



AIM County Council Candidate Questionnaire

Responses from Will Jawando candidate for At-Large

Affordable Housing

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

Right now the Housing Initiative Fund is primarily funded with 2.5 percent of the county's total property tax collection, and loan repayments. I'm open to looking at increasing the portion of property tax revenue directed to the HIF, by anywhere from .25 to 1 percent. I'm also open to other possibilities, including an assessment on high-income development projects (new home construction valued at \$750,000 or more) that would fund HIF and other affordable housing measures.

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

Part of my campaign platform, Keeping the Montgomery County Promise, addresses the need for affordable housing, because we are at a point of crisis. Estimates place a figure of more than 45,000 affordable housing units needed to address the need we already have in the county. The first step is to conduct an audit of all county-owned land and see what's available. The second step is to engage with housing developers who *want* to build affordable housing, because they are out there. And we can engage in lease arrangements with shorter time spans, to give the county more leverage in negotiating the proportion of affordable housing units in a particular development. Finally, our land-use and planning decisions must encourage the development of high-density, mixed-use and mixed-income housing near mass transit.

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?

Programs like an expanded Excel Beyond the Bell, is a top priority of my campaign. The Council has an obligation to address the rising inequities of our public education system. Every child is deserving of the highest possible level of education in Montgomery County and should not be dependent on the neighborhood in which you live. We must invest in our schools, by addressing building needs, but also by investing in our teachers and our support staff and afterschool programs like Excel Beyond the Bell. I'd support expanding Excel Beyond the Bell to serve more than 2,400 students by 2022. Data proves that investments made in public education - and the wraparound services that help our kids and their families - pays for itself several times over. By investing in our public school system and programs like Excel Beyond the Bell for elementary school students and Summer R.I.S.E. for high school juniors and seniors, we can begin to address the opportunity and achievement gap.

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?

Deportation defense is a civil right. Everyone should have a right to an attorney, even a potential deportee. I will work to make Montgomery County a welcoming community for everyone, and keep our families united. I will work with AIM to find private funding, as well as county funds, for deportation defense and family preparedness.

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

Yes

Transportation

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

Yes

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

I intend to use my oversight responsibilities with rigor and zeal. My goal is to enhance our mass transit options in Montgomery County, not reduce them. WMATA, and the county's RideOn bus service, need to expand service, not reduce service. This is true of low-income neighborhoods, where many people have second jobs or shift jobs that end late in the evening, but it's also true of developments with senior housing, where many of our aging neighbors are stranded without bus service. We must have reliable, affordable and widespread bus service across the county.

Democracy with Accountability

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

Yes