

RECLAIM

PHILADELPHIA

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I, Curtis Jones Jr., certify that the information provided on this questionnaire is accurate and the opinions stated here accurately reflect my OWN positions.

Please complete, sign and return this via email in both Word Doc and PDF format to Amanda@reclaimphiladelphia.org on or before February 1, 2019.

INTRODUCTION

This is a two-part questionnaire. The first seven questions are intended to be richer questions with longer answers. They are intended to help the members of Reclaim Philadelphia understand how you view the world and the political issues that face Philadelphia. As you might expect, these questions are big and broad. Please limit your answers to each question to no more than 250 words. The second set of questions are "yes" or "no" questions, which are NOT meant to be answered at length.

PART I- LONGFORM QUESTIONS - Please respond in 250 words or less.

1. Tell us a personal story about yourself that informs your worldview, your politics, and your decision to run for City Council.

Growing up in a neighborhood raised by a single parent, I quickly realized life could be hard, and it didn't have to be fair. At the age of 16, I experienced the murder of a companion while we were on our way to a party. Twenty-five years later, I met the sister of that victim whose grandchild was also shot. Systemic violence in Philadelphia is both generational, retaliatory, and contagious, and should be treated like a disease that must be contained. It is truly ironic that I am Chair of Public Safety on City Council, responsible for courts, police, fire, and prisons.

At one point, I considered myself a revolutionary. As a Councilperson, I consider myself a "solutionary."

2. What is your opinion of capitalism as a political-economic system? How do your opinions and analysis influence your campaign and legislative priorities?

As the former President of the Philadelphia Commercial Development Corporation, as well as the former Director of the Minority Business Enterprise Council, responsible for contracts with the City, capitalism can be a pathway out of poverty into the middle class. But like any other tool, in the wrong hands and without proper checks and balances, it can be exploitive. As Chair of City Council's Commerce and Economic Development Committee, I have fought for living wages, both at the airport for 3,000 workers (who were previously working for tips) and for security guards working for SEIU, because they are my constituents and neighbors.

3. What do "white supremacy" and 'patriarchy' mean to you? How do you see them operating in the City of Philadelphia and its government? What policies, if any, would you enact in order to end them?

When we don't take the best person for the job, regardless of race, creed or color, we do all of our society a disservice. By way of policy, in every aspect of our budget, we make sure to the degree that we can, that there is a level playing field. As a Commissioner for the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, I am keenly aware of these disparities.

4. What do you think of the crisis facing Philadelphia schools? What do you see as its root causes? What steps would you take?

I am cautiously optimistic about the return to local control of the Philadelphia public school system, even with the slight projected surplus that they have this year. I am, however, greatly concerned about the \$5 billion in needed capital expenditures for school buildings. Working with Senator Hughes, we were able to obtain millions in emergency clean-up funds over the Summer. Administrators, staff and children report to school in conditions, that if the department of Licenses and Inspection did a thorough review, would be closed. By way of preparing our students for the jobs that will be available in 2025, we have not kept pace with global competition. I have traveled to the middle east,

China, Korea, and even in Montgomery County, our children start the race of life carrying two bookbags, one bag is filled with the books and lessons for the day, the other carries the troubles of community and home. We need to bring back a stronger emphasis on CTE training (where the average salary is \$50K), and work with the private sector to reverse engineer curriculum for real jobs that will be available upon graduation. (What would Amazon need for employees in 2025?)

5. Under what circumstances should a person be detained or incarcerated, if any? Does the current system meet this criterion? What does safety mean to you and what policies or Washington, D.C. has not had a cash bail system in over 25 years.. They know that money does not determine safety. Either you are a danger to yourself and others, and should be detained, or you should be released with conditions that offer you an opportunity for restorative justice. The current system does not meet that criteria, and I have been working hard as the Co-Chair of the Special Committee on Criminal Justice Reform to change that. Public safety means different things to different people. To the young man driving through the park at 2a.m., it means the ability to get home safely, free of senseless gun violence or disrespect by sworn police officers. To me, it means a level playing field that does not include racial profiling, nor a "them against us" mentality concerning law enforcement. I have already enacted policies to change the current system, including Ban the Box, a network of cameras for public safety, funding body cameras for police accountability, and putting pressure on the DA's office to reform their bail policies, while ensuring that funding for witness protection is present

6. What is the fundamental factor causing climate change? How should we address this? Do you support a Green New Deal for Philadelphia and, if so, what does that mean to you and what will you do if elected to City Council?

