

**FREEDOM, INC.**  
**CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES QUESTIONNAIRE 2015**

If you would like to be considered for endorsement by Freedom, Inc. in the upcoming municipal election, please answer the questions contained in this questionnaire in writing and return your completed survey by January 5, 2015, 6 p.m. Please return your completed survey to us by emailing it to:

[001rbland@gmail.com](mailto:001rbland@gmail.com)

[cadamsjrlaw@swbell.net](mailto:cadamsjrlaw@swbell.net)

Candidates who fail to complete and return this survey will not be screened.

Name:

Email:

Cell Phone:

Address:

**Jobs/MBE Participation/Economic Development**

1. How do you propose to create jobs for African American residents of the City, especially those who reside in the 3rd, 5th, and 6th Districts?

2. There is a lack of economic development east of Troost. Will you support adoption and implementation of an economic development policy (Parcel to Parcel Linkage) that would link market-driven projects, such as those downtown and in the northland to inner city development projects by making the eligibility for incentives (such as tax abatement and TIF) to any project contingent upon the developer developing a comparable parcel of land in blighted areas east of Troost?

3. Please list 3 specific initiatives you will sponsor or support to foster commercial development in the 3rd and 5th Districts.

4. What, if anything, will you do to support the Community Development Corporations (CDCs) in the 3rd District (BEU and 12th Street Heritage Foundation)?

5. What, if anything, will you do for the following development projects?

- a. Beacon Hill
- b. 18<sup>th</sup> and Vine
- c. Prospect Corridor
- d. Downtown East Area Plan
- e. Linwood Shopping Center
- f. The Citadel (63<sup>rd</sup> & Prospect)

6. Do you support a sales tax dedicated to capital improvements and economic development in the Prospect Corridor? Please explain your position.
  
7. What, if anything, will you do to ensure that more African American residents of the City get jobs on City construction projects?
  
8. What, if anything, will you do to increase the level of MBE participation in the City's purchasing and contract professional services expenditures?
  
9. Do you support the allocation of City resources to the development of a new downtown hotel? Please explain your position.
  
10. Will you support depositing substantial amounts of City funds in the Community Development Credit Union when it receives its charter?
  
11. Please state your position on the future of KCI airport.

## **Housing**

12. Please list 3 specific initiatives you will pursue to foster housing development in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> Districts.

## **Capital Improvements/Earnings Tax**

13. What specific action, if any, will you take to allocate additional funds to demolish and/or rehabilitate abandoned houses and buildings in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Districts?

14. Do you believe that there are viable alternatives to fund the City's budget in the event the earnings tax is eliminated, and if so, what are those alternatives?

## **Basic City Services**

15. What will you do to address the problem of illegal dumping in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Districts?

16. How would you address the problem of unkempt weeds and other vegetation within the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Districts?

17. What are your plans to improve the delivery of basic services in the City (e.g., trash collection, bulk item pick-up, recycling, snow removal and public safety)?

### **Police Department/Crime**

18. Should local control of the Kansas City Police Department be a legislative priority for the City of KCMO? Why or why not?

19. What are your suggestions for reducing the murder rate and other violent crimes in the City? How would you change the perception that Kansas City is a crime-ridden city?

### **Legislative/Appointments**

20. Will you support amending the Charter to change the current system of electing 6 in-district and 6 at-large council representatives to a system that would be equitable for African Americans and other minority groups, such as 12 in-district (or 9 in-district and 3 at-large) council representatives? Please explain.

21. A resident of the 3rd District has not been appointed to the Parks Board since 1979 (Jeremiah Cameron). If elected, what steps will you take to convince the mayor to appoint an African American resident of the 3rd District to the Parks Board?

### **Education**

22. What, if anything, will you do to support public school education if elected?

23. How can city government work with school districts to address the impact of closed school buildings on neighborhoods?

### **City Staff**

24. Do you support retaining City Manager Troy Schulte?

### **Municipal Court/City Prosecutor's Office**

25. What, if anything, will you do to increase the number of African American judges on the Municipal Court?

26. Will you vote to select or appoint a judge from a panel that does not include an African American when there are qualified African American applicants who were not nominated by the Municipal Judicial Nominating Commission?

27. The Municipal Judicial Nominating Commission is comprised of 3 lawyers (2 elected by members of the Missouri Bar and the presiding judge of the Jackson County Circuit Court) and 2 non-lawyers appointed by the Mayor. As a result, lawyers control the nominating process. Will you support a Charter Amendment to change the composition to 2 lawyers elected by members of the Missouri Bar and 3 non-lawyers appointed by the Mayor so lawyers will advise but not control the nominating process? Please explain your answer.

### **Miscellaneous**

28. What experience do you have building consensus among groups with competing agendas, especially, in a volatile political environment? Please explain.

29. What is your vision for the City of Kansas City? How do you plan to implement this vision and motivate other council members to support your vision?

30.
  - a. Please list your experience in working with neighborhoods.
  - b. What is your strategy to foster better relations between neighborhoods and the City bureaucracy?

31. Public transportation is an essential public service, critical to the quality of life of our citizens, by providing access to work, school, medical care, worship and social opportunities. KCATA is facing a funding crisis as a result of decreasing revenues at all levels of government. What do you propose for a funding mechanism to ensure sufficient funding for a vibrant public transportation system?

32. Do you support expansion of the streetcar route? Please explain your position.

33. The City Council has a history of dividing Capital Improvement funds by six. Will you vote to support changing that practice and allocating additional funds to the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Districts to spur housing and economic development in those districts?

34. How has the quality of life for residents of the 3<sup>rd</sup> district improved over the past 4 years?

35. How has the quality of life for residents of the 5<sup>th</sup> district improved over the past 4 years?

36. Will you support an ordinance to raise the minimum wage in Kansas City, MO to at least \$10.25 per hour? Please explain your position.

37. Please list the endorsements you have received to date and state why Freedom, Inc. should endorse your candidacy.