



May 10, 2018

David Dzidzienyo
Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO
815 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006


Dear David,

Please find attached my responses to the AFL-CIO's 2018 Candidate Questionnaire.

It has been an honor to serve as mayor of my hometown, Washington, DC, for the past four years. After your 2014 endorsement of my first mayoral campaign, we have opened doors to affordable homes for working families and fought together to raise the minimum wage to \$15 by 2020. And I know we could accomplish even more together over the next four. I would be honored to receive your endorsement.

If you should have additional questions, please feel free to contact my campaign at 202-841-2928.

Thank you,



Muriel Bowser

A. Workplace Rights: (Please answer by checking the box)

There are certain basic workplace rights that the unions and members of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO believe are fundamental and absolutely essential. Collective bargaining elections and representation are permitted for private sector employees, whereas for public sector employees in Maryland, legislation is required in order to have those same rights. Over the past decade, these rights have been given to many states, higher education and K-12 public school education employees and some county employees. However, thousands of public sector employees are still denied these rights.

1. Would you support comprehensive collective bargaining legislation that would provide collective bargaining rights (including exclusivity, binding arbitration and an independent labor board) for all public employees-local, county, school boards and state?

Support **Oppose** **Not sure**

What is your position on each of these fundamental rights?

2. The right of workers to organize and have union representation

Support **Oppose** **Not sure**

3. The right to freely exercise workplace rights free from harassment, intimidation and/or delays

Support **Oppose** **Not sure**

4. The right to bargain collectively with a legal obligation on both sides to negotiate in good faith

Support **Oppose** **Not sure**

5. The right to resolve differences in a fair, impartial and timely manner, including binding arbitration

Support **Oppose** **Not sure**

The National Labor Relations Act grants private sector workers the right to organize themselves and be represented by a union in collective bargaining negotiations. From time to time, opponents of collective bargaining propose legislation to curtail workers' bargaining strength and effectiveness. Under the innocuous sounding name of "Right-to-Work," this legislation purports to protect the rights of workers and improve the state's economic development climate. But the net result in Right-to-Work states is that workers earn less, have fewer health care benefits and have higher job fatality rates. Right-to-Work laws prohibit workers from negotiating a "union shop" or "union security" clause in their contracts. Such a clause obligates those in the bargaining unit to pay their fair share of the collective bargaining representation costs. By wiping out that protection, Right to Work actually weakens the rights of working people.

6. Would you support Right to Work in DC?

Yes **No** **Not sure**

Opponents of the labor movement have tried in recent years to stifle labor's political and legislative voice through a friendly sounding proposal called "paycheck protection." It proposes to give rank and file members more control over how their dues money is spent. It does so by requiring unions to spend an incalculable amount of time and money jumping through bureaucratic hoops. The net effect is that it would make it virtually impossible for unions to represent their members in the political and legislative arenas.

7. What is your position on the so-called paycheck protection idea?

Support Oppose Not sure

8. When workers choose an exclusive collective bargaining representative, that union is legally obligated to represent every worker in the unit. Even when some people choose to be non-members, the union must represent them fully and fairly. In other words, those who pay dues are obligated to subsidize those who don't. In your opinion, should a union be permitted to collect a service fee from non-members for the cost of union representation as long as there are protections for those who object on religious grounds?

Yes No not sure

9. Please provide us with at least two examples of what you have done legislatively to support workers' rights?

In Washington, DC, low wages prevent working families from getting their fair shot, which is why I worked with AFL-CIO and other labor groups to increase DC's minimum wage to \$15 by 2020. This increase will put more money in the pockets of working families, and put more people on pathways to the middle class.

Additionally, I ensured that landmark agreements with the Washington Teachers Union and Compensation Units 1 and 2 were finalized and funded in the budget I proposed this year.

B: Workforce Violence:

1. What is your position on work place violence in the Hospital and Health care facilities?

Violence in any workplace should not be tolerated.

2. How do you see yourself as an elected leader championing this issue for workers?

Similar to the approach I have taken in regards to educating the public about the correct use of 911, understanding the cause of the issue is critical. From there developing an approach that works to inform and change behavior is critical to bringing about long term change.

