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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: To support the use of renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar energy. As well as to support the Detroit Climate Resilience Ordinance.

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: I will encourage development proposals to implement environmentally friendly aspects into their project to create development projects that are beneficial for everyone.

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: Implement legislation to require petcoke be stored, enclosed, and transported in an enclosed vehicle or vessel.

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 will work to implement legislation similar to the "Renter's Right to Recycle Act" in California where apartment complexes

are required to provide for paper, plastic, and cans in buildings with five or more apartments. I will also support the initiatives of organizations like Zero Waste Detroit who provide free recycling containers to residents along with basic knowledge on how to recycle properly.

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

A: Support the deconstruction of buildings so individual elements can be reused similar to the recycling and rehab of furniture being done in an upholstery workshop that I run through the non-profit organization I lead.

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: To put it back into useful life in a sustainable way that helps to remove blight and encourage residents to create family and neighborhood organic gardens to benefit residents within the community.

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 would like to implement a Healthy Communities initiative that will help residents start community gardens and educate them on preparing fresh food meals.

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: (1) Partner with non-profit organizations to provide educational outreach and design/technical assistance to communities such as workshops on how to build a rain garden, roof garden, native species planting and sustainable landscaping. (2) Make available rain barrels at a reduced cost to residents to purchase and install as part of the Downspout Disconnection Program. (3) Offer free or low cost household water efficiency audits to senior citizens and others to advise on improving household water efficiency.

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: Partner with groups like the Sierra Club and Friends of the Rouge to provide educational outreach and design/technical assistance to support the installation of rain barrels, rain gardens and bioswales.

I will work with DWSD (Detroit Water and Sewerage Department) and the non-profit organizations to ensure residents receive a drainage fee credit for the green stormwater infrastructure installed. The installations will increase awareness and encourage more residents to implement such infrastructure, all in an effort to reduce the likelihood of a system overload.

