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2019 Council Questionnaire – Challenger

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CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name: Ethelind Baylor Office Sought: City Council At-Large

I have read the attached questionnaire responses and certify that the information provided is accurate and the opinions stated accurately reflect my own positions.

Candidate Signature: **Ethelind Baylor**

Date: 3/6/19

Please complete, sign and return this form via email in Word format to:

gmgilman@igc.org and mail a copy with the signature page to

Gloria Gilman

121 S Broad St, Suite 1720

Philadelphia, PA 19107

BACKGROUND

1. What, if any, elected or appointed government office(s) have you held?

I have never been elected or appointed to a government office. I am the elected committee person for the 23 Ward 9th Division.

2. Background and viability questions:

- a. What community or policy issues have you worked on, and in what capacity? (Please provide the names of two or three individuals who can provide information about your previous work.)**

Worker rights, education, public safety, affordable and fixed income housing for families

and seniors, political empowerment, and diversity and inclusion. As Vice President and Legislative/Community Outreach Director of AFSCME District Council 47, I bring to this job a long history of local neighborhood activism, nonprofit organizations and grassroots labor leaders training in organizing, processing grievances and representation at grievance hearings. Steering committee for Philadelphia Coalition for Affordable Housing, Coalition of Black Trade Unionist 40 and under Co-chair, membership engagement subcommittee for Women United Way ‘Women’s Initiative, Young Organize Philly (AFL-CIO) Recording Secretary.

Contract Negotiations for AFSCME DC 47- President Fredrick Wright
Succession Plan for the Philadelphia Department of Prisons – Blanche Carney, Commissioner
Disbandment of the SRC with 215PEOPLE & Our City Our Schools-Todd Wolfson
Campaign for Affordable Housing – Christie Clark
PSNAP – Fair Wages and Patient Staff ratios – Patty Eakin
Second Hand Trauma for Professional Care Givers – Councilman Derrick Green
Fair Work Week – Councilwoman Helen Gym
PILOTS – Jobs with Justice Campaign Gwen Synder
Campaign for \$15.00 Now – SEIU and Vanessa Fields

**b. What about your background or experience do you think most qualifies you to be elected?
Please attach a brief bio.**

What qualifies you to be elected?

My natural respect and liking of people are recognized by business leaders, elected and appointed government officials, labor leaders, rank and file union members, faith-based leaders of diverse denominations, and the citizen population of Philadelphia. In high stake meetings and neighborhood meetings, my common sense and my perspective contributions contribute greatly to discussions on a variety of issues. While I am comfortable in my leadership roles, I exercise flexibility in working out a compromise that all parties can agree on and it is usually a win-win for all involved. I understand the bread and butter issues of public service. As a fiscally responsible individual, I am keen in insuring that the data and research on expenditures match. I go to great lengths to ensure clarity and comprehension of the issue at hand and provide suggestions and postulations that others can fully depend on. I am one who ask questions and do my research to stay on top of my game. I will bring my passion, my role in contract negotiations and interaction with management provides the background for me to serve effectively on Philadelphia City Council to make sure Philadelphia is positioned to thrive for generations to come.

c. What other endorsements have you received?

I currently have received an endorsement from 215 People’s Alliance. I feel good about the interviews I had with other entities and trust that more endorsements will be forthcoming.

d. How do you plan to win?

As I have assembled a competent and dedicated campaign team, and each is playing an active role in the campaign. We’ve figured out how many votes it will take to win and the necessary resources to bring our

winning campaign to fruition. In our petition gathering efforts, we have focused in the diverse neighborhoods of Philadelphia. We certainly believe that a comprehensive, grassroots campaign will need to be implemented in order for me to win. There is a plethora of candidates, and, we want to stand out through a highly visible media and street campaign in all our neighborhood and build recognition as the candidate who makes the election, not about the candidate, but about the average voter cares about and wants to see happen, Our campaign will speak to voters in the language of their everyday experiences on those issues they are most concerned with on a day to day basis. , I propose to win using the strategies I used in winning my race for Democratic Committeeperson and Vice President of AFSCME District Council 47. I learned from those experiences that people vote for themselves. Because it is not about me, the candidate, it is about them, the people in our multiracial and multicultural city. I certainly believe that a comprehensive, grassroots campaign with Labor support will need to be implemented for me to win the May Primary.

e. How much money have you raised? How much do you expect to raise? So far, we've raised over \$11,000.00 and our fundraising team is planning a series of fundraisers throughout the city. We are also counting on donations from donor who believe in our plans to make Philadelphia a great city to live, work, play and raise a family. The more I pitch my candidacy and my common-sense ideas, the more donations I am sure will pour into the campaign.