C: Health Care: (Please answer by checking the box)

1. Nurses and other health care workers are often required to perform manual lifting of patients, without support offered by additional personnel, equipment, or training. As a result, registered nurses experience high rates of musculoskeletal disorders and injuries from lifting patients. Such injuries can have long-term detrimental effects on workers' ability to perform daily tasks, leaving them with chronic debilitating pain and often forcing them to leave the workforce. Indeed, about 12 percent of the nursing workforce leaves the bedside each year due to back injuries.

Do you support legislation that would require every healthcare employer to implement a comprehensive, evidence-based safe patient handling program that includes the use of lift teams, patient handling equipment, and proper training for healthcare workers?

Yes **No** **other (explain below)**

- Health disparities, including those resulting in deaths, in the District of Columbia between black and white residents and between those in different wards are severe. Do you believe these disparities are a serious problem?

Yes **No** **other (explain below)**

If so, what policies are you proposing to eliminate these disparities?

My approach over the past four years has been consistent – when a problem is identified, understand the cause, communicate a path to solution and test whether the solution solves the problem. This is the same way that I am approaching health disparities, especially the impact on black women and families. This is why we are targeting the leading causes of poor birth outcomes in the District with programs that, for instance, help women stop smoking, control weight, treat diabetes and hypertension, etc.

Will you highlight these problems in your election campaign?

Yes **No** **other (explain below)**

- Currently 28 million Americans, including at least 26,000 people in the District of Columbia, have no health insurance. Although the District government moved to expand Medicaid to cover an additional 35,000 people and has created an insurance exchange pursuant to the federal Affordable Care Act, it is the case now and will continue to be true that many people with health insurance cannot afford to use it due to high premiums, high deductibles and high co-pays. Nurses are concerned about the impact on access to health services resulting from limited networks of providers, and high out-of-pocket costs. Health insurance companies have reported record stock price increases, and hospitals anticipate increased revenues as well.

Furthermore, the subsidies promised under the Affordable Care Act may not be available because of federal budget constraints, and in any case will be insufficient for many Americans with low and moderate incomes. And the DC government contracts with private insurance companies to administer the District’s Medicaid program, while some states administer their Medicaid insurance program in-house at approximately half the cost.

Will you support a “patient bill of rights” to ensure health care access and limit out-of-pocket costs for receiving care outside of insurance company-established networks?

- Yes No other (explain below)

I believe health care is right for all DC residents and have supported and funded policies that increase the insurance coverage rate among residents to roughly 97 percent. I have directed a working group to examine the barriers to coverage for the remaining 3 percent of District residents and will explore possible solutions as I develop my 2020 budget proposals.

- Do you support prohibiting “balance billing” of patients by healthcare providers who seek reimbursement beyond what insurers pay?

- Yes No Other (explain below)

I believe that health care providers should agree to accept as payment in full, the fees they negotiate with third party payers. This is the practice for Medicaid and should be replicated for patients of other insurers. Balance billing reduces transparency in pricing while significantly confusing patients.

- Do you support “in-sourcing” DC’s Medicaid program so that private insurance corporations aren’t allowed to profit off this vital public program?

- Yes No Other (explain below)

The DC Medicaid program contracts with three full-risk health plans to administer the health benefits for 77 percent of Medicaid recipients. Only 12 States operate Medicaid without managed care contracts. In DC, the managed care plans have built strong provider networks based on negotiated pricing with the health care providers in their networks, while operating sophisticated pharmacy benefit programs. Moreover, these plans are held accountable for care coordination services that we require be implemented to improve health care outcomes for Medicaid beneficiaries while lowering the cost of care. Plans that do not successfully execute the care coordination requirement face substantial financial penalties. For a number of reasons, we cannot -- through "in-sourcing" -- replicate the expertise provided by the health plans.

- Are you in favor of a publicly administered, state-based, single-payer universal health care system and, if so, what steps are you prepared to take to make it a reality in the District of Columbia?

