



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

CITY COUNCIL 3rd DISTRICT CANDIDATE: ANDREAS "SPILLY" SPILIADIS, GREEN PARTY

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- 1. Please articulate your overall vision for how young people will be supported from cradle to career in Baltimore City? What will be the priority strategies within your first four years in implementing this vision?***

I believe that government should be responsible for ensuring human rights such as housing, clean water, clean air, and food access. This orientation of political values sees also that childhood itself is a human right. If we work to make our communities flourish with human rights, then the full humans that we are will remain intact and grow from cradle to career.

- 2. The Mayor and City Council do not currently have oversight authority over Baltimore City Public Schools. Would you advocate changing the current city/state partnership? What changes would you recommend to the overall administration/approach of public education in Baltimore City?***

Having attended 12 years of public school in Baltimore, and having taught another dozen in the same, I will say that the problems of our school system are rooted in several decades of progressively backwards thinking about pedagogy. Changing the agent of bureaucratic control would only help to the degree that new leadership understands this.

- 3. Eighty percent of a young person's life is spent outside of school, yet just 15% of Baltimore's school aged young people have access to afterschool programs. City leaders from around the country have begun to identify the importance of afterschool and summer programs as a critical support and have invested in citywide systems. Participation in out-of-school time opportunities boosts academics, attendances, school promotion and completion and it helps connects young people to caring adults. If elected, what would your approach be to addressing opportunities for youth beyond the school day and school year?***

The degree to which meaningful activities inside and outside of school are presented to our youth is the degree to which all of our community might live and thrive. This is a fundamental concern of mine, and a matter of financial and human resource priority.

- 4. In the 70's and 80's Baltimore operated around 130 recreation centers. That decreased by nearly half by the early 90's. Currently, Recreation & Parks operates just 40 recreation centers. There are ongoing questions about the available resources of the Department based on the lack of audits. Some of the recreation centers require major upgrades in both physical***



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plant and programming. While a few new, modern recreation centers are being built, it is clear that many neighborhoods lack quality recreational opportunities. How would you change the trajectory of Recreation and Parks? How will you address the challenges of programming and physical plants?

Recreation centers are the prime location where youth and families can be involved in meaningful activities. The fact that they are no longer within easy travel distance for every citizen is a problem. We must open more rec centers until they are accessible to all citizens. Their programming must be diverse and reflect the voice of the community in which they exist.

- 5. Young people want jobs and they are natural entrepreneurs. Unfortunately, youth unemployment is at an all time high and young people are denied the experiences and skills they need to be prepared to enter the workforce. If elected, what will be your approach to youth employment and entrepreneurship? How will you partner with Higher Education and Industry?***

Baltimore must change the paradigm of economic growth to center around community wealth creation rather than the status quo corporate welfare system. Institutions of higher education, particularly public institutions, can facilitate many aspects of this transition into a new and more sustainable model of economy. Community wealth creation creates community jobs from the inside out, and not the other way around.

- 6. The resilient young people of Baltimore City experience trauma every day. They are both witness to and victims of violence. They have very real reasons to feel stressed and afraid. A growing body of research recognizes the importance of understanding and implementing trauma informed care within schools, community services, social services, and law enforcement. What approaches will you take, if elected, to implement trauma-informed-care and/or restorative practices in the public sectors?***

Addressing life trauma requires access to therapeutic lifestyles, if healthiness is to be sustained. I envision a transformation of our yards, vacant lots, school grounds, and public land into space that can be farmed and gardened. The benefits to us all are many, but perhaps the most powerful benefit is the grounding nature of working the earth.

- 7. In 2014, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake, with the support of City Council, established one of the strictest youth curfew laws in the nation and advocated for year round curfew centers. Proponents of the curfew centers thought they were a good strategy to keep kids safe and to connect young people and their families to services. Opponents feared the curfew enforcement would further strain police community relations and disproportionately target***



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young people of color. Questions remain about the actual utilization of the curfew centers and whether or not the “Youth Connection Centers” serve their intended purpose. If you are elected, what would your position on Curfew and Curfew Centers be? How would you build more positive interactions between youth and law enforcement?

Implementation of curfew laws is unequal and racist. Under such circumstances, and without substantial police reforms, they will never do anything but damage fragile communities further.

- 8. *The parents and families of young people are often left out of the equation when we are seeking solutions. Family and community engagement requires long term, sustained efforts to build trust and offer authentic opportunities for families to have a voice and feel supported. The Community School strategy has been shown to increase family and community engagement and improve school climate and culture. The city funded community school strategy is currently operating in 50 schools out of 180. Do you think every school should be a community school? How would you expand the strategy?***

Ideally school buildings should be open longer hours and be used for multiple community functions, allowing them to take on more needed functions in a community, and thus tying the community closer into the core role of the school.

- 9. *The Baltimore City Health Department provides chilling statistics in its 2014 Health Disparities Report. Factors of race, gender, economics, and zip code can all be determining factors for a short and painful life, and the trajectories begin even before birth. Given what we know now about what works, how will you approach making sure every child has the opportunity to grow up to become a healthy adult?***

Resources that are not now distributed equally must be redistributed.

- 10. *The bright green footprints painted on Baltimore City sidewalks are supposed to denote safe walking passageways for children to get to school. However well intentioned, the reality is that in many neighborhoods there are no safe passageways, and green footprints cut through active drug and gang territory. With schools of choice, some older students are traveling more than 2 hours both morning and evening on unreliable and sometime unsafe public transportation. What will you do when elected to make sure young people can make it to school every day safely?***

Issues of safety are inevitably symptomatic of whether or not there is widespread access to opportunities for all. Until we begin to secure opportunities for the youth with a gun, the gun will remain a threat to that youth, and anyone who has the gun aimed at them.