions for example.
7. I believe that a creative approach should be taken to move this program forward and to accelerate the demolition of buildings and homes.

One approach could be to establish a land bank program which would identify contiguous parcels of land that could be bundled for demolition, and then initiate development. The key to this program is instantaneous development and to then take a portion of the proceeds from sale or lease and fold that money into expanding the demolition of more buildings. The process then becomes a self generating and development program which grows. This would be a win, win for the city. It would accelerate demolition, produce funding, and encourage development.

8. Yes, I would favor a redistribution or consolidation of the population. This would be a logical step in light of my proposal for land banking. It also presents clear difficulties. Some residents will not want to give up their homes, historical districts and designations would have to be considered, and those of eminent domain laws may not apply or could cause political issues.

A beefed up zoning board would have to be instigated to look at long and short term use but I can see zoning for alternative energy production and long term use utilizing the development of light industry, modern housing projects, and new retail and small business development with relocation incentives.

9. YES, I do support a regional authority for Cobo Hall. I would prefer that it be transferred via long term lease as opposed to direct ownership by the authority and that this should be perceive by the region as a good faith signal for better regional cooperation projects.
10.  X  Highest priority
11. The city bus system was antiquated the day after it came into existence. Gas burning, pollution producing, and never on time busses are a travesty to modern urban society. I propose the

elimination of gas driven busses in favor of electric and mass transit rail systems that are more efficient, produce far less pollution and are on time more than not. While this is not realistic in today's economy I would favor a temporary fix by combining the city and suburban lines to produce a more efficient system that reduces the duplication of busses on a single line. This would allow resources to be moved into areas of the city where transportation may have been eliminated.

12. There aren't many city assets left. No.
13. I could consider the tunnel to Canada if it would lead to the long term solvency of the city's finances. Unfortunately, I don't believe it would. A minimized tax base, the reluctance of business to locate in the city are issues, if resolved, that will better serve to fix our long term budget problems. I am reluctant to sell any more of our assets that actually produce revenue.

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## EDUCATION

**Doctor of Philosophy (Candidate)**, Applied Sociology, Wayne State University  
**Master of Social Work**, Organization and Administration, Wayne State University  
**Bachelor of Arts**, Anthropology, Wayne State University  
**Associate of Arts**, Psychology, Detroit Institute of Technology

## EMPLOYMENT

**School Social Worker** December 1984 to May 2006

***Detroit Public Schools Detroit, Michigan***

Worked with community organizations and professionals to resolve issues which impact on local schools and students. Provided crisis intervention and routine therapy for students in individual and group settings. Prepared progress notes, MET summery reports, and MER reports for special ed. certifications and monthly statistical reports. Convened IEPC meetings and worked closely in a cooperative effort with other professional team members.

**Psychiatric Social Worker** December 1987 to 1994

***Detroit Receiving Hospital Detroit, Michigan***

Maintained office and managed caseloads for shift. Was responsible for maintaining and facilitating Michigan mental health code and hospital guidelines pertaining to the chronically mentally ill. Conducted intake interviews and personal interviews of patients. Prepared psycho-social history and discharge planning of patients. Was responsible for telephone crisis line and family counseling.

**Community Liaison** August 1984 to June 1985

***Congressman John Conyers-District Office Detroit, Michigan***

Developed and maintained relationships between Congressional office and constituent groups, individuals, and community organizations. Resolved constituent problems and facilitated dialogue between Congressman and community. Participated in community events on Congressman's behalf.

## MILITARY SERVICE

**United States Air Force** Honorably Discharged - July 1970

## EXPERIENCE

***NAACP, Detroit Freedom Fund Dinner***

- Dinner Marshal 1984-2000

***Michigan Department of Social Services Advisory Council***

- Gubernatorial Appointment – James Blanchard
- Board Vice Chair