Most rational scientists attribute climate change to human causes, like pollution, burning of fossil fuels and use of aerosol sprays. Like FDR's original New Deal, the Green New Deal could revolutionize the cost effectiveness of solar panels, grey water systems and LEAD certifications. Here, locally, I represent 66% of Philadelphia's parkland. We have done zoning overlays to protect the wildlife and land. I came out against fracking, and helped the water department to establish early warning detection systems on the Schuylkill River. In poorer neighborhoods, I have voted for lead paint abatements and weatherization.

7. Do you think Philadelphia is facing a housing crisis? If so, why? If not, why not? What changes would you make to bring housing policy more in line with your vision? Yes, Philadelphia is facing an affordable housing crisis. Why? Because, Philadelphia has been discovered by speculators and investors from around the world understand the

housing value here in our City. I would challenge any one to articulate what the City's affordable housing policy actually is. I worked to pass good cause renter protections here in Philadelphia.

For homeowners, I have called on moratoriums on sheriff sales. Future housing policy should include the readjustment of tax abatements should be a part of that strategy, as well as lease or rent to own housing, and workforce housing to accompany natural market rate growth.

PART II- YES OR NO QUESTIONS

1. Do you commit to opposing the privatization of all utilities in Philadelphia? YES [x] NO []
2. Do you commit to support and vote for the creation of a Philadelphia Public Bank? YES [x] NO []
3. Will you support using savings from closing the House of Corrections to invest in job training programs and opportunities for formerly incarcerated people, in an effort to combat mass incarceration? YES [] NO [x]
4. Will you support a participatory study funded by the City to formulate a local Green New Deal energy plan to transition Philadelphia to a democratically controlled 100% renewable energy system by 2030, create unionized jobs, and center the decisions and needs of Philadelphia's working class and communities of color? YES [x] NO []
5. Do you support a democratically elected school board? YES [x] NO []
6. Will you commit to publicly funding and administering fully staffed libraries and recreation centers seven days a week? YES [x] NO []
7. Do you support rent control? YES [] NO [x]
8. Will you commit that at least 50% of all City funds allocated to create or preserve housing, including but not limited to the Housing Trust Fund and subfunds, must go toward helping the poorest Philadelphians (30% or less of area median income)? YES [x] NO []
9. Will you commit to introducing or sponsoring legislation that would establish a system of public financing for city campaigns that would create a fund that would provide matching public funds for money individual donors contribute to candidates? YES [] NO [x]
10. Do you support the creation of an overdose prevention site / supervised consumption site to help efforts to combat the opioid epidemic in our community? YES [x] NO []

11. Do you support completely ending the ten year tax abatement? YES NO
(eventually)
12. Do you commit to opposing all new fossil fuel projects in Philadelphia by using all zoning and regulatory means at your disposal? YES NO
13. Will you support increasing funding of the Police Advisory Commission from \$500K to \$1.5M and giving it the power to subpoena, investigate and censure cases of police brutality and over-policing?
YES NO
14. Will you publicly support a moratorium on all charter school expansion? YES NO
15. Do you support the right to strike for public employees including teachers? YES NO
16. Will you enact a statutory right to counsel for any Philadelphian facing the loss of their home, be it foreclosure or eviction? YES NO
17. Will you use all means at your disposal to support workers' right to unionize? YES NO

PART III- ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION

If there's anything else our membership should know about you or if you feel the need to provide additional information about any of your above responses, do so here. Please keep your response to a total of 100 words or less.

The best predictor of future performance is past performance. As Co-Chair of the Special Committee on Criminal Justice Reform, we have moved the needle in the right direction, by pushing for no cash bail policies, day reporting centers as opposed to incarceration for non-violent offenders, removing fines and fees for parents of juveniles who have found their way into the criminal justice system. We have reduced the census population in our prisons. I have been a steady vote for public education and have received a good grade on the PFT report card. I've sponsored moratoriums on sheriff sales, passed good cause tenant protections and demolitions and worked with my colleagues on a coherent affordable housing strategy. And, we aren't done yet.