3. What three things would you most want to accomplish if elected?

I feel that we need expand the business acumen of Philadelphia City Council. 2) Jobs-- I will work to improve our planning, to assess both the positive and negative impact in a better fashion, City leaders and residents should be unified in asking the hard questions around environmental concerns, jobs for Philadelphia residents, and guaranteed ratable generated to go into the city coffers to cover needed city services. 3) Public Safety- As a former correctional officer, but most importantly, as a resident of an area experiencing an uptick in crime, I will relentlessly advocate for more and improved resources for our public safety departments. But it will take more than increased staffing. I will work with my colleagues on city council on long-term initiatives implementations that are interventionist in scope, not just incarceration. I will reach out to the business community and residents to boost investment in program that help prevent violence, provide economic opportunities and support our young people to stay in school, graduate, attend college or training in the trades and commit them to pay it forward to future generations. 4)Affordable housing I will work to immediately eliminate the ridiculous property assessments that punish longtime and lower income residents in neighborhood throughout Philadelphia and will fight against the generous abatements offered to homeowners who are gentrifying many areas of the city. I will push for mixed income neighborhoods, where both the wealthy and lower income can live together.

Although many of the questions below call for a simple yes or no answer, please feel free to provide an explanation for any of your choices. If you have not yet come to a final decision, please state which way you are leaning and what additional information you would need before deciding, if any.

I. Economic Development

Would you:

1. **Raise the City minimum wage to \$15 an hour, either directly or by imposing an impact fee on businesses paying less than \$15?**

Yes. The best pathway out of poverty is a well-paying job. I would advocate for an increase in the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. Everyone should be in jobs that pay a living wage within the city of Philadelphia. I support Mayor Kenny's proposal that raises the wage for City of Philadelphia workers and contractors. We need to take things a step further and implement Governor Wolf's minimum wage increase plan for ALL Philadelphians.

2. **Take \$200 million of City pension funds now invested in the stock market to invest in neighborhood economic development projects?**

No. The pension fund is currently underfunded by the City of Philadelphia and we should not look to fund economic development projects on the backs of working people.

3. **Require City-funded or tax-abated projects to employ a high percentage of City resident workers, especially low and moderate income City residents?**

Yes.

4. **Create a program to provide technical assistance and start-up funding for cooperative, worker-owned businesses?**

Yes, I agree.

5. **Reform PIDC, the City's main economic development funding agency, so that its Board has a majority of public and community members, rather than Chamber of Commerce appointed members?**

I think that a mix board with a community member from each industry in which the PIDC serves would be great start so that the needs of the public and community can be addressed at the table.

6. **Require the City to withdraw subsidies from corporations that fail to provide jobs or other benefits to City residents?**

Yes, I agree.

7. **Bar or limit privatization of City property and work done by City employees?**

I dislike the privatization of any public spaces and institutions. If the city supported more public services to maintain, upgrade, and bring innovative ideas for use of the public space we (the city) would not need to rely so much on private dollars. The city should be willing to allocate, fund, and spend the needed resources on all public services, including PGW. I do not believe that there are any specific circumstances upon which the City should sell PGW.

8. **Sponsor and sign legislation to create a Philadelphia Public Bank?**

Yes.

II. Taxation

Would you:

1. **Increase** taxes to support City and/or School District services, and if so, which ones?

NO. Ending the tax abatement and implementing the Fair Share Tax would have a significant impact by having businesses and corporations pay their fair share; ultimately reducing, or stabilizing taxes for most Philadelphians.

2. **Reduce** taxes as an economic development strategy, and, if so, which ones?

We need to decrease the city tax rate. Philadelphia has the highest local tax rate in the country. We are taxing the working class, and underemployed impacts a large part of Philadelphians disproportionately.

3. **Support** the Soda Tax? Please explain your answer.

I cannot support the sod tax as it currently exists. I believe that the initial intentions were commendable, but the implementation has been concerning. The tax is on any beverage with sugar to include milk, and flavored water.

4. **Support** the 10-year Tax Abatement Program for new development as it currently exists? If not, what specific changes would you make?

I would not support the 10-year tax abatement as it currently exists. There is legislation that has been introduced by three city council members to end it or modify it. I would like to see where we are going to land as a city. If elected prior to a vote I will listen to the voices of the people and make the best decision for all of Philadelphia.