Yes No Other (explain below)

I very much support a national single-payer system of health care in which there is one health risk pool for the entire country, governed by one set of regulations that set service requirements, health provider reimbursement rates, and drug prices. However, any unilateral move towards such a system in the District, without the support of Congress would be fiscally irresponsible, costing the city millions in federal funds from loss of access to Medicaid payments. To replace these funds, an unsustainable levy on private businesses and residents would have to be passed to generate the revenue needed to support a state-based system.

D: Education:

1. What steps will you take to promote public unionism in DC if, as is expected, the Supreme Court will rule against unions in *Janus vs. AFSCME*?

Right to work legislation was considered by the DC Council in 2013 and not approved. As I have done when it comes to budget autonomy, marijuana and statehood, I stand up for what DC residents value and will continue to so if given the chance to serve as mayor for the next four years.

2. Do you believe that the students of Washington, DC would be better served if the District ended Mayoral control of schools and educational policies were once again the purview of an elected School Board?

Yes No other (explain below)

3. Do you believe the Washington Teachers' Union and DCPS should have the right to collectively bargain on teacher evaluation standards and procedures? If so, what steps will you take to achieve this goal?

Yes No other (explain below)

WTU continues to be a partner with us as we shape teacher evaluation standards and professional development models.

4. DCPS has one of the highest teacher turn-over rates in the nation. What would you do to address this problem?

DCPS retains 92% of its most highly effective teachers. Outstanding teachers want to stay in our schools. The DCPS LEAP Program (Learning Together to Advance Our Practice) has been put in place as a professional development tool to ensure that

teachers continue to receive the support needed to sharpen their skills and learn new techniques.

5. How are you going to help guarantee transparency in the DCPS budgeting process to make sure that funds earmarked for Title I programs and at-risk programs are used as intended?

School level budgets are shared with the Local School Advisory Teams or LSATs – made up of school leaders, educators and parents – earlier in the budget process than ever before to engage all parties on the budget before it is finalized.

Title I and at-risk funds are used as intended for both school-level investments and system-wide investments, like year round schools.

6. The achievement gap in DC between low income students and their more affluent peers is 38 times the national average.
 - What do you believe are the causes of the achievement gap?
 - What will you do to address this problem?

Our school system reflects our community. Since day one of my Administration, I have been focused on closing opportunity gaps by giving every DC resident a fair shot at a pathway to the middle class, removing barriers to employment, housing, health care, childcare, and transportation. Some examples, include:

- **Created the Deputy Mayor for Greater Economic Opportunity Office to focus on rebuilding and revitalizing overlooked and underserved communities.**
- **Led the Fight for \$15 to raise the minimum wage to \$15 and increased the tipped worker wage.**
- **Increased the unemployment insurance benefit for DC workers from \$345 to \$425.**
- **Developed innovative workforce programs to get more DC residents to work including the expansion of the Marion S. Barry Summer Youth Employment Program, the Learn, Earn, Advance, and Prosper (LEAP) Academy, DC Career Connections, expanding apprenticeship opportunities, and created the DC Infrastructure Academy (in partnership with Labor) to prepare DC residents for good paying jobs in the infrastructure industry.**
- **Created the Kids Ride Free Program, which put money back into the pockets of every day DC families.**
- **Strengthened the District's social safety net by increasing the support provided to District families utilizing TANF for more than 60 months, doubled down on investments in workforce and education for adults on TANF.**
- **Invested more than \$300 million in to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.**
- **Developed and implemented Homeward DC, a plan that will allow us to close DC General, build dignified housing for District families, and end family homelessness in the District.**

- **Developed the nationally recognized Aspire to Entrepreneurship Program focused on helping returning citizens start their own businesses.**

Within the school system, specifically, I have made unprecedented investments in public schools and put in place a range of programs and initiatives – including the Empowering Males of Color and Reign initiatives – to raise student achievement and promote equity. I opened Ron Brown College Preparatory High School, the first and only all-male public high school in Washington, DC. I launched Excellence through Equity funding, a \$2.6 million investment that supports efforts to close the achievement gap. The funding provides more resources and support to schools and students that need it the most. All 115 schools received funding based on the number and concentration of students who scored Level 1 or 2 on the 2017 Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment.

