Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats: 2021 Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

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Office Sought: New York City Mayor
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Please answer each of the following questions to the best of your ability:

1) If elected, what would be your top priority in your first term?

If I am elected, my top priority would be to improve the quality of life of all New York City residents. I would appoint a Chief Equity Officer that would be tasked with assessing, analyzing, and evaluating historical data derived from various New York City agencies. This analysis will be conducted for the purpose of implementing data driven public policies that address the economic inequalities that are correlated with disparities in education, employment opportunities, access to safe and affordable housing, quality of life and access to quality and affordable healthcare. I will also **p**rioritize digitalization and invest in building an efficient, secure, and transparent eco-system in which a minimum of 75% of the city government's services can be offered online**.** I would establish a Single-System Strategy for New York City's disengaged youth population which is currently estimated to be over 250,000. I will hire experts to lead key agencies and end to the brain drain that has been occurring within NYC government. I will work to restore NYC's robust economy and balance our budget, but not on the backs of our most vulnerable and not at the expense of our business community that is so vital to New York City's economic eco-system.

2) What personal and/or professional experiences do you believe make you uniquely qualified to run for New York City Mayor? Attach resume or CV if desired. I am visionary leader, change agent, native New Yorker, Mom, Wife, and first-generation college graduate who was born and raised in a housing development in Brooklyn, NY. I earned a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) from New York University, a Master of Business Administration (MBA) fro**m** Long Island University and I am currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Information Science from Long Island University at the CW Post Campus. I am currently an Accountant and Data Scientist, and most politicians are lawyers and have a legal perspective, but I offer business and economic perspectives with a commitment to implementing data driven public policies. Experience does not equal excellence and I am the strategic thinker and agile leader New York City needs to restore our economy and address the economic inequality that has plagued this city for over 200 years.

3) List all your endorsements, including but not limited to elected officials, unions, political clubs and community-based organizations. Henry Marsh III, Esq. who was the first African American Mayor of the City of Richmond and served as a special Ambassador to President Jimmy Carter as well as serving several terms as a Virginia State Senator.

4) What, if any, groups, or industries will you <u>not</u> accept campaign contributions from? If any, please note specifically whose money you will not accept. I need to assess, analyze and evaluate the data before I can determine which groups or industries, I will not accept campaign contributions from. However, I will not accept campaign contributions from organizations that operate outside the legal parameters.

5) How do you propose helping NYC recover from the COVID pandemic and resulting economic recession, particularly given the projected shortfall in city revenue?
As mayor, I will focus on hiring experts to lead key agencies and end the brain drain that has been occurring within NYC government. I will work to restore NYC's robust economy and balance our budget, but not on the backs of our most vulnerable and not at the expense of our business community that is so vital to our economic eco-system. I will assess, analyze, and evaluate the data so I implement data driven public policies that help New York City recover from the economic recession caused as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

6) What measures would you take to improve educational opportunities for all students in NYC? How do you plan to ensure that all NYC children are able to attend high-quality, integrated schools? Do you support D15's integration plan as it has been implemented? What changes, if any, would you make to the current D15 integration plan? I am a data scientist so the data I am interested in reviewing is not readily available to me at this juncture. I will say that based on the merits of D15's integration plan, I do support the plan as it has been implemented. I will also invest in teacher and administrator preparation that accelerates the effective adoption of new instructional technologies.

7) How would you have handled the reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 academic year? How would you prepare for a second wave of this pandemic? How would you propose to ensure that the needs of highly vulnerable children with special needs, who are homeless, come from poor families, and/or live in households without adults who could aid their learning are not left further behind when remote learning has to be relied on?
New York City did not have an adequate information infrastructure in place that could be utilized to derive knowledge for sound decision-making. Instead, decisions were made impulsively and haphazardly in terms of the initial and ongoing response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. As mayor, I would know immediately which information seeking channels to utilize to get information and resources to the communities that need it most.

I would have had business continuity plans in place for every New York City agency to ensure that in the event of a natural disaster, pandemic or emergency event, the agencies would be able to carry out their missions and ensure continuity of city services. This is one of the reasons I will prioritize digitalization to ensure that a minimum of 75% of the city government's services can be offered online. Under my leadership as Mayor, every student would have access to a device with internet capabilities.

8) Do you support allowing non-citizen New York City residents to vote in City-based elections? Why or why not? I support creating a legal pathway for non-citizens to become citizens.

9) Do you support any campaign finance reforms for NYC? If so, please describe. I need to assess, analyze and evaluate the data before I can determine whether I will support any additional campaign finance reforms in NYC.

10) Now that the State government has passed the Reproductive Health Act, what steps would you have the Council and City Hall take to increase reproductive healthcare access, including maternal healthcare, and to do so equitably? I have always supported a women's right to choose. Ensuring organizations such as Planned Parenthood Federation of America have the financial support they need, can lead to increases in access to reproductive healthcare. Additionally, funding research that explores the information seeking channels of low-income residents in communities through-out New York City will ensure that information about reproductive health is readily accessible and distributed equitably as well.

11) The MTA is facing a significant revenue shortfall and many parts of the city lack access to reliable public transportation. What measures would you implement and/or enforce, to promote safe, efficient, and accessible transportation options for mass transit users, pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers in Brooklyn and in the City as a whole? I would improve safety measures for MTA customers, cyclists, pedestrians, and drivers by reviewing current policy and practices.

12) How would you ensure fairness in employment, salary, workplace conditions, and promotion? What is your position on strengthening and increasing access to union membership? I would appoint a Chief Equity Officer that would be tasked with assessing, analyzing, and evaluating historical data derived from various New York City agencies and the business communities through-out New York City, for the purpose of implementing data driven public policies that can ensure fairness in employment, salary, workplace conditions and promotional opportunities.

13) How would you ensure that underserved communities receive fair and equitable treatment from city government? What policies do you support that would level the playing field for historically marginalized groups? I would appoint a Chief Equity Officer that would be tasked with assessing, analyzing, and

evaluating historical data derived from various New York City agencies for the purpose of implementing data driven public policies that can adequately address the economic inequality that is directly correlated with disparities in education, employment opportunities, access to safe and affordable housing and quality effective healthcare.

14) What policy and practice changes are needed for NYC government to ensure sufficient quality housing that is affordable for existing residents in Brooklyn neighborhoods? It is important to stop NYC property tax lien sales that are displacing families and work on innovative solutions that will keep existing residents in Brooklyn Neighborhoods from being displaced. I would require developers to offer more affordable housing units and legalize some basement apartments and accessory units over garages.

15) What policies would you pass or enforce to ensure public housing/NYCHA repair, upkeep and security, and access to alternate housing and services when lacking essentials such as heat, gas and hot water? What is your position on "privatization" of public housing/NYCHA, and on City government sale of public housing "open areas" (outdoor seating & recreation plots) and air rights to private developers? Most NYCHA housing residents do not want privatization so it is time for real innovative solutions. My NYCHA REBUILD proposal consist of a plan to convert each eligible NYCHA building into an affordable HDFC and offer eligible tenants, under the section 8 (y) homeownership option, tenant-based assistance to purchase the dwelling unit that will be occupied by the family. The funds raised from the sale of each apartment could be utilized to immediately renovate each building. The ongoing payment section 8 (y) assistance could fund future repairs, maintenance, upkeep, as well as generate property tax revenue for the city. The State of New York Mortgage Agency (SONYMA) can be utilized to offer low interest loans to eligible buyers and large institutions to would offer up to $5 billion in funds that would be allocated to each borough for activities that would qualify under 12 CFR 25.04. of the Community Reinvestment Act. My affordable housing plan will create a path to homeownership, build generational wealth, lead to strong social organizations, and offer residential stability, which, according to research, are all factors that can lead to a decrease in violent crime.

16) Given the City's Covid and post-Covid economic crisis, how would you approach your role in addressing the city's carceral system, including the plan to close Rikers? I believe we need to immediately take steps to ban private prisons, decriminalize marijuana and grant clemency for individuals that are incarcerated for non-violent crimes that do not pose a threat to the safety of others. I also believe we need to reform the correctional system and work to implement programs that rehabilitate people while they are incarcerated to reduce the probability of recidivism.

17) Describe your vision for public safety in New York City? What, if any, functions would you like to see

removed from the police department? What agencies assume the functions removed from the NYPD? My vision for public safety is to address the gap in the city's support and outreach system for at-risk New York City residents, especially the ones with a history of trauma and exposure to gun violence. I was five-years old when I had my first traumatic experience. The Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice would be expanded, and the scope of the NYPD would change. Organizations that deploy rapid response teams that respond to gun violence, had have success in terms of reducing the number of subsequent shooting incidents. This is important to note because as of the time that I am writing this questionnaire and prior to the time of our next mayoral conference on January 19, 2021, one NYC teen will have died because of gun violence, and this is an awful reality. I also believe with these changes, It is important to ensure diversity among the top leadership within the NYPD.

18) Do you support changes to the ULURP process and to other NYC zoning mechanisms? If so, what specific changes do you support? The data I need to derive knowledge regarding NYC zoning mechanisms, is not readily available to me at this juncture. I need to assess, analyze, and evaluate the data associated with the ULURP process and other NYC zoning mechanisms prior to determining whether or not I will support changes.

19) Do you have a plan to reduce and prevent homelessness in Brooklyn and NYC?   Explain your plan.

I need to assess, analyze, and evaluate the data before I can determine the best course of action. There are several factors that contribute to homelessness and it is important explore each cause before we can develop solutions to reduce and subsequently prevent homelessness. Plans for assisted living facilities that serve individuals that suffer from mental illness would be one solution that could address this unique portion of the homeless population. Since the primary reason for homelessness is a result of a person not having adequate resources to pay for housing, homelessness can be reduced or eliminated when people can financially support themselves and/or family. Educational and employment opportunities must be broadened. In the case of those who may not be able to take advantage of the aforementioned opportunities, city, state, and federal government programs should be in place to provide housing assistance.