

Answers to Questions from Toyia Washington-Kendrick

Generic

The issues facing District A for residents and businesses are Crime and Infrastructure

Criminal Justice

1. To lower gun and violent crime in our city we have to offer more opportunities for individuals to engage in activities and jobs. We will not be able to police or incarcerate our way out of this problem. However, if we use diversion and rehabilitation programs to our advantage, we can show criminals and potential criminals there is a better way to live life. For those that are unable or unwilling to change, restructure the incarceration program to make it a place where they would not want to return to.
2. Use the diversion and rehabilitation programs that are available. Through the court system and Bridge House (other programs may exist) we can provide alternate opportunities for individuals that may engage or have engaged in criminal activity. There are programs that can partner with the community colleges or these community schools to help offenders get GEDs and help them learn trades that can be turned into profitable jobs.
3. I agree that we should not further burden the indigent population. I also agree that individuals should have to pay for the crimes that they commit. I would like to see a step program implemented in regards to the policy on bail for city offenses. Instead of letting repeat offenders go free, set a range for the offense and the number of times. If they cannot stop committing offenses, then they have to pay or they can work off the amount by doing community service. That community service can include speaking to the youth, picking up trash on the streets, or helping to clean the catch basins.
4. The primary focus of the NOPD is and should always be proactive and reactive responses to crime. It is not their job to regulate immigration. If there is no crime being committed, then NOPD should not be used to round up individuals to enforce immigration laws.

Housing, land-use, zoning, preservation, community development and economic opportunity/development, etc

1. It is happening because we began to trade culture for gentrification. Instead of creating an all-inclusive environment, we approached rebuilding as a separate and unequal task.
2. We have to first decide that everyone deserves a right to live in any neighborhood they choose. We can set a tier program that includes all incomes and generations. Regulations on how much housing should cost in regards to the minimum salary of the area.
3. Short term rentals should have a mandatory stay of 3 nights or more...
4. Use the process that is established. Historic properties house the culture of our city and should be protected instead of demolished. If there is a threat to human safety, then the process for removal can begin. If there is not, repair should take place. Protect the old and respect the new.

5. Set up a system that validates the bills that are being sent out and a formula or structure that is used to establish the bills. In that same vein, establish a viable payment schedule or a few payments schedules to ease the burden of the payments.

Infrastructure, green space, parks, recreation, public services, etc.

1. Use the available research to begin making the necessary changes to the streets and sewerage system...
2. If we push all residents and businesses to “go green” then the sustainability of the city itself will occur. Working with Entergy and their researchers to help create an environment where we are...
3. The citizens entrust those individual who are hired to do the jobs they were hired to do. The hiring committee should be the accountability committee. They know what is required and what they are looking for in candidates. They can also check to see if the job is being done.

Parks

1. Comprise the boards of individuals from the public and private sector. Not just connected individuals but also individuals who have a vested interest in the city.
2. If the expansion does not hurt any business or residential owners...

Public services

1. Assess what is available in comparison to the true need. Contact facilities that are functioning now to see how those services can be expanded to support the actual needs of the city. Work with the court system and jails to identify true individuals suffering from mental health issues and work to get the support that is needed.

Budget, taxation, city finances, ethics and good government/patronage

1. Bring the table to the citizens instead of continuing to try to bring citizens to the table and they have no transportation. Increase the outreach by going into the communities and delivering information and messages at the appropriate literal levels.
2. Fair representation comes from who is elected to represent. Getting a better understanding of how the individuals view and treat all citizens and determine whether or not they only have a certain population in mind in the speech and actions. Closely monitoring budget/approvals to ensure that every facet of the community is in receipt of benefits...
 - a) It is appropriate to step in when the whole of the citizens are not being taken care of...