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Please complete the form inserting lines as needed to accommodate your answers, then sign and return the form via email in Word format to:

info@phillynn.org and Gloria Gilman, gmgilman@gmail.com. Mail a copy with the signature page to

Gloria Gilman

121 S. Broad St., Suite 1710

Philadelphia, PA 19107

#### CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name: District: Yvette Young 9<sup>TH</sup> District

I have read the attached questionnaire responses and certify that the information provided is accurate and the opinions stated accurately reflect my own positions.

Candidate Signature:



Date: 01/12/2023

District: 9<sup>TH</sup>

2023 District Council Member Questionnaire

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#### I. INTRODUCTION

In Section IV below, please answer as best you can. If you have not yet come to a final decision on an issue, or don't currently have enough information to provide an informed answer, please so state.

#### II. BACKGROUND

1. Tell us about your experience in leadership and administration. What policy issues have you worked on, and in what capacity? (Please provide the names of two or three individuals who can provide information about your previous work.)

**As a Facilities Director, I have managed large and small teams of employees, union and non-union, including the oversight of operations, payroll and budget. I have also overseen many construction projects from feasibility studies through construction and close-out phases. I've worked with my neighbors to fight unjust development in my neighborhood, representing my community, managing**

**the fundraising necessary to see our efforts through court – over \$10,000 raised. Please talk with Dr. Tony Jones or Kelly McShain Tyree about my work.**

2. What differentiates you from other candidates?

**My background. I grew up and have lived in this district all of my life. I have met my neighbors, worked for change with them and organized with them. Our district is ripe for organizing and I am ready, willing and able to represent my community. In addition, I have worked for various organizations, government and private. I've worked for United Parcel Service, for and with the City of Philadelphia, the School District of Philadelphia, The Philadelphia Gas Works, and currently am working for a school district in Montgomery County. With my career and life experiences, I believe I am uniquely qualified for this position.**

3. With all the money that's being raised by other candidates, what's your path to victory in a crowded field?

**Building a grassroots strategy, relying on the many relationships I have developed over my career. I will organize my neighbors in East Oak Lane and the 50th ward to manage and create infrastructure for long-term organizing here.**

4. Where do you stand on Term Limits and Councilmanic Prerogative?

**I am completely in agreement with term limits, they are necessary and their implementation is long overdue. I would advocate for an 8 year limit, to allow council members the chance to see through important projects without remaining in office indefinitely. Councilmanic Prerogative is often used to hurt members of my community through predatory development and I would work alongside groups to end it.**

**I personally would make a commitment to serve no more than two terms in City Council.**

### III. PRIORITIES

1. What in your opinion are the greatest challenges facing your district and its residents?

**- The education system, churning out students with no hope, a pipeline from school to prison**

**- Gun Violence / Theft**

**- Corporate Development devoid of the consideration and opinion of the communities in which they are developing.**

2. What three things would you most want to accomplish to address your district's challenges?

**1. Improve the education system through an equitable plan that addresses its pending budget deficit and by reimagining the use of our school buildings after school.**

**2. Address the district housing crisis to stop predatory development while serving the increasingly urgent needs of the aging baby boom population.**

**3. Create more community clinics and health infrastructure that includes violence reduction and mental healthcare outreach programs.**

IV. ISSUES

A. Housing

1. What would you do to change the trajectory of the housing crisis in your district? What agency or program would you start with and why?

**PHA has been an organization that has helped residents in our community secure homes and rebuild their lives.**

**I would work with the sheriff's office and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to reclaim abandoned and foreclosed houses and develop programs that first time homeowners can utilize to develop, renovate and purchase these homes.**

2. How do you plan to help keep long-time homeowners from being forced out of their homes?

**Ensure long term homeowners are taking advantage of the Homestead exemption and other programs to reduce or lock in