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Date of birth: June 22, 1941

Where currently reside? 3911 Cloverhill Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21218

What is your current occupation?

Fulltime Baltimore City Councilwoman, 14th Council District

What is your educational background?

A.B. in English Literature, Immaculata College (now University), 1963.

M.A. in English Literature, University of Pennsylvania, 1966.

PhD. Program in Writing, University of Pennsylvania, 1985-1987. Left before completing to campaign for position of City Council President, elected November 1987.

Previous political experience?

1975-1983 Fulltime Baltimore City Councilwoman representing the former 2nd Council District

1987-1995 first woman President of the Baltimore City Council

2004-present Fulltime Baltimore City Councilwoman representing the 14th Council District

In addition:

Member and candidate of the New Democratic Club-2 from the late 1960's through the 1990's: In 1970, the Eastside Democratic Organization (EDO) and NDC-2 fielded the first equally racially balanced ticket for the Maryland General Assembly in Baltimore City's history --- and elected 15 out of the 18 candidates! The New Republic called it, "A New Wind Blowing." That was the Clarke-Dalton ticket. (The Clarke was my husband Joe). Continuing with that coalition commitment, I first ran as the NDC-2 candidate for City Council with two EDO candidates, Clarence "Du" Burns and Nathen C. Irby. (We won. Twice.)

Why are you running for office?

I “came of age” in Baltimore in the aftermath of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the riots that followed. As neophyte community and political activists and amidst a quietude of City political leadership, hundreds of us found each other and joined forces to help rebuild a fairer and more united Baltimore from the neighborhoods up. With a new City Council, I hope to share that life-changing experience of positive outcomes from devastating setbacks and my confidence in the power of our citizenry to effect changes that matter for the better. This era is one not to miss for the wonders it can bring.

- 1. District: What are the most pressing issues in your district and how would you address them?**

The 14th Council District is diverse, creative, and caring. Breaking the current cycle of crime in our neighborhoods is the primary demand and requirement in these times, whatever the neighborhood --- but especially where the crime is violent and the neighbors enveloped in its culture, climate, and heartbreaks.

It is my responsibility to ensure that the officers leading our local police districts are effective, responsive and caring. I am constantly in touch with them and attest that, in Eastern, Northeast, and Northern Police Districts, our commanders are striving to meet our demanding standards for their work and consistently encouraging their officers to likewise serve as our communities expect and deserve.

Other pressing issues in our district include:

- the expectation of good schools and ample opportunities for our youth;
- safer pedestrian walkways and street crossings, especially near schools, playgrounds, and senior buildings;
- traffic calming on all our neighborhood streets as a pro-active citywide policy;
- clean streets, alleys, neighborhoods;
- Community notice and engagement in the planning of new developments and institutional expansions; and,
- Snow removal plans that neighbors can understand, track and affect in real time.

- 2. Crime: Is Baltimore pursuing the right strategies to reduce violent crime? Do you have confidence in the Police Department's current leadership? What steps would you take as mayor to improve police-community relations?**

I have confidence in the Police Department's current leadership. Commissioner Kevin Davis impresses me as a respected professional who understands the urgency to bring stability, accountability, and morale to the department.

Most impressively, Commissioner Davis has demonstrated his respect for our citizens and neighborhoods. The department's 14th District command staffs are professional, effective, and community-responsive. We hear from them, they listen to us, and bonds are forming at that level.

The challenge is to bridge the gaps between communities and the many frontline officers who see us only at our 911 worst. One solution often suggested is restoration of the Police Athletic League (PAL) through which frontline officers ran popular recreation programs for neighborhood children and youth.

Those younger officers loved their PAL roles, despite lacking the supplies and budgets they needed to sustain the program. But PAL is worth repeating as a bridge-builder at the grassroots level of neighborhoods and the department. For starters, let's try adequate funding for one pilot per City Council district.

- 3. Freddie Gray: What lessons do you draw from the death of Freddie Gray and the subsequent protests and unrest?**

The Freddie Gray lesson is that we must better serve our children and youth, especially the thousands raised by good families in poverty surroundings, hundreds of whom are disabled by the lead paint poisoning in the only homes their families can afford. To better serve requires affordable and decent housing growing up, special education resources, mentors and job opportunities instead of defaults to drug market competing outside the front door.

As to the peaceful protests, they were overdue and will hopefully lead to radical changes in how Baltimore cares for its families and children and in how our police department treats and regards the citizens it is sworn to serve and protect. As for the unrest, it should be remembered as of one day's duration, invaded by looters who disgraced themselves and us all before the world, and as followed by a sweeping-up by neighbors and an outpouring of help from all quarters, ongoing to this day.

4. Taxes: Should Baltimore reduce its property tax rate and, if so, how? What is your view of the city's tax increment financing, payments in lieu of taxes and other incentives to encourage developments like Harbor Point?

Even granted narrowly for only owner-occupied residential properties, the individual property savings from the mayor's local tax credits or from potential property tax rate reductions bring minimal relief to individual tax bills compared to the major negative toll such losses take on a city government faced with urgent fiscal obligations, from promised new recreation centers to full implementation of police body cameras.

As for tax incentives, Baltimore has reached the point of needing to decide, "What's the plan?" Our rising assessable base makes us too wealthy for the State education funds we require, but tax incentives leave us too "cash poor" to afford the loss. The time has come to narrow the scope of consideration for such tax advantages to what "the plan" will determine are the essentials for Baltimore's successful future.