5. **Bring** suit to challenge the nonprofit status of the University of PA and other huge non-profits if they don't agree to make payments in lieu of taxes to the City?

Yes.

III. Education

Would you:

1. **Enact** a plan that would help regulate charter schools by making their budgetary practices transparent, riding them of conflicts of interest, and stopping them from cherry-picking their student bodies? If so, what would that plan look like?

Yes. I support a plan that initiates a moratorium on charter schools and establishes more oversight and regulation regarding operation and academic standards. More oversight needs to be provided to existing charter schools to ensure that they are performing with the same standards that are implemented in traditional public schools. If charter schools are going to continue to receive and utilize tax dollars, then they need to be held to similar standards. Due to the exponential growth in the establishment of charter schools, funding inequities for public schools has become critical. The current charter school oversight protocols must be significantly overhauled to ensure that they are certified and that there is equitable funding for all students that attend traditional public schools or charter schools. This includes more policies that forces transparency will disclosure of spending on low-income students or students with special needs.

2. **Provide** universal pre-k to all 3 and 4 year olds in the City?

Yes, I agree.

3. **Compute** the cost/benefit ratio for the School District of all proposed KOZ zones before they're approved by Council?

Yes. We want to ensure that there aren't abatements in areas that are already experiencing rapid gentrification. We also want to ensure that proposed KOZ abatement don't depress the local tax money available to schools.

4. **Develop** a plan to deal with the bankruptcy facing the School District due to the growth in the number of charter schools in the City, all of whose expenses must by law be paid by the District? Please explain.

Yes, it is an opportunity to work with the school district and others to create a strategic plan that would help the school district.

IV. Criminal Justice

Would you:

1. Grant the civilian police review board subpoena power with the ability to suspend or fire police officers found to engage in misconduct?

Yes. I believe that the attorney for the civilian police review board should have subpoena power. I am sure that some people would like to see the civilian police board have the ability to suspend or fire police officers but at this time I think that recommendations should be given with all evidence and allow the Police Department to suspend and fire in accordance to the police contract, rules and regulations.

2. Use savings from closing the House of Corrections to invest in job training programs and opportunities for formerly incarcerated people, in an effort to combat mass incarceration?

Programs I would advocate to assist returning citizens are but not limited to:

- Pre-release from incarceration a comprehensive plan that tackles employment, housing, mental and physical health, and family support. There must be community resources given prior to release.
- Support the adult education programs in the City and ensure that the people that need additional services can obtain them.
- Work with the trades and employers that bring in members with criminal records as a pathway to employment and a better life.

3. Bar employers from denying jobs to ex-offenders without a specific job-related basis?

Yes, I would also like to negotiate for employers that receive tax exemptions to hire returning citizens. Include penalties for those that don't comply? Yes.

4. End the stop and frisk program?

Yes, I do support reforms to the current policing in Philadelphia to include but not limited to ending Stop-and-frisk.

V. Housing

1. Do you think Philadelphia is facing a housing crisis? If so, why? If not, why not? What changes would you make to bring housing policy more in line with your vision?

Yes, we have a housing crisis in the city of Philadelphia. We have too few affordable and quality homes for rent in the City of Philadelphia.

2. Would you:

a. Enact a rent stabilization program?

Yes.

b. Enact inclusionary zoning requirements to compel inclusion of affordable units in all market rate developments?

Yes. The voluntary inclusionary housing bill proposed in City council is a great start to addressing the needs your low-income, and truly affordable housing in Philadelphia.

c. Support a dedicated fund to provide technical assistance and startup funding for land trusts and housing co-ops?

Yes

d. End, limit or curtail Councilmanic prerogative over land disposition?

We need to curtail councilmanic prerogative over land disposition. There have been many issues as it relates to housing and development that has been significantly influenced by councilmanic prerogative. A short-term solution would be to have the mayor appoint someone full time to work

with council members as their ally to facilitate small-property transactions based on the property disposition policies established by the Nutter Administration and the goals of the Landbank. This can enable the utilization of available lands to establish housing for those that need affordable housing. Ultimately, Philadelphians want to ensure that the councilmanic prerogative utilizes an approach that's transparent, efficient and works well for everyone involved.

e. **Require the land bank to prioritize the disposition of properties for low-income and cooperatively owned developments?**

Yes. Like many other US cities, Philadelphia has a major affordable housing issue. I am an avid supporter of the Office of Homeless Services "Roadmap to Homes" plan, especially the aspect of implementing the HOUSING FIRST initiative, pending additional funding. A tax increase for high-income earners by 0.5% can assist with these efforts.