7. The DCMR Title 5 states that principals and assistant principals serve one year without tenure in the position. Retention and reappointment shall be at the discretion of the Chancellor. Principals and Assistant Principals have no due process rights resulting in a high turnover of school administrators. How would you propose building continuity of leadership in the face of this situation?

Programs like the Mary Jane Patterson fellowship and Executive Masters in Leadership help build a robust pipeline of leaders who have been able to develop skills on the ground and leverage them to step into leadership roles prepared to lead on day one. I look forward to continuing to foster these programs that have already afforded our schools system with highly effective and passionate leaders.

E: Accountability/Economic Development: (Please answer by checking the box)

Short-term rental companies like, Airbnb, have grown exponentially in the last few years. In order to protect our neighborhoods and communities from commercial operators who convert valuable housing into de facto hotels, Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie introduced the *Short-term Rental Regulation and Affordable Housing Protection Act of 2017*. This bill will 1) limit short-term rentals to primary residences, 2) remove the incentive to operate commercially by putting a cap on the amount of days a host can rent their home while not present, and 3) hold hosting platforms accountable.

1. Will you vote in support of this bill?

Yes

No

other (explain below)

I support commonsense regulation to ensure that short-term rentals are fair. This includes ensuring that homeowners maintain their right to extra income while also avoiding nuisance properties by ensuring that the District's laws around hotels and land use are enforced and updated as needed.

2. Late last year, a Council committee held a hearing on noise complaints. It was evident from this hearing that the vast majority of the complaints should be addressed through better enforcement of the existing Noise Control Act. Unfortunately, some have proposed solving their noise concerns with draconian legislation that would limit the exercise of free speech in the District. Do you promise to defend the Noise Control Act, which provides critical protections for residents and visitors seeking to exercise their free speech rights in the District of Columbia?

Yes No other (explain below)

I support reasonable limits on noise, especially in residential neighborhoods. There is a critical balance between freedom of speech and quality of life and that enforcement is a key to better outcomes for all.

3. Would you be willing to support DC legislation that would require any and all presenters, promoters, vendors, “Events DC”, et al doing any form of for-profit theatrical presentation, show or concert on City property or on property controlled by the City to pay all of their employees an area-standard wage, provide health care coverage and access to job training in the Technical Entertainment Industry?

Yes No other (explain below)

I championed the \$15 minimum wage by 2020, comprehensive health care coverage, and vocational/employment training for DC residents. I believe these should apply and be available to all residents, including those in the theatrical and creative industries.

4. Congress extended the Abolishment Act (D.C. Code §§ 1-624.08 et seq.), effectively allowing the DC government to define the procedures governing any RIF initiated by an agency head, by limiting the procedures to which an aggrieved employee is entitled, and rendering those procedures nonnegotiable. Although this was a misguided effort to help DC government reduce costs, agency heads exploited this Act, often using it as a means to rid their agencies of unpopular employees.

The use of such improperly targeted RIF’s is an abuse of authority and does not serve the interests of the District. DC workers covered by a collective bargaining agreement have been unfairly deprived of any meaningful opportunity to assert the rights that they were intended to have under the District of Columbia Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act.

Will you support legislation to repeal provisions of the Abolishment Act that override collective bargaining agreements?

Yes No other (explain below)

I believe in collective bargaining and workers' rights. I do not take any reductions in force lightly and I am open to working with you on any concerns you may have about the overall process or any particular agencies that you believe are abusing the established regulations as a way to separate employees. Reductions in force regulations are in place to ensure proper notice, priority placement and reemployment are available to any employees impacted.

5. Should DC government be able to override collective bargaining agreement provisions regarding RIFs?

Yes No other (explain below)

I believe in collective bargaining and workers' rights. I do not take any reductions in force lightly and I am open to working with you on any concerns you may have about the overall process or any particular agencies that you believe are abusing the established regulations as a way to separate employees. Reductions in force regulations are in place to ensure proper notice, priority placement and reemployment are available to any employees impacted.

The Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1974 (CMPA) establishes the right of DC government employees to form unions if they so desire, and sets out how representation elections will be held, how collective bargaining will be conducted, and how disputes will be resolved.

6. Some ES employees (paraprofessionals) work only 10 months out of 12. Would you support legislation to allow these workers to receive unemployment services during the summer months when they are deemed as officially being laid off employees?

Yes No other (explain below)

Yes. Paraprofessionals play a critical role in the day-to-day success of our schools, students and the District. I would be open to reviewing legislation that works within the current unemployment insurance rules, is financially sustainable, and includes proper safeguards to protect against abuse.

7. Will you vote to uphold the provisions of the CMPA if they are challenged in any way which reduces workers' rights?

Yes No other (explain below)

Noncompliance with wage and worker protection laws persists at a high level around the country. A 2008 survey found that 68% of people working low-wage jobs in large cities experience wage theft every week, losing about 15% of their earnings. When our laws

regarding the minimum wage, overtime, wage theft, and paid sick leave are violated, workers and their families face real and dire consequences. They suffer increased poverty rates and are more likely to rely on public assistance, straining safety net programs and hindering workers' ability to improve their economic futures. But the harms of wage theft also extend beyond its immediate victims, reducing taxable income and exerting downward pressure on the wages of all workers in affected industries. Law-abiding business owners are also harmed as their competitors unlawfully trim labor costs*.

8. What steps will you take toward eliminating all forms of wage theft and fostering an environment of worker protections throughout the District of Columbia?

I am committed to protecting DC workers and ensuring that businesses understand and adhere to District laws that protect our workers from bad actors. Since 2015, my team has worked hard to educate and protect the wages and rights of District workers. We do this through a three-pronged approach – educating DC workers and businesses about the law, monitoring business compliance, and enforcing the wage theft laws. The Department of Employment Services has recovered more than \$20 million in back wages for District workers since 2015 and has successfully stood up the infrastructure to conduct even more robust monitoring and enforcement to help DC workers recoup all of their back wages and empower them to access all of the benefits guaranteed under the law.

If given the opportunity to serve another four years as mayor, I will work to continue to improve the enforcement of wage theft laws and continue to foster an environment that protects DC workers.

While wage theft is pervasive and highly damaging, there is some good news: the problem is not unassailable. To be most effective, anti-wage theft laws must be meaningfully and effectively enforced, and must be accompanied by other legal provisions that empower victims to speak up against their abuse, such as strong anti-retaliation laws.

9. Will you work with community groups, city administration and others to support proven programs that combat wage theft: Community engagement in language access programs; Public Education Partnerships; the Development of Community Allies to assist with third party enforcement?

Yes No other (explain below)

10. Will you increase funding in the departments and programs that have proven to ensure that workers are paid correctly and made aware of their rights under the law, such as: increased funding in DOES for investigators, funding for community members who are third party enforcers; increased penalties for employers who violate the laws and; funding for a robust Public Awareness and Accountability Program?

Yes No other (explain below)

12. Will you provide the funding to implement the Procurement Integrity, Transparency, and Accountability Amendment Act of 2016, which requires that city contracts above \$75 million have a Project-Labor Agreement?

Yes

No

other (explain below)

Project Labor Agreements can play an important role in ensuring that large infrastructure projects have a steady workforce, are delivered on time and provide District residents with the quality they deserve. District projects such as the South Capitol Street Bridge and the soccer stadium are such examples and we are looking to apply PLAs for the deconstruction of DC General and demolition phase of the Daly Building public-private partnership. I believe that the application of PLAs should be project specific and determined in consultation with labor so that any associated costs can be accounted for. Currently, the OCFO has estimated through their Fiscal Impact Statement that the "Act" passed would increase the costs of our capital construction projects by 10% or \$26 million per year, which would reduce available capital funds and decrease the number of projects that can be undertaken by the District. I remain open to re-convening a discussion with the OCFO to determine if they are willing to re-evaluate their analysis.

