



# AIM County Council Candidate Questionnaire

Responses from Sidney Katz candidate for District 3

## **Affordable Housing**

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

I would work with the County Executive as well as my colleagues on the County Council and with AIM to examine how to best allocate additional resources from the County's budget to the Housing Initiative Fund. This is the process that we used see during our budget deliberations each year.

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

I believe we need to increase the percentage of affordable housing in new construction. I support changing the MPDU law to require a minimum of 15% in all new residential construction developments and have been advocating to see how we can incentivize some new developments to have 25% affordable housing.

I am supportive of having discussions about building affordable housing on public land where it would be possible. We need to have discussions about what land might be available.

## **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?*

I support the Excel Beyond the Bell Elementary program. I am happy to work with AIM toward achieving this goal if there are sufficient resources to fund four additional schools.

## **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 a strong proponent of DACA and TPS, and I will continue to work with our federal representatives and support them in the discussions around DACA and TPS. Immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility and not one for local police departments. I support funding legal representation for Montgomery County residents facing deportation, and the Council is currently looking at ways to fund this. I am happy to work with all stakeholders on this effort.

*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?*

While the County Council doesn't have specific jurisdiction over WMATA, I am happy to work with all stakeholders to prevent them from cutting bus service in the County, particularly to low-income areas. For example, I recently sent a letter – signed by several other Councilmembers – to WMATA about the Grosvenor Turnback, and I am pleased to see that WMATA is now looking into this issue. I also worked with our state delegation as well as with WMATA to reinstate much needed bus service in Leisure World.

## **Democracy with Accountability**

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

Yes. I am always happy to meet with constituents and stakeholders who request meetings.