



AIM County Council Candidate Questionnaire

Responses from Cherri L. Branson candidate for At-Large

Affordable Housing

How would you work with AIM to increase the Housing Initiative Fund to \$100M by the year 2022?

With a percentage of the property tax revenue serving as a dedicated source of funding for HIF and the recent increase in property taxes, it is unlikely that an increase property tax to increase HIF funding would be successful. However, i would work with AIM to examine the current distribution of property tax revenue to determine whether re-allocation would be possible, seek additional private sector support and advocate for annual increases in HIF funding.

How would you work with AIM to put 200 units of affordable housing on public land, in the development pipeline each year?

The County currently uses General Development Agreements to work with private contractors to develop projects in exchange for use/conveyance of publicly owned land. Future agreements should include specific requirements for affordable housing which exceed current MPD unit requirements.

Equity in Schools

How will you work with AIM to expand the Excel Beyond the Bell Elementary program to four additional Title I elementary schools each year so that the program serves 2,400 students by the year 2022?

The program began in 2010 at 3 schools and is currently available in 8 middle schools. Expansion of the program by one school for each year would achieve the goal set forth. i would work with AIM and the governmental partners to determine how to "scale up" this program by seeking additional non-profit program providers and seeking additional governmental and private sector funding.

Protecting Immigrants and Refugees

Many Montgomery County families are living in fear of one or more parent being separated from their children because of deportation. How will you work with AIM to include funding for deportation defense and family preparedness in the county budget, as well as work with AIM to find private funding for these efforts?

I am in favor of providing grants to allow non-profits to provide legal services and advice for deportation defense and family preparedness. Several local churches, such as St. Camillus, are already engaging in preparedness and education activities for at-risk families.

Will you commit to work with AIM and Montgomery County landlords to house refugees in Montgomery County?

Yes, i am in favor of Montgomery County providing a welcoming place for people who must leave their country of birth and seek to relocate. Federal law requires the Federal government to work with state and local governments and nonprofits to resettle refugees and those efforts must include housing and social



supports.

Transportation

Will you work with AIM to protect good transportation jobs from privatization?

Yes, i would work with AIM to prevent contracting out jobs on county-owned public transportation services, such as RideOn.

How will you hold WMATA accountable to prevent cutting bus service in the county, particularly to low-income areas?

WMATA's current focus seems to be on restoring confidence and ridership in the subway system. The recent decision by the using metropolitan jurisdictions to increase dedicated funding for the subway--which was an collaborative effort by regional leaders, should also be employed to assure adequate bus service. Additionally, RideOn service and pilot programs to support van service should also be explored.

Democracy with Accountability

Do you commit to meeting with AIM within a month of taking office, and on a quarterly basis subsequently?

yes