



AIM County Council Candidate Questionnaire

Responses from Michele Riley candidate for At-Large

Affordable Housing

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

We need to ensure developers pay their fair share of impact taxes so that the county receives the budget funds it should receive. To me, this is the most important step towards having budget available to fund the Housing Initiative Fund. The current council is in the pocket of developers and has created a system designed to help developers at the expense of residents (with developer ombudsman positions being just one example). We need to reverse this trend.

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

I would work to have developers follow the MDPU guidelines (either 12.5% or 15%, depending on area). There are currently approximately 25,000 approved and still unbuilt housing units. Simply building these and following the MDPU percentages would serve to meet this goal.

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 know kids love this program. I would work to secure private funding to expand the program to more schools. The schools budget is going to come under greater fire due to the projected budget deficits for the next 5 years, so we will have to focus on private funding for this effort.

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 have worked in litigation for 20 years and see deportation defense as a natural pro-bono area in which local law firms can participate (thus constituting private funding). I would champion such relationships between our Montgomery County law firms and residents who are at risk of deportation.

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?

The BRT on Route 29 (for example) is going to eliminate many bus routes in favor of north-south flow. I will continue to fight the BRT on Route 29.

Democracy with Accountability

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

Certainly.