



AIM County Council Candidate Questionnaire

Responses from Neil H. Greenberger candidate for At-Large

Affordable Housing

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

I have worked for the Montgomery County government for the past 11 years, including 10 with the County Council. I am very familiar with the inner workings of our government. Over the past decade, the County has made a commitment to direct funds each year to build up a 10 percent reserve, which will be kept at that level. The fund is almost built to 10 percent. Once it is at that level, I would direct some of the funding that has been directing to building reserves to several key accounts to build them up. One of those accounts would be the Housing Initiative Fund.

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

One of the most creative things the County government has done over the past decade is to trade publicly owned land that is desirable to private developers for the respective developer's commitment to build publicly needed projects. This was done for the Bethesda police station, the Public Service Training Academy in Darnestown and in the Wheaton Redevelopment Project. We should keep using this system as a cost-effective way to build public housing. We have many county properties whose location is coveted by developers and they would be willing to work out deals such as this.

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?

Excel Beyond the Bell has quickly proven to be one of the most successful attempts to engage students beyond regular class time. I think even those who ran the initial programs have been learning how the program can be improved. Now that we have established those parameters, we must dedicate funding to gradually expand the program to more schools each year. A key to the program is finding the right people to run it, and hopefully, AIM can help find schools and neighborhoods that are the best matches--and can also help in the selection of personnel.

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?

Our country has been turned upside down over the past 18 months due to the harmful policies of the current federal executive branch. Montgomery County has been a welcoming county and for those here, we must protect their rights and do everything possible to keep families together--and keep them together where they want to be (Montgomery County if that is their choice). The annual County operating budget



is \$5.5 billion. As a candidate, I have pledged to find waste in the budget and reallocate those funds to projects that would best help our residents in need. I would work with AIM to create a budget for these projects and then lead the effort to create county funding directed to this purpose.

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

When people have come to our county, they need services and places to live. I will work with AIM to make sure all legal regulations are followed by landlords to be sure that refugees have more opportunities to find housing.

Transportation

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

The transportation job market in Montgomery County and the entire region will only grow. I strongly support building of the Corridor Cities Transitway and BRT. We are getting a track record from Northern Virginia on what privatization of transportation will look like: \$40 one-way tolls cannot be the future of our roads here. I would oppose giving away future transportation opportunities to private entities just to say they were built--and then having most residents unable to use them because of outrageous cost. Our future transportation needs, and the jobs that come with them, need to be kept within the framework of government.

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

WMATA is trying to recreate itself from a mess that was building over three decades. It is making some progress. We have made a big commitment (along with Virginia and the District) to fixing the Metrorail system--but have neglected the needs of bus service. If Metro cuts bus service in our county, we need to look at expanding RideOn service in those areas so the residents who live there continue to have options.

Democracy with Accountability

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

Having worked in County government for more than a decade, and being responsible for much of the communications the Council has had with communities and residents, I will be committed to meeting with groups of all concerns regularly---and not just when there is a problem or growing issue. The best way to address problems is to learn about them, and do something about them, before they become much harder to handle.