

Subject: Questionnaire

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Date: 9/23/2017 12:38 PM

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GENERIC

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

The issues facing District A are the same as those affecting the city as a whole. Vast economic divides, poverty, huge disparities in economic opportunity, the lack of living wages, increasingly unaffordable housing, constantly dealing with dysfunctional local government, enduring the impacts of crumbling infrastructure, ever-increasing crime, a council and mayor who've repeatedly raised taxes, permit & license fees, utility bills, and any other potential revenue stream to the point of making living or running a business in New Orleans fiscally unbearable for all but the wealthiest few are all things that impact our district everyday and most importantly are all things that should and can be changed.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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

I would shift our focus to place-based policing which entails using first and foremost the physical environment as the primary public safety and crime fighting tool. Simply put, this involves taking the opportunity for criminals to commit crimes and get away with the out of our neighbourhoods by getting rid of blighted properties, trimming vegetation to ensure views are not blocked, reworking our streets so that parked cars don't create a place for would be attackers to lie in wait or so they don't act as a wall to block victims in with no way out; it would involve a several million dollar investment into Project NOLA's crime cameras network so that not just "hot spots" but our entire residential core is monitored so that any predator considering committing a crime in District A is made fully aware he's on camera, he's in plain view, he's properly illuminated, and he's being watched meaning if he's dumb enough to attack our community, he will be caught and he will go to jail.

In addition to place-based policing, I would insist that each NOPD officer have to spend one shift on foot and one shift on bike constantly patrolling our street grid end to end for every shift that officer is allowed to spend in a patrol car or at a desk; this would apply to all levels of personnel from the chief on down. We must physically see our police officers and they must physically see us in order to effectively patrol our neighbourhoods.

Finally, beyond the scope of direct law enforcement actions, I would actively and aggressively pursue new policies and programmes toward eliminating the lack of viable employment and economic opportunity that has for too long kept the majority of our population trapped in a cycle of perpetual abject poverty. This can't guarantee prevention of crime, but it can certainly

ensure there are far more opportunities for a successful and happy life within the law in New Orleans than outside of it.

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?

The first step would be to decrease crime rates by increasing educational and economic opportunities to all New Orleanians rather than just those who already have the advantages to begin with as has been the overwhelming case in recent years. Bad people will do bad things. Good people will usually do good things. But good people who find themselves in a hopeless situation often times are faced with the choice of doing bad things or not being able to survive at all. It is those good people who might be driven to do bad things we must focus on by ensuring that choice is not the reality they are faced with as friends, neighbours, family, and fellow New Orleanians.

The second step would be to change the way we deal with people once they are in the system. Again, the first focus should be on those otherwise good people who find themselves in jail for having been driven to do bad things. For these people, incarceration must be about reforming the person, restoring the dignity, and rectifying the disparities and eliminating the systemic disadvantages that drove them to crime. We must treat these inmates not as prisoners but as patients. Our outlook must always be toward the day they are released from custody and in particular toward making sure whatever got that person into the criminal justice system will not bring them right back. We should institute a GED / High School Diploma requirement meaning that all inmates would be required to become high school graduates as a term of their release so that regardless of how many people walk into OPP without a high school education, none every walk out without one. Beyond this, an inmates tenure within our justice system must be instructive, constructive, and rehabilitative. Work-release, apprenticeship programmes, jobs skills and training, and general educational opportunities must be the focus of the inmate's time because sitting in a cell day in and day out cannot turn a drain on society into an asset for that society.

Finally, we have to effectively deal with those bad people — the ones who will do bad things regardless of their situation. For those who cannot be rehabilitated, we must ensure they are not permitted to reenter our communities and drag others down with them. We cannot continue to put violent criminals and drug dealers back onto our streets. Each situation would determine whether or for how long such bad people doing bad things should spend behind bars, but when such offenders do get out, we must have policies in place to ensure these bad people are not allowed to do further bad things here in New Orleans. Call it exile, call it giving people a choice, but one way or another, we must insist that those who choose to harm our communities are not allowed to remain a part of them.

