



AIM County Council Candidate Questionnaire

Responses from Hans Riemer candidate for At-Large

Affordable Housing

How would you work with AIM to increase the Housing Initiative Fund to \$100M by the year 2022?
Access to affordable housing is one of my highest priorities. I will continue to work with AIM to increase funding to the Housing Initiative Fund, as I already have in my years at the Council. This will require annual appropriation increases and dedicated tax revenues.

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

200 units per year on public land is a worthy goal. I would convene a PHED committee meeting to discuss that goal with DHCA and identify how we could work together to achieve it.

One way to make that happen will be through investments from the Housing Initiative Fund, the Housing Opportunities Commission, and nonprofit providers, which I have supported at every opportunity. Sometimes these providers buy MPDUs (65% AMI) to offer to their clients at discounted rates (50% or lower AMI), which is one reason my legislation raising the MPDU requirement to 15% in low poverty school clusters is important. It will promote economic integration.

[....]

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?

Serving 2,400 students by 2022 is a worthy goal. I have worked with AIM year after year to expand EBB. We have successfully added programs to Burnt Mills ES, Southlake ES, Broad Acres ES, Harmony Hills ES, and Francis Scott Key MS. Let's keep working together.

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?

As Council President, I have taken the lead on this important issue this year and I am very pleased with our progress. We now have an appropriation before the Council to provide legal assistance for those who cannot afford a lawyer. I will definitely work with AIM to find additional sources of funding from private institutions, as that will be necessary to sustain the program over the long term.



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 will use my council position to advocate to WMATA to preserve and expand service, as I have been doing. I have advocated already to preserve routes and to expand routes; and I have been part of the successful push for dedicated funding for Metro.

Democracy with Accountability

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

Yes, I have always met with AIM at every opportunity and will continue doing so.