13. Income and racial inequality are growing in DC. What would you do to address that?

Like many DC residents, I have seen unprecedented prosperity sweep through our city, but that prosperity remains elusive for far too many DC residents. Since day one of my Administration, I have been focused on giving every DC resident a fair shot at a pathway to the middle class, removing barriers to employment, housing, health care, childcare, and transportation. Some examples, include:

- **Created the Deputy Mayor for Greater Economic Opportunity Office to focus on rebuilding and revitalizing overlooked and underserved communities.**
- **Led the Fight for \$15 to raise the minimum wage to \$15 and increased the tipped worker wage.**
- **Increased the unemployment insurance benefit for DC workers from \$345 to \$425.**
- **Developed innovative workforce programs to get more DC residents to work including the expansion of the Marion S. Barry Summer Youth Employment Program, the Learn, Earn, Advance, and Prosper (LEAP) Academy, DC Career Connections, expanding apprenticeship opportunities, and created the DC Infrastructure Academy (in partnership with Labor) to prepare DC residents for good paying jobs in the infrastructure industry.**
- **Created the Kids Ride Free Program, which put money back into the pockets of every day DC families.**

- **Strengthened the District’s social safety net by increasing the support provided to District families utilizing TANF for more than 60 months, doubled down on investments in workforce and education for adults on TANF.**
- **Invested more than \$300 million in to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.**
- **Developed and implemented Homeward DC, a plan that will allow us to close DC General, build dignified housing for District families, and end family homelessness in the District.**
- **Developed the nationally recognized Aspire to Entrepreneurship Program focused on helping returning citizens start their own businesses.**

F: Transportation: (Please provide your response on a separate sheet).

1. Do you believe that any privatization of public transit is acceptable for the improvement of service at WMATA, DC Streetcar or DC Circulator? If so, please explain.

- Yes No other (explain below)

As we strive to deliver the best quality transit options in the country, it is critical that the men and women who operate our systems have competitive wages and benefits and work in an environment where the safety culture is paramount. In order to better understand the implications of moving to a service delivery model that does not include private contracting for operations and maintenance, I have asked the District Department of Transportation to commission an analysis of the costs and benefits of bringing DC Circulator operations in house. This analysis is important to understand all of the implications of transitioning one of our major transit systems and to determine if this shift would yield both better outcomes for both our workforce and the traveling public.

2. In the 2018 legislative session in Maryland, ATU Local 689 aggressively pursued legislation to see assaults on transit workers charged as an automatic felony. Will you work to make sure D.C. joins Maryland in raising the penalty of assaults on transit employees?

- Yes No

The safety of our workforce in the District of Columbia and across our region is vitally important. I support increased penalties for assault on operators as a means to improving safety and eliminating these incidents.

1. CLASS I / Freight & Passenger Railroad – Safety & Security

Union Station is the second busiest station in the national Amtrak network with five million annual passengers. MARC, and Virginia Railroad Express (VRE) transport daily 50,000 commuters and visitors to the District of Columbia. The combined ridership for Amtrak, MARC, and VRE is expected to increase from 14 million – 34 million by 2040.

Freight railroad traffic through the District of Columbia is projected to increase by 57% to 48 daily double-stacked freight trains from the Ports of Norfolk, Charleston, Jacksonville, and Miami.

Wards 4,5,6,7 host the railroad corridors with a combined population of 297,747 residents equaling forty-four (44%) percent of the total population. Our 700,000 population is projected to increase by 30% by 2040. Many of these new residents will live and work in the old and new communities adjacent to railroad corridors.

The past two years the District of Columbia has experienced major railroad incidents:

- May 2016 - 170 car CSX train freight train derailed in Ward 5 traveling through the District of Columbia on the CSX Capital Sub-Division from Cumberland, Maryland to Hamlet, North Carolina. Fourteen cars derailed with seven tanker cars containing sodium hydroxide, ethanol, and calcium chloride leaking its contents.
- June 2017 – Two CSX Transportation employees were struck and killed by a southbound Amtrak Train No. 175 north of Union Station in the Ivy City.

