



BENNY N. NAPOLEON

MAYORAL CANDIDATE RESPONSE

QUESTION: Detroit suffers from very high rates of asthma, cancer, and lead poisoning, all influenced by our heavily polluted environment. These problems impact children’s ability to learn and adults’ ability to work. What would you, as an elected official, do to improve Detroit’s environment?

ANSWER: As Mayor, my Neighborhood Growth Strategy calls for improved energy, environmental, conservation and sustainability. We believe that it is imperative to include environmental controls in our infrastructure and neighborhood developments, as well as green space and buffers throughout.

Like the DEA, my green plan is also a living document requiring updating and adjusting over time. In order to remain on the cutting edge of innovations in green technology, my administration will engage in regular outreach strategies to simply solicit the public’s input and to pursue best practices.

We will perform an administrative review and assessment of Detroit’s compliance, oversight, deadlines, mandates, outstanding issues, ordinances, obligations, grants, and emergency preparedness.

Detroit has a unique role in the Great Lakes Region. Our city is absent from far too many international, federal, regional and statewide green discussions – particularly when resources are being allocated. That will change. We will become a leader in: city systems; combined sewer overflow; pristine municipal water supply and infrastructure; and the cost benefits of aged infrastructure and architecture; air quality; vacant land use, and oil refineries.

Q: How would you, as an elected official, be an advocate for resident efforts to improve neighborhood quality of life?

A: The success of my green plan requires resident and neighborhood involvement. As mayor, my administration will encourage and welcome active and opposing views before final decisions are made.

DETROIT ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA QUESTIONNAIRE

MAYORAL CANDIDATES

We will encourage all sectors of the community to help in neighborhood beautification, neighborhood and green efforts, and work with the courts and the criminal justice system to explore opportunities for inmate and offender programs and projects that can jointly assist the city.

Additionally, my plan includes coordinated emergency planning, training and disaster preparedness for volunteers, organized groups and city employees. It also includes multi-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary networks of government agencies and community stakeholders in order to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from major disruptive events.

Q: In the interests of environmental justice, how would you work to alleviate disproportionate environmental burdens in the city?

A: Using the Detroit Future City's Plan as a model for existing and emerging industries, my administration will be charged with tracking public policy at the federal, state and local level in order to predict, mitigate or alleviate further despaired impact for city residents.

Q: The City needs to be an advocate for higher environmental standards. If you are elected, how do you envision using the Detroit Environmental Agenda as a tool to create policies that improve the city's environment?

A: In Detroit's current fiscal situation, adding a new and fully-staffed office will be a challenge. However, we will enlist other post-industrial urban center mayors in the region to pursue best practices in this regard. Leaders such as Mayor Mark Mallory of Cincinnati explore the roles and responsibilities of his sustainability office; Mayor Frank Jackson of Cleveland and his Sustainability 2019 Plan; and Mayor Tom Barrett of Milwaukee and his recently released ReFresh Milwaukee the city's sustainability plan 2013-2023. We will explore the successes and challenges they've had in this area and decide on how to move forward.

Read the full Detroit Environmental Agenda report at www.detroitenv.org.

It's time to act. Inform your vote for the **Tuesday, November 5, 2013** general elections.

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