VI. Climate Justice

1. **What, if anything, can the city do to address the fundamental factors driving climate change?**

I think the city can work with the State and Federal Government to address the fundamental factors of climate change.

2. **Do you support a Green New Deal for Philadelphia and, if so, what does that mean to you and what will you do if elected to City Council to implement it?**

City official and local governments have a responsibility to help their communities be more accountable for the size of their carbon footprint. I do support a Green New Deal for Philadelphia if and only if we can bring in new jobs that are unionized. I am not sure how we would fund this but as you read on I have some ideas of what we can do to be better stewards. As a mother, I aim to leave the world a better place for my children than how I found it. If we don't cut emissions drastically within the next 10-12 years, we could encounter more extreme heat, flooding, and other examples of extreme weather changes. If elected to City Council I would work with advocacy groups and labor unions doing the work every day on several goals, including achieve carbon neutral emissions and transition to 100% clean energy. I believe that will need to optimize city buildings, making them more energy efficient, and free of mold, moisture and carbon monoxide, better ventilation systems or upgrades. Harness solar energy and invest more in renewable energy, implement incentives for alternative transportation, support local shops and farmers markets, recycle properly throughout the city. Newly built structures should be mandated to have installed ventilation system that reduces the need for air conditioning. Green streets and picket parks that function as basins to catch and absorb excess rainwater. Encourage local urban farmers to plant in open spaces across the city, to help revitalize the soil, cut back on food waste and mitigate the "heat island" effect that warms many urban areas like Philadelphia. High tech overhaul and creation of a new, modern refuse center that helps curtail unsanitary practices and cut down on open dumping and massive piles of trash, produces compost. Possibly promote public rail on the Roosevelt Boulevard.

3. **What is your position on the proposal to build a new Liquefied Natural Gas Plant in Southwest Philadelphia?**

I would need more information to intelligently speak on this matter. I would like to speak with everyone involved including the District Councilmember.

VII. Money In Politics

In light of the recent indictments involving elected officials, what is your position on:

a. **Accepting gifts or services**

I do not support this.

b. **Accepting donations from corporate PACs that do work for the city**

I will follow the campaign finance guidelines and will confer with the city solicitors office along with the ethics board to ensure that I am in compliance of all donations.

c. Public financing of city elections

I agree with the legislation endorsed by the Philadelphia Board of Ethics that would bring about critical changes to the city's campaign finance laws and limits. Having a system limit versus an annual limit creates a level playing field for any who are motivated to run for an elected office. The current campaign finance limits favor incumbents who can stockpile funds for years before their reelection.

VIII. General Statement

Use this space to provide any further information that you would like us to consider about your candidacy, not covered by the questions above.

I am uniquely qualified to hold the position of City Council At-Large through my years of service as a City of Philadelphia employee at the Philadelphia Department of Prisons, Philadelphia Health Department, and other interactions in City of Philadelphia government; in addition to my years of service as a union member of AFSCME District Councils 33 AND 47; to now my years of service as the elected Vice President of AFSCME District Council 47. I have had the pleasure to serve on the Mayor's Office of Adult Education Board, the regional board of the United Way of Greater Philadelphia, and the Office of Economic Opportunity. But the most fundamental reason is that I have been doing the work, and I want to continue doing the work on a larger scale for the citizens of Philadelphia. I want to have a seat at the table so we can stop being on the menu.

If you ask any former or current City Councilmember how they succeeded? If it was easy? I am sure they would tell you that there is no set formula that always works. As Philadelphians, we must stop imagining about our City's potential, and continue to work in the company of organizations such as this to work on key issues impacting us and future generations. I do know and trust that everyone that will review this is prepared to work for these needed changes.

I am honored to submit information regarding my campaign for City Council At-Large for our City of Philadelphia. My campaign is built on diversity and inclusion. Diverse perspectives are needed to determine how we need to contribute to a better Philadelphia; where we can all live, work, play, and raise a family. We will not always agree, but mutual respect and understanding establishes an awesome foundation upon which we can thrive. I am asking for your support to help elect a working mother, who has gained the experience from working as a City of Philadelphia employee; with the union, and a committeeperson. If elected, I expect you all to hold me accountable for all the things Philadelphians need and deserve.