

Inspiration:

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.
—Langston Hughes

“If you want the place of
honor, you must ... serve
others.” Mark 9:34

The world is far from perfect
There is conflict and there’s
strife
But you still can make a
difference
By how you live your life.
—unknown

GENERIC

What are the issues facing District A for residents? For businesses?

- From the river to the lake, residents to business in District A are frustrated on not getting basic city services — police, sewerage and water, streets, sanitation — for the taxes they pay. As a former City Council staffer who helped people with these problems everyday, I too am frustrated with having my hands tied by politics as usual. So I decided to step up to the plate to keep pushing as hard as I can for the residents of District A.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

1. What steps will you take to lower gun & violent crime in our City?

- Much of the violent crime in New Orleans is related to drug trade and interpersonal conflict. I advocate for a triaged approach to crime: coordinated, proactive policing; targeted intervention and prevention; wealth building. (1) **Coordinated, proactive policing:** We need to invest in a police deployment that will allow proactive investigative work to remove guns from the street, encourage coordination with the surrounding parishes, federal and state law enforcement (DEA, FBI) to curb the drug trade, use technology to work smarter not harder. (2) **Targeted intervention and prevention:** For those who enter the criminal justice system or at risk of doing so, we need to invest on focusing our efforts to intervene and prevent through programs like comprehensive substance abuse treatment (e.g. Odyssey House, Eden House) and community mediation and conflict resolution, and community and school based trauma informed care. (3) **Wealth building:** the most effective method to reducing crime is to build families up through providing education, enrichment and recreational opportunities, workforce development, using Community Reinvestment Act Funds to create access to capital and invest in college savings accounts (see my proposal at www.nolasaves.weebly.com). For example, in 2000, 3,000 youth (ages 13-21) were employed in the summer workforce program which dropped to a low of under 600 in recent years. In 2016, the [Cowen Institute](#) identified 6,820 opportunity youth (ages 16-24). The City should double down on its’ investment in youth training and spend at least \$5 million on youth workforce training. For every \$1 spent on prevention, intervention and investment saves \$4 million on the criminal justice side.

2. What will you do to reduce the number of people incarcerated in our City & to improve success of re-entry for prisoners returning home upon release?

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Answers for Aylin Acikalin Maklansky,
New Orleans City Council
District-A Candidate

- Part of my crime plan is to support targeted intervention and prevention such as comprehensive substance abuse treatment and community mediation. Further, I believe supporting initiatives in the judiciary such as our Drug Courts and Veteran Treatment Courts. Ensuring that those who have served their time successfully can enter back into society as a productive, rehabilitated member with resources to succeed is an important aspect of tackling crime.

3. Do you support the current policy on bail for City offenses? (yes/no)

- In January 2017, the City Council eliminated most bail for municipal offenses, which is a policy that I support.

4. What is your position on the role of New Orleans police in enforcement of Federal immigration law?

- The NOPD does not have an enforcement role for federal immigration law. Our resources need to be concentrated on fighting violent crime in all its forms.

(Housing costs are rising dramatically for both renters and homeowners. New Orleans Data Center recently reported that renters need to earn \$19 per hour to be able to rent in New Orleans.)

1. In our District A neighborhoods, an increasing number of long-term residents of all income levels can no longer afford to live here. Why do you think this is happening and would you do to reverse this trend?

- Property values are linked to many issues, including market trends and the prevailing wage in the area. The Council can impact housing by increasing supply through incentivizing creating of affordable housing, streamlining the process to build to reduce costs and through zoning to allow multi-family housing where appropriate. The Council is also the Board of Review for annual property tax assessments, which should be a more robust process.

HOUSING, LAND-USE, ZONING, PRESERVATION, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY / DEVELOPMENT, ETC.

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Questions for New Orleans City Council District-A Candidates.

2. What will you do to support accessibility and wide distribution of affordable housing across neighborhoods?

- The City Council can impact of affordable housing through zoning by allowing the building of multi-family housing where appropriate and through supporting home ownership programs.

3. Do you support current policies related to Short Term Rentals? What changes will you make if any, and how would you ensure enforcement of these regulations?

- Law is often slow to catch up to the reality of life. The short-term rental ordinance was passed after an extensive public process over several years. Like any regulatory system, the STR regulations should be consistently monitored and reviewed to make sure that the rules and enforcement are effective and fair for all stakeholders. If there is some aspect of the ordinance that is not working, I will work with all affected parties to come up with solutions. Above all, I want to make sure our policy is fair and works to allow property owners fair use of their homes and assets, while balancing this with the need to keep our neighborhoods and culture safe and in tact.

4. Carrollton is under partial HDLC control to review requests for demolition. What enforcement mechanism will you employ to prevent 1) deterioration of historic structures and 2) demolition through negligence?

- The HDLC control was put in place to permanently replace the Neighbor Conservation District Advisory Committee which was a temporary agency set up after Katrina. I support the use the HDLC as a necessary regulatory body that is tasked to preserve the historic architecture of our City. Deterioration of historic structures and demolition through negligence are both important issues, and I support the HDLC in regulating and overseeing enforcement of demolition by neglect, building plans and renovations to prevent these occurrences. It is critical, however that the HDLC processes and guidelines be fair and timely so as not to cause delay and increased costs for homeowners to make necessary and appropriate repairs or discentivize the use of green building opportunities, e.g. solar panels.

5. District A residents are receiving tax bills that are sometimes 50% higher than the previous year. How will you lessen the impact of increased valuation of homes and make it easier for residents to pay their tax bill?

- The Council is the Board of Review for property tax assessments. I will make sure the process is advertised and used effectively for impacted residents to be able to appeal their assessments based on individual circumstances. Furthermore, in certain instances, I believe the Council should look tat policies that would allow year-to-year freezing or deferment of tax bill for certain high-risk citizens such as the elderly.

1. Given the city's recognition of climate change & recent flooding events, what steps will you take to prioritize resilience and sustainability in the city's infrastructure?

- I have and will make resilience and sustainability a top priority from day one. As the former legislative director for Councilmember Ramsey, I advised for the creation of an Environmental Advisory Committee of technical citizen advisors to make recommendations on specific policies to implement resilience and sustainability policy in the Code. I was one of the, if not the only staff member on the Council that focused on environmental policy and am fully committed to this issue. It is the major impetus of why I am running— to continue this important work.

2. Given that moving towards making New Orleans a “green” city may impact Entergy's profits, what can the city's regulatory powers do to assure renewable sustainable energy use is optimized and rates controlled now and in the future?

- Entergy has a privilege to operate under the franchise agreement. As the regulator of Entergy, the Council must demand the use of renewables.

3. What reforms in S&WB governance will you advocate to assure accountability to the city and execute citizen oversight?

- The City Council must immediately be put back on the SWB and it's oversight. The SWB should take ownership of the drainage system and its maintenance, including the catch basins from point source to treatment plant. We need a first-rate management team with core competencies in sewage, water and drainage. I oppose privatization, which failed in Atlanta. We need to have a customer service expert put into place immediately and have a facility where people can actually get to easily to have their issues addressed. Above all – the SWB must operate in a legal framework that makes it accountable to the people they serve. As stated above, undoing the misguided policies of the previous Council in 2012 and creating a framework to place it under our City government and to empower the Council with oversight authority are absolutely necessary to this mission. These governance changes cannot wait until the new council and Mayor take office in May 2018 which is why I have been advocating as resident and candidate for immediate change.

Parks

1. What steps would you take to ensure public oversight in parks, particularly those which are governed as a public private partnership, such as Audubon and City Parks?

- As lead staffer for the Public Works, Sanitation, and Environment Committee, I believe that our public parks are an essential part of our City's character. I support measures to keep our public parks, including those governed by public private partnerships, answerable to the City Council to ensure that these governing authorities and their upkeep are accountable to the public.

2. Would you support the expansion of the Lafitte Greenway to include an additional 1/2 mile across City Park Avenue to Canal Boulevard? (yes/no)

- Yes, I would support such an initiative, in consultation with neighborhood leaders, property holders, and stakeholders.

Public Services: What will you do to ensure adequate capacity and accessibility for Mental Health and substance abuse care in the city?

- Mental Health and Substance Abuse treatment are critical to improving many systemic problems our city faces. A very limited amount of the budget is spent on these types of preventative care. No City funds are dedicated to organizations like Odyssey House and Eden House, compared to Plaquemines Parish which funds its Community Care Centers. The City should also commit to providing these services in the proposed low barrier homeless shelter. A key part of this funding is through medicaid expansion which is at risk. As your Councilmember I would actively be in involved in lobbying the state legislature and the U.S. Congress to ensure vital healthcare funding is dedicated to

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this issue. Every dollar spent on prevention saves \$4 on the criminal justice and emergency healthcare end.

Budget, Taxation, City Finances, Ethics and Good Government / Patronage

1. What do you think should be done to improve and increase citizen participation in government decision-making processes?
 - Accessibility in government decision-making and to our leaders in general is a very important part of why I am running for City Council District A. I will hold regular District meeting to speak with constituents and neighbors to ensure that we on the Council and in the City's administration are accountable for our policies. Furthermore, I believe that empowering our neighborhoods by directing resources to our communities will increase government participation by expanding the stakeholder pool.
 2. How would you insure that our many commissions fairly represent all the residents and fairly manage the public interest and our public dollars?
 - I will hold our City government accountable to the public by ensuring regular hearings, meetings, and tough oversight. I consider it my top responsibility to hold these entities accountable. I would scrutinize, and not rubber stamp appointments through the Government Affairs Committee process.
- a) When is it appropriate for the City Council to override decisions made by CPC, HDLC and other city department recommendations.
- The CPC and HDLC are advisory boards that make recommendations to the Council which has ultimate authority to decide land use, zoning and design review issues based on a totality of the circumstances, including the board recommendations, the Master Plan, the zoning laws and neighborhood input. I will make fact-based, evidence driven decisions based on the law and will not hesitate to go to bat for residents and neighborhoods when I believe our City Agencies or Commissions have made a poor recommendation.