

DETROIT ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA QUESTIONNAIRE

AT-LARGE CANDIDATE



BRENDA JONES

AT-LARGE CANDIDATE

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 the former vice-chair and the current chair of the Public Health and Safety Standing Committee, I have and will continue to advocate on behalf of the citizens of Detroit to improve our heavily polluted environment. I was the citizen's voice with the Fire Department and other key players during discussions after the Marathon Explosion. I advocated for effective and efficient policies that would protect all Detroit citizens in case of an explosion or environmental emergency. I will continue to listen to the concerns of the citizens of Detroit and represent them in discussions concerning the environment and implement policies and procedures through ordinance to regulate environmental concerns.

Furthermore, I did not and do not support the current Detroit Incinerator or any other incinerator located in the City of Detroit that pollutes the environment. I will also work with all environmental groups regarding any environmental concerns.

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

A: As an elected official, I feel that transparency is important and I am willing to address all concerns openly and get any and all departments involved as well any state and/or federal officials, departments, and agencies. The most recent discussion that has been before the committee is the storage of Petroleum Coke near the Detroit River that is hazardous to all of the residents in the area. I requested that City Council Staff and the Law Department begin developing an amendment to the zoning ordinance that would regulate the petroleum coke storage in the area. The amendment would address the community concerns with the storage of petroleum coke in the Detroit area. My office has been working very closely with the

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development of the ordinance amendment and I look forward to introducing the ordinance and others like it to protect the neighborhood quality of life.

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

A: I would continue to investigate ways to amend and implement amendments to the City of Detroit's current zoning ordinance. There are areas in the City of Detroit that do not properly address zoning requirements that reflect the neighborhood. If an area has a dense residential population they should not be forced to endure industrial zoning requirements.

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: I recently toured a home that utilizes a large amount of green technology and resources. Before the tour, I was not aware of the many ways a home could be energy efficient. This home can be utilized for community meetings and community discussion. I offered to host seminars and meetings with communities around the city in order to implement greener policies around the City of Detroit. I will continue

to educate the citizens as well as be educated on ways that the community can become more efficient at protecting the environment. Another fact learned while touring the green hub was that there are federal grants to support green job training. It is important that all community groups are knowledgeable of all opportunities to employ their residents to make their community more environmentally efficient. I will also work with the Building, Safety, Engineering, and Environmental Department to apply for environmental grants that would employ Detroit residents and make our city more environmentally efficient. All children and citizens in the City of Detroit deserve to breathe clean air and drink clean water. Contractors and business owners that do not adhere to Environmental Protection standards should be penalized for their lack of consideration for the residents in their area. I will continue to communicate with the Building, Safety, Engineering, and Environmental Department to ensure regular monitoring and penalizing of contractors and business owners that are violating Environmental Protection Standards.

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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