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I, \_\_Fareed Abdullah\_\_\_\_\_, certify  
that the information provided on this questionnaire is accurate and the opinions stated here  
accurately reflect my own positions.

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

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**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.

In 2009 I started my political career In Atlantic City, and during that time I was volunteering in the community as a basketball and Football Coach. I also was a youth mentor as well as a youth advocate. My life was altered when I was 18 years old due to a drug conviction and dropping out of high school in the 10th grade. I never allowed that to stop me because I knew there was a calling on my life. For years I didn't know what would become of me, but I knew I needed to survive. I was approached by a friend who told me that I would one day help people and that she felt like I was going to save a lot of young men who went through the same as I did. In 2009 I gave it a try. Politics was very intimidating for me but I knew I had to keep pushing. Although I lost in that election, I continued to believe in my calling. I strongly believe politics shouldn't be used to take advantage of people who are less fortunate but rather empower those same people to feel protected by those who legislate laws. I believe that the common man/woman deserves to be counted in the number of success. No matter the color, race, gender or economic status, we are all one. As someone who aspire to be elected in Philadelphia, I will be the voice of the voiceless as well as put the people's agenda at the forefront at all times. I am not to be served but rather serve, that's a real leader. In closing, I know people will say whatever they need to get an endorsement, but I believe the truth is in their work.

2. What is your opinion of capitalism as a political-economic system? How do your opinions and analysis influence your campaign and legislative priorities? I am not in favor of a capitalistic society. If you look at the system, you'll find that it hurts the everyday person. As an elected official it is my duty to make sure laws are legislated to favor people who are looked down upon based off their race, economic structure, gender and age.

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? White Supremacy as I define it, is a group of people from a dominated race / White, who desires to have their agenda over a less dominated race. From education, jobs, housing, economic and religion. If it's not the White way than it's values are not counted in the number. With movements like Me Too and other movements that promote women as equals, these movements must be pushed to the forefront. Patriarchy, as I see it, are men who are not in favor of women having a voice. As an elected official I vow to make sure that woman voices will be heard and implemented into action. In fact, woman in my opinion have different strengths than men in many ways. Without the strength of a woman I wouldn't be here today. It

was my mother who carried me for 9 months and loved me unconditionally. In the City of Philadelphia, I feel that both entities where as men might want to rule and white supremacy will become a system of the past. The change is happening right before their very systematic eyes.

4. What do you think of the crisis facing Philadelphia schools? What do you see as its root causes? What steps would you take? As a teacher in the district I feel that the schools are suffering due to a lack of funding and racism. I believe that there are people in power who are not in favor of seeing black and brown children make it. Once elected I am going to work with private entities to help provide resources that will go directly into the schools. As legislators we must hold high end developers accountable by making sure they pay their fair share of taxes, which will take the burden off the people who can't afford to pay it. I will repeal the ten year tax abatement as well as make sure the sugar tax money is going directly into the schools. But most importantly, raise the pay for teachers and work with the the superintendent of schools to allow social programs to enter the schools to combat the ills that so many young people are suffering from.

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 programs would you pursue to achieve your vision? As a person who had my record expunged, I believe that certain crimes should not warrant jail time. Drug and alcohol users shouldn't be placed into jails but rather into treatment programs. I believe that a person should be incarcerated where the offender commits sexual assault, physical assault, Murder, and any violent crime that causes bodily harm to a person. I will not sit here and act like everyone is innocent of committing crimes and because of their color they are being treated unfairly. I will say, that it's definitely an injustice to people who are of a different race who are charged with some of the same crimes as oppose to their white counterparts, but get off with lesser punishment. I also believe that people of color should be able to have fair bail hearings and be treated as innocent until proven guilty. Safety is very important to me as well. I don't want people to be afraid to walk down the streets. I want older people to feel like they can sit on their porch and know that all is well. I also want police officers to believe in the community they serve as well the community to trust the police. So, there needs to be transparency within our communities and trust among one another. Without either, our communities will suffer. As an elected official it will be my duty to make sure programs are geared towards real transparency.

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? To be honest, I do see a change in our climate. Yes, we hear of many key factors that cause the quick warm up, such as human expansion and burning of fossil fuels. In Philadelphia alone, the homes are very old, which makes it hard to keep homes warm and cool during the summer. The partnership with non-profit groups, private investors and local government, we must continue to secure our city with energy saving

methods. I am in favor of a new deal to spearhead this movement.

7. in line with your vision? 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 that's causing the crunch

The mere fact that Philadelphia is facing high poverty and old homes, this alone makes it hard for people to buy homes within the community. There are about 400,000 people in the City of Philadelphia living in poverty. Most of the homes in the city are going for 150,000 to 200,000 leaving most homes to go unsold. Although these homes may be affordable to others, people are looking at the environment the homes are dwelling in, and turning the blind eye. Now we see some parts in Philadelphia benefiting from the low cost neighborhoods because high end investors buy the homes and change the value leaving people in the community to not be able to afford the property taxes. The mixture of run down communities, poverty and jobless neighbors, homes are out for the taken, but not for those who need it the most. As an elected official it's my job to make sure legislation is enacted to favor lifelong residents to be able to receive grants to help them fixup their homes and neighborhoods. Aslo, I will implore new investors to build more affordable new homes that will attract millennials to buy inside the City of Philadelphia. I believe that once people start owning their property, instead of renting, communities will become cleaner and safer. Lastly, elected officials must find ways to increase the job rate of their citizens as well as promote community small business initiatives. All of these measures in my opinion will change the trajectory of our ruined housing market.

## **PART II - YES OR NO QUESTIONS**

1. Do you commit to opposing the privatization of all utilities in Philadelphia? **YES [+ ] NO [ ]**

2. Do you commit to support and vote for the creation of a Philadelphia Public Bank? **YES [+ ] 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 [ ]**

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 [+ ] NO [ ]**

5. Do you support a democratically elected school board? **YES [ + ] NO [ ]**
6. Will you commit to publicly funding and administering fully staffed libraries and recreation centers seven days a week? **YES [ + ] NO [ ]**
7. Do you support rent control? **YES [ + ] NO [ ]**
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 [ + ] 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 [ ]**
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 [ + ] NO [ ]**
11. Do you support completely ending the ten year tax abatement? **YES [ + ] NO [ ]**
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 [ ]**

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### **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.

I want to thank you for allowing me to express my views on new leadership in Philadelphia. Lastly, a progressive candidate/person is someone who's not just saying they're progressive, but rather someone who lives it.

Thank you again,

Fareed Abdullah for Councilman At Large