In 2017, the Council approved the Rail Safety and Security Amendment Act (D.C. Law 21-254) authorizing the creation of an Emergency Response and Rail Safety Division within the Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE). It also would establish of a Railroad Advisory Board.

2. In FY 2018 budget, the Council did not appropriate any funding to establish the State Rail Safety Office. Would you support full funding to establish the Rail Safety Office in the FY 2019 budget?

Yes No other (explain below)

My proposed budget funds an increase in DOEE's budget by \$242,311 and 2.0 FTEs and by a one-time funding adjustment of \$12,900 in the Environmental Services division to support the District's Rail Safety and Security Amendment Act of 2016. These funds will support a new Rail Safety and Emergency Response division within DOEE with the purpose of overseeing heavy rail transportation in the District.

3. Would you support an amendment to D.C. Law 21-254 “Rail Safety and Security Amendment Act” authorizing the DOEE to assess penalties and fines for safety or security violations on the railroads operating in the District of Columbia?

Yes No other (explain below)

G. Utility Issues: (Please provide your response on a separate sheet)

I. DC Water – Clean River Impervious Area Charge (CRIAC) Fee

Over past 30 years, the Metropolitan Washington Council / AFL-CIO has opposed policies that denied reasonable, fair, and equitable utility rates to District of Columbia residents.

It is our view the (Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge) CRIAC being imposed on ratepayers by DC Water is of these policies. The CRIAC is onerous and undermines public support for Clean River Projects to improve storm water management and the Anacostia River.

More importantly, the CRIAC fee disproportionately affects senior citizens, working families, and long-term homeowners. It is also contributing to accelerated gentrification and the de-stabilization of many legacy neighborhoods and communities. The CRIAC fee is making the District of Columbia unaffordable for its many public servants and residents. DC Water must develop a plan to broaden its rate base, to include assessments on the District of Columbia and Federal Governments.

The Metropolitan Washington Council Labor Council is committed to reducing the financial burden of the CRIAC charges and a more equitable formula to fund restoration and preservation of the Anacostia River.

If elected to the Council of the District of Columbia, will you commit to:

14. Do you support efforts to reduce and expand the distribution of CRIAC charges across rate groups?

Yes No other (explain below)

I recognized the burden faced by residents, especially seniors and those on fixed incomes, and proposed for the first time to contribute city funds to help rate payers. I also called on the DC Water Board to freeze rates and cut costs. I will continue to fight to make DC affordable.

15. Do you support greater oversight of DC Water operations and ratemaking? Including

requiring Council approvals for all new fees, charges and rate hikes imposed on District of Columbia ratepayers.

Yes No other (explain below)

The DC Water Authority was created and mandated by Congress, primarily to prevent funds paid by rate payers from being used for other city purposes. DC residents make up the majority of the board so we still have local control. Seventy five percent of DC Water employees belong to our unions and are paid competitive wages with strong benefits, including an up to date contract. These employees have made DC Water the most admired and respected water and sewer utility in the nation. We need to address the rising rates, but I believe the current structure without Council setting rates, can and will work.

H. Retail/Budget

1. Do you support Fair Scheduling legislation to require employers to give retail and restaurant workers their weekly work schedules at least two weeks in advance, and requires employers to offer part-time workers more hours when a fellow employee leaves, rather than hiring additional employees?

Yes No other (explain below)

I believe scheduling needs to be fair and predictable, while ensuring that both employees and employers are able to account for personal and business realities, including illness and unanticipated events.

2. What are your top three priorities for the DC budget?

I was proud to send my fourth budget to Council earlier this year that reflects feedback gathered from residents during our annual budget engagement forums as well as senior and DC Government employee telephone town halls and agency budget recommendations. Based on this feedback, our shared priorities for the DC budget continue to be education, affordable housing and our safety net. I have been able to make historic investments in all three during my first term in office – and look forward to having the opportunity to do even more.

My budget includes funding for the District’s landmark agreements with the Washington Teachers Union and Compensation Units 1 and 2.