Perhaps those essentials include developments offering decent fulltime jobs to which city residents have affordable and reliable transportation and the chance of being hired. And perhaps mixed-income housing to which our low-and-moderate income families can relocate from lead infected rental units. We need that planning context as prelude to deciding the cost-effective incentives we can afford if we are to attract what the city needs, not simply react to what the next developer proposes.

5. **Neighborhood revitalization: What can Baltimore do to encourage a commercial and residential revitalization in neighborhoods away from the waterfront? How do you evaluate Vacants to Value and Governor Hogan's recently announced effort to combat blight?**

Success follows success. In the 14th District, private sector commercial and residential revitalization is significant, but it is concentrated in specific parts of the district and lacking in others. I often wish we could wave a wand to equalize the distribution.

Except for highly subsidized exceptions, the racial demographics of a neighborhood play a disproportionate role in private development decision-making. In commercial areas, the perceived safety and sanitation are deciding factors for investment.

Developers in overlooked residential neighborhoods are typically single rowhouse investors rehabbing for absentee rental, a source of frustration to neighborhood leaders seeking affordable homeownership options. Affordable homeownership is where public investment can make the most difference to overlooked neighborhoods, providing incentives to tip the scale in favor of restored stability.

We thank Governor Hogan for his announced effort to provide demolition funding to eliminate blight in Baltimore neighborhoods. We hope that a share of this funding will be invested in finishing the multi-year relocation and clearing of a 3-block area in the Coldstream-Homestead-Montebello neighborhood called the "Tivoly Triangle." We invite him to be our guest in seeing and envisioning the potential.

6. **Economic development: What are the chief barriers to economic development and job creation in Baltimore? How would you address them?**

A skilled, trained, and available employee base will attract new economic development to Baltimore and encourage the expansion of existing employment centers. In recent years, Baltimore has succeeded in retaining more young college graduates as city residents than in the recent past. The special arts districts deserve a share of credit for this millennial population boom, both within these districts and in nearby neighborhoods.

The challenge in building upon this promising base, however, is to educate, train, and promote our home-grown public school students as the magnets for economic development in every field of endeavor, from STEM to STEAM. Hopkins School of Engineering is already equipping and training Barclay School students in state of the art technology for 21st century careers. Robotics clubs and courses are cropping-up across the school system. If we focus on such successes as trendsetters and engage our colleges and universities in tailoring higher education tracks for our students, our homegrown graduates will become the talent pool that promotes Baltimore as "the place" to locate and recruit.

7. City governance: Is the current balance between the mayor and City Council appropriate or would you seek to change it? How?

With power comes accountability. I have long supported the “strong mayor” form of city government, because it ensures specific accountability for how the city spends our taxes.

In the current structure, the mayor controls 3 votes on the 5-member Board of Estimates which controls the city budget. The Board is chaired by the President of the City Council, and the City Comptroller is a member, both voting as independent elected officials. The Mayor’s 3 votes are her own and those of the other 2 members, both of whom she appoints to their paid positions as City Solicitor and Director of Public Works. The system is designed to guarantee a consistent mayoral majority.

This Board of Estimates originates the City’s annual budget and approves it for introduction as an ordinance to the City Council. The City Council can approve, disapprove, or approve with cuts. Funding is often cut when City Council wants the funding used for a different purpose than proposed. The Council, however, does not have the power to transfer cut funds to that other purpose. Only the Board has that authority, and mayors usually refuse to make the requested transfer. In a stalemate, the cut funds must be used to cut the property tax.

Council’s right to transfer its cuts is a change I might support, provided the budget’s bottom line remains the same.

8. Council's role: Has the City Council been focused on the right issues? What are the most important issues it has dealt with in the last four years?

Let me focus on City Council's role in standing traditional budget making on its head by writing our children and youth into the pages of the city budget and working for steady annual increases until this priority comes into fiscal balance with other crucial services.

Since my 14th District election in 2004 and certainly in the past 4 years, the Baltimore City Council has been a leader in promoting the needs of Baltimore's children and youth and influencing the creation and annual growth of the city's children and youth budget as a focal point of annual city budget deliberations.

In 2014, City Council unanimously and successfully requested the addition of \$4 million to the fiscal year 2016 budget for increases to after school, out of school, summer school, and community school programs. In January 2016, City Council adopted a proposed Charter amendment requiring a 3% dedication of annual general funds to children and youth, a jump-start on meeting our obligations to Baltimore's future.

Of all the diverse and "right issues" addressed in Council's 2011-2016 term of office, writing children and youth into the budget and persisting in that budget's annual growth have been the most enduring and "rightest" from my perspective.

9. City services: What weaknesses do you see in the delivery of city services? What can be done to improve response time and resident satisfaction?

CitiStat is on the mend but needs restoration as a reliable tool for agency assessment and accountability on a regular schedule, with city leaders involved, and solutions to failed responses discussed for better outcomes going forward. CitiStat is 311's accountability tool as well, connecting constituent input to agency response. CitiStat has also served to convene diverse stakeholders on specific public issues and assess steps to resolve complex issues such as legal barriers to effective domestic violence prosecution. Restoring the CitiStat function to its proper oversight role will improve response time and resident satisfaction, because, like all of us, --- as with this questionnaire --- we work hardest when reporting deadlines loom.