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

No. Our current system is set up for the inurement of the operators and owners of bail bonding companies, some of which are actually owned by local judges. Not only that, but our courts are currently funded in such a manner that the more money a defendant is made to pay, the more money that judge and staff have to play with. There is no way justice can happen in this environment.

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

Immigration is the purview of the federal government, not local government. If the federal government is so intent on scavenging our cities for illegal immigrants, let them expend their own

resources, tie up their own personnel, and spend their own money doing it; but, make sure they also are aware that if they choose to focus their efforts in New Orleans that there will be no tolerance whatsoever of their violating the constitutional rights, freedoms, and protections afforded all residents and visitors of our city under federal, state, and local law and that whilst the City of New Orleans will not work against our immigration authorities, we must and will treat violations of the rights of their targets within our jurisdiction just as we would any other violation of the law and will do so to their personal detriment.

(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.)

Actually when you take into account all costs and remove supplemental government funding from the formula, that number is nearer \$24-28/hr.

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

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?

The cost of living is being increased artificially by the actions of our council and mayor in constantly upping our rates of taxation and the amounts we pay for utilities. These are direct sources of revenue for the City and are responsible for the largest increases in cost of living, even moreso than market conditions. Simply put, if the City is really serious about keeping New Orleans affordable, they must cut their own budget rather than cutting into the budgets of their residents.

The other impact on cost of living is simply market trends. The real estate market in New Orleans is hot and the demand for homes, especially nicer homes in popular neighbourhoods is increasing and has surpassed supply to the detriment of those who cannot afford to pay more and more for access to our housing market.

The downside is that there is little the City could do to force a change in the market in terms of rent controls or setting prices because the prices charged for rent are directly proportional to the cost of the property and the mortgage payments of the landlord. Across the board in New Orleans, with few exceptions, most landlords are not charging much more than it costs them to actually own their properties and maintain them for rent. That differs from other major cities in which rent controls have been used as in those markets, real estate that hadn't changed hands for decades and had been long paid off was being marketed for higher and higher and higher rents with no justification for it aside from market demand.

If we are to resolve this issue here in New Orleans, our best option is to increase the availability of housing available within our neighbourhoods and this means increasing density, making it easier for people to build more housing units within our existing small footprints, and allowing historically appropriate higher density development so that our supply of housing can keep up with our demand for that housing. Otherwise, prices will keep going up and New Orleans will be left a city of only those who can afford to pay to play with the people who make our city great and keep our city functioning

priced out of living in the very city they call home.

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

Prohibit single-use and especially single-story commercial developments. Consider the Walgreens & Robert on Claiborne or the Mid-City Market development on Carrollton Ave. Our city leaders have repeatedly pointed to those as 'smart growth' and 'new urbanism' but they are not. They are local taxpayer funded private developments that serve the needs of their business tenants without creating the desired walkability or inclusive community lifestyle new urbanism affords. Just because a shopping centre hides its big flat wasteful open parking lot behind some pretty facades it does not mean it's not just yet another strip mall with a big hot environmentally unwise space-wasting parking lot. That's not smart growth and it's not the sort of development that will solve our housing dilemma and make our city a great place to live going forward. In each of those cases, the single-story retail spaces should have had parking inclusive to the buildings themselves or places below grade as a parking garage underneath (yes, that is in fact viable here in New Orleans) and they should have had a story or two of commercial retail, restaurant, or office space above what was built, with a further 2-3 stories of residential condos or rentals above that. People must be able to work, play, AND live in their communities and in their neighbourhoods for cities to flourish and properly function. To allow the sort of single-story, single-use, environmentally incompatible development we so often laud as progress to continue occurring here in District A would be nothing short of longterm community suicide. It's killing our neighbourhoods; it's been killing our neighbourhoods for years; every time another such project happens it kills our neighbourhoods a little bit more; and eventually, if we don't reverse course and follow the example of healthy urban environments, it will eventually kill our communities off entirely leaving our neighbourhoods as little more than places for those who can still afford them to park their cars, store their stuff, and lay their heads at night with no culture or life left to enjoy.

2. 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?

I think the current regulations are wrong, that they've wronged our homeowners, and that they should be repealed.

3. 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?

I would remove Carrollton from HDLC and place it within its own autonomous district allowing Carrollton to determine how Carrollton should develop rather than some room full of the mayor's cronies.

4. 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?

I will pursue a new city charter entailing a top to bottom restructuring of all local government agencies into a new single unified small, cheap, and efficient city government that costs as little as possible to

deliver the services our residents require. Cheaper government means lower taxes.

Infrastructure, Green Space, Parks, Recreation, Public Services, etc.

Infrastructure

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 proposed a system of modular streets which allow for low-cost replacement of our existing crumbling roadways, allow for full replacement of our existing pipes, and for new modern electric, phone, cable, and internet wires to be placed safely below ground, and which includes a stormwater retention function that would provide a buffer against the first 12" of rainfall before our pumping system ever even comes into play meaning the flooding of our recent past would never occur again. This system is pervious and sustainable and affordable and turns our biggest source of runoff and subsidence into our biggest tool for fighting it.

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?

I propose the City establish its own in-house public not-for-profit utility and shift Entergy over to a service provider role. This would allow us the freedom to shift our power grid over to a modern green system powered by renewable energy and to do so in a manner that actually removes the current cost of utilities out from the cost of living equation, making it cheaper to live and do business in New Orleans. I have spoken with Entergy's CEO about this proposal with positive reception from their corporate leadership.

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

I would seed to have SWB dissolved and its functions moved under a new public works administration independent of the mayor's office.

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?

First I would eliminate all independent boards and commissions and place all of our parks, regardless of size, under the City's Parks Department. Second, I would follow the lead of NYC and set up a system of citizen advisory and regulatory committees that place the management and direction of growth and development of each park directly under the purview of the neighbourhoods they serve.

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, so long as that expansion includes a direct connection to the Levee Trail and bike trails within City Park and near the lake allowing the residents of District A the ability to bike across the district without competing with traffic on surface streets.

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

Actually bring back mental health as a preventive medicine and crime prevention tool for starters. Any investment we make in mental health is far cheaper than the expenses we would incur in terms of law enforcement and dealing with criminal outcomes after the fact as a result of not providing those mental health services.

Substance abuse is a medical condition, not a criminal one. It should be dealt with as such and treated just as we would any other medical condition, in hospitals and treatment facilities instead of in jails.

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?

I propose the creation of a new third branch of local government — the municipal assembly. It would be an elected body of 100 representatives elected by districts with each assemblyperson representing no more than 5,000 people for no more than 2 year terms with strict term limits.

The city council would still be the legislative arm of local government as they are today. The mayor, sheriff, and other elected executives would still be the executive branch tasked with executing the directives of the council. Neither council nor executives however would have decision-making authority as is the case now. All decision-making authority would be vested with the municipal assembly whose sole purpose would be to vote yes or no on every ordinance, every tax, every contract, every major expenditure, every budget, and so forth.

Members of the assembly would not be permitted to politic or grandstand or debate or shape policy or write laws but would instead simply vote yes or no. Likewise, the people who write the laws (the council) would no longer get to be the ones who approve them and the people who write the budgets would no longer get to be the ones who get to decide yes or no on the spending. It may not eliminate corruption, but it will make it far far far more difficult to get away with.

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'll get rid of every single one of them, that's how! There will not be a single public dollar under the control of an unelected appointed person nor under any entity not directly controlled by and accountable to residents and taxpayers.

- a) When is it appropriate for the City Council to override decisions made by CPC, HDLC and other city department recommendations.

When those decisions run contrary to the law and contrary to the majority will of the relevant neighbourhood.
