

## #2

**COMPLETE**

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## Page 1: Community Council questions for Mayoral and City Council candidates

**Q1 PUBLIC SAFETY:** How will you address the opiate addiction epidemic?

All addiction should be treated with compassion; addiction is an illness, not a criminal offense. Recently, the City has teamed up with the County to increase funding and support for our first responders who are helping our citizens dealing with addiction. I would continue this support. I also think we should explore the creation of a treatment center through a private-public partnership (including private City, County, State and Federal dollars). The center would be a way to free up our over-crowded jail and make sure that we are treating rather than criminalizing addiction, and making sure folks we bring in have the opportunity to rehabilitate.

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**Q2 NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION:** How will your administration help community councils hold property owners accountable for blight?

I pledge to have the most responsive Council office. If a constituent calls, we'll be there to address their issue as soon as possible. If that means coming out to see blighted properties, and then contacting the property owners directly to address the issue, we'll do it. City Council should work for the people, not the other way around.

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**Q3 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & EQUITY:** How will you invest in neighborhood business districts in a way that bridges the developing equity gap?

In order to help every neighborhood, I think the City needs to reconsider the way it handles its tax abatements. While this is just one example, I've talked to numerous Hyde Park residents who share the belief that they receive far too many opportunities with tax abatements, while many people in Bond Hill don't even know what tax abatement opportunities are available to them. Perhaps the City needs to launch a targeted educational campaign in neighborhoods that feel neglected by the city's current development model to promote either more development and/or redevelopment. Additionally, I think we need to explore the option of introducing rent abatements to help offset rising market values.

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**Q4 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & EQUITY:** What will you do to ensure there is adequate supply of affordable housing in Cincinnati?

Over a four-year term, I will work to add 4,000 new affordable units (rental, ownership, transient and special needs housing) to shrink the gap in affordable housing by 10% by 2022. We will be releasing that policy idea shortly. To give you some insight into that new policy idea, part of it is that I am committed to expanding incentives for mixed-income developments that include affordable housing units. We also want to establish a housing trust fund in the City of Cincinnati. I would mandate that developers receiving support in the form of tax subsidies set aside 20% of the unit for affordable and income-based housing. Only a handful of properties in Cincinnati have a mix of market-rate condos and affordable rentals. As a city, we need to change that fact if we are to modernize our economic development model in a way that is sustainable, but also financially viable and equitable for every community.

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**Q5 GOVERNANCE, REGULATION & INCLUSION:** What will you do to increase and provide stability to Neighborhood Support Program funding stream?

I agree that we need to increase and provide stable funding for the Neighborhood Support Program. They do great work, and deserve the security of a stable funding source.

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**Q6 GOVERNANCE, REGULATION & INCLUSION:** How will you help community councils gain more influence in development decisions ?

I am a firm believer in Community Benefits Agreements. I think the developer of new development needs to go before the community council of the community they want to develop in, and come to an agreeable CBA.

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**Q7 GOVERNANCE, REGULATION & INCLUSION:** What will you do to create a culture at City Hall that promotes civic engagement, and is responsive to neighborhood plans and citizen concerns?

I consider civic engagement my bread & butter. It's one of the issues I've been talking about from the start. To increase civic engagement, we will move City Council meetings from 2 to 6 PM. We will hold a full Council meeting in all 52 neighborhoods over our 4 year term, and we will launch a program to teach students about government and increase internship opportunities.

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**Q8 TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE:** What is your plan for improving frequency and reliability of our bus system?

This is another issue I've been talking about from the beginning. Simply put, our transportation system is outdated. We need to explore 24-hour routes, increase our intra-city routes, and examine which routes needs to be increased and which need to be decreased. I will also host town halls on the bus to increase awareness of transit issues.

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**Q9 TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE:** What will you do to improve multi-modal infrastructure that includes pedestrian and cyclist safety?

I think we need to increase and improve our pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure as well. We should build more bike lanes and build more crosswalks to make sure our pedestrians are safe.

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**Q10 TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE:** How will you champion environmental sustainability?

I will commission a study to determine how we can introduce a city composting program. I will increase fines for littering and illegal dumping, and I will expand access to education on preservation, conservation, composting and recycling. We will also install more solar panels on city buildings and expand tax incentives for businesses and developers to exceed Silver LEED certifications.

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**Q11 Name of candidate**

Tamaya Dennard

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