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## Climate Resilience Ordinance

The DEA supports passing the Climate Resilience Ordinance, a municipal law that will help the City reduce greenhouse gas emissions incrementally through 2050. This law will help protect residents, especially our low-income communities of color, from impacts of climate change (e.g. extreme weather).

**Q:** What are your priorities to reduce emissions and lessen the impacts of climate change in Detroit during your term in office?

**A:** (1) Strengthen and align the City of Detroit's environmental management system. (2) Promote greater awareness, training and development among Detroiters, especially youth, for careers and employment in the environmental field. I am collaborating with training and development consultants to promote careers in the energy industry. Also, as Chair of the city's Skilled Trades Task Force, I work to create career opportunities for Detroiters to participate in "green" components of development projects. (3) Collaborate with neighborhoods in the community to identify and mitigate environmental hazards that negatively impact the quality of life for Detroit residents, businesses and visitors.

## Sustainability & Equity

Sustainable and equitable development requires our City officials to balance public health and environmental needs with economic growth and job creation. When new projects and developments are under consideration, all too often economic interests may outweigh critical environmental concerns, that are likely to decrease the quality of life for residents, especially low-income, people of color, and other vulnerable communities.

**Q:** As you consider development proposals in your role as an elected official, how would you balance economic interests and environmental concerns?

**A:** Our city is the first to pass a Community Benefits Ordinance (CBO) that encourages developers to meet with communities (via Neighborhood Advisory Councils NACs) to discuss the impact new development projects will have on their neighborhood. I have participated in discussions for several projects. These discussions have included feedback from the community on traffic patterns, environmental emission alerts and use of green space. This results in developers providing not only economic statistics, but environmental impact statistics, such as the rate of greenhouse emissions, strategies for greenhouse emission reductions, and impact on air quality.

## Air

The DEA supports the air quality improvements recommended in the Community Action to Promote Healthy Environments (CA-PHE) Detroit Air Quality Public Health Action Plan.:

**Q:** Share up to three air quality improvements you will work to enact during your term in office. Explain how.

**A:** (1) Reforestation of the City. By utilizing city resources and acquiring additional grant dollars, we are planting trees on vacant parcels across the City. Increasing forestry has proven to mitigate against climate change by removing CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere. Reforestation also creates new jobs for residents within the City of Detroit. (2) Increasing use of public space. Providing open public space for residents to meet, socialize and gather promotes healthier recreational opportunities for all residents. (3) Efficient use of public and private transportation methods. Through the use of electric vehicles, rideshare opportunities, bike lanes and other modes of transportation, we can realize less vehicular travel to decrease Detroit's emissions from vehicles.

## Waste

Recycling brings value back into the waste stream, reduces negative effects of disposal (including toxic emissions, leakages, and lost resources and energy), and creates the potential for new markets. Detroit has an opt-in curbside recycling program limited to single households and residences up to four units. Given your role, share the strategies and policies for waste reduction and reuse you will support in response to the question below.

**Q:** How will you work to increase recycling options for all residents, including people who live in apartments?

**A:** I was a strong advocate for the current City of Detroit recycling program. The program is currently voluntary and the residents must opt in. Fee waivers are available, if residents attend a recycling workshop. I am working to increase access for residents living in apartments by ensuring rental buildings provide recycling options.

**Q:** How will you work to increase diversion of waste from the incinerator, for use in industry and commerce?

**A:** I support continuous improvement of the City of Detroit's composting and recycling program and policies to prevent incineration of materials such as papers and plastics, which require a significant amount of energy and emit a large amount of greenhouse gases.

## Land Use and Food Access

The City of Detroit owns 24 square miles of structure-free, vacant land that can be put into private hands for productive use.

**Q:** What is your top priority for publicly-owned land in Detroit?

**A:** I promote effective use of publicly-owned land to create a mix of residential, commercial, and recreational space for Detroiters. I encourage our city planners to develop master plans for the City that balance investment opportunities with green space needs. City Council empowers the City Planning Commission to ensure that the unique expectations of each neighborhood community are considered as master plans are developed.

Healthy food and urban agriculture are surely connected in Detroit. Accessing healthy, culturally-appropriate food can be a challenge. Residents depend upon the network of gardens and farms that exist throughout Detroit for sustenance.

**Q:** Given your role, what would you do to ensure that residents have access to healthy, culturally-appropriate food?

**A:** I support legislation that requires mandatory quarterly health inspections for all establishments that provide produce to our residents. This can ensure that food is not being sold with old expiration dates or in poor quality. Utilizing some of the vacant

land in our city, we can increase the number of urban farms and gardens that work to provide access to food within impoverished areas. This process will also raise awareness and provide skills to youth in our communities who will become the next generation of horticulturists in our city.

## Water

Detroit is a Great Lakes city. The DEA supports the Detroit Water Agenda, which provides recommendations for ensuring all Detroiters will have access to affordable, clean, safe water to drink and use. It encourages water conservation and endorses effective models of resilient water management, which embrace a basin-wide perspective and integrated planning of urban development, green and gray water infrastructure.

**Q:** Share up to three Detroit Water Agenda recommendations you will work to enact during your term in office. Explain how.

**A:** It is critical that Detroiters regain control over the management and operation of water resources in our City. To that end, I have led the charge by working with City Council to secure outside legal counsel to restore our ability to approve the water budget, contracts, and rate increases. Also, I have insisted that the Board of Water Commissioners establish evening meetings so more members of the community can participate.

Another objective is to engage the community regarding water affordability resources and practices that are available. I utilize an extensive email database, educational town halls, and legislative updates to communicate with Detroiters. I am constantly looking for ways to increase resources for Detroiters (an example is realigning Community Development Block Grants / Neighborhood Opportunity Funds - CDBG/NOF - funds to support relief for seniors who are unable to keep up with rising water bills).

Green stormwater infrastructure helps manage sewage overflows, reduces basement flooding and builds healthier, more attractive neighborhoods. Residents, businesses, and places of worship can receive stormwater/drainage credits from the City to help build green stormwater infrastructure.

**Q:** How would you help people build green stormwater infrastructure and access to these credits during your term of office?

**A:** During our annual budget review and approval process, I will advocate for additional dollars to be appropriated to the Housing and Development Department for green storm infrastructure upgrades for residents within the City of Detroit. I will also work with the Office of Grants Management to identify additional dollars to be used for storm water infrastructure upgrades.

I have collaborated with the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) to conduct community listening sessions with various groups to understand the issues and challenges faced by those who are trying to make green improvements to receive credits towards drainage charges.