

Candidate Name: Akil S. Patterson

Office and District Running For: City Council 13th District

1. What is your vision and plan for public safety and reform of the police and criminal justice system?

Under current laws the Baltimore City Council has very little power to change the police department as a whole. With that being said we can focus on Divesting from Traditional Policing and investing in Community Based programs. These programs should focus on Education, Athletics and Civic engagement et.al.

2. What can you do, within the powers of the office you are running for, to improve education for all Baltimoreans and provide educational equity?

As a City Councilman I would work to fully fund the Kerwin report. One of the methods for this funding would be reallocating funds from the Police department and moving it into education. At the same time I would explore alternative methods of funding, such as ensuring those who receive a Traffic Tickets in lieu of fines can pay directly to a city fund for Baltimore Education. These funds would not be allowed to be used on Any administrative level projects or salaries but must be used for direct services.

3. How will you address blight and revitalize communities while avoiding gentrification?

The plan I have laid out works towards economic development by community empowerment. This is done by working with all companies and contractors that hire 51% of Baltimore citizens for all projects. Once those private companies can show they have hired 51% of Baltimore Residents they would be awarded a city Tax credit for "Hire Local". When hiring local the city would allow for only current residents to be given that credit with the stipulation, they must have lived at least a year in the city and must be employed for over 1 year at time of credit.

4. How will you ensure that communities in the Black Butterfly receive equitable investment?

I believe the language here is negative and should not be used, outside the L communities should be give priority funding based on the community needs for investment. In order to do that the City Planning and Zoning should have greater representation from the districts that have been marginalized.

5. How would you improve transit, transportation, and the ability for people to get around in the city? Would you support the creation of a Regional Transit Authority to provide transit independence from the state?

My plan has always been to ensure no governor can strip a community of funds for much needed clean/ green energy projects that improve transportation in Baltimore. By giving the Current Regional Transportation Authority the power to receive the funds on behalf of the region, we are able to give more power to not only the city but the region. Counties such as Montgomery and Prince Georges have already done this and It is that Baltimore pushes the state to give up control.

6. How will you address the environment, climate justice, and the climate crisis locally, including not only reducing/eliminating greenhouse gas emissions within the city, but also protecting the people and infrastructure from the consequences of the climate crisis? Will you declare a state of climate emergency?

The City Council cannot call a state of emergency, but we can ensure that all contracts follow strict environmental guidelines when work is done in the city. I would also work towards getting non recyclable products out of our city the best that we can.

7. How will you improve public health within the city? Please address racial and economic health disparities and social determinants of health. Some things to consider:

One of the top things we need to address is the spread HIV/ STDs/ STIs, since 2015 the city has seen rates go up. My plans would look to see how we can decriminalize sex work and actually regulate it in the city. From there we can focus on the issues of human trafficking that affects our city.

- a. The high asthma rate; - Reduce Smoking in the city by adding community incentives
- b. Food insecurity and food deserts; - Creating Food hubs and order systems online. This would work to extend the Baltimarket concept
- c. Disparities in life expectancy; - this is a complex issue that is addressed when we work to end Poverty
- d. The effects of trauma and violence- This is something that I would take the council of clinicians and school support staff when it comes to youth. As for adults we should work for more mental health services into communities impacted by crime. In 2017 I spoke with then BCHD Commissioner Dr. Leana Win and asked that the City health department and police work jointly to find ways to set up a tactical crisis unit that addresses mental health calls. I again would propose the same solution
- e. Lead in water and housing. – When we improve the infrastructure using city residents to do the jobs we will be able to replace the city Crumbling water system. At the same time using the aforementioned environmental regulations to ensure that new work is done to code.

8. How will you improve economic opportunities for all residents of Baltimore? What programs would you create or reform to improve access to well paying jobs?

As previously mentioned I would support a City Contract that requires 51% of hirees be Baltimore City residents. This hiring requirement would be an incentive for companies that hire local, as they would be eligible for a Hire Local Tax Credit.

9. What reforms to the structure and functioning of city government would you implement?

- I support a Charter Commission review board every year.
- I support the idea of the Council having Veto override with 9 to 5 votes from the Council.
- I support a city wide change in the charter to move the Council President position into a Public Advocate position.
- At the same time I support the Speaker of the Council be selected from within the Council body.

10. How will you improve the quality of life for city residents? Some things to consider:

- a. Community art - Create opportunities for city based artists to play a role in the development of art districts, while at the same time getting them to take part in artistic projects in the city.
- b. Community centers and recreation; - Working to secure public and private dollars to open 7 days a week in the communities that most need alternatives, and to get capital projects funds from the state for new facilities and upgrades.
- c. Illegal dumping; - Using CCTV as well as citiwatch find the perpetrators.

- d. Beautification of streets and neighborhoods; - Creating programs in which those who owe low-level traffic citations and other fines can pay off their debt by taking part in community beautification projects.
- e. Improving infrastructure;- This question has been asked and answered in other parts of this document
- f. Trash pickup and recycling. – Working with agencies to get contracts with local groups to remove trash, this would supplement the current trash pick up.

11. How will you address the needs of immigrants, both documented and undocumented? Will you ensure the safety of our undocumented neighbors?

Baltimore is for everyone and I will work to ensure that all residents here in Baltimore have the same opportunities, we will not hand over one person to the federal government. We will offer opportunities for those both documented and undocument, as well as assistance for pathways to citizenship for those who need it.

12. How will you address the need for equitable and affordable housing?

I will work with nonprofits who can secure loans to help build affordable and quality housing. Along with that, I will look into the revitalization of vacant areas to supplement the number of homes needed/

13. How will you balance providing services, including water, to all citizens while planning and paying for infrastructure upgrades/repair and replacement?

First a step by step plan would developed before construction is initiated. This plan would start with a plan to inform all of those affected prior to the work being done. After this it would look at the most time efficient and effective way to work in order to cover all areas of the city without constant overlap. This would prevent residents from falling into overlapping work zones.

14. Is there anything else you'd like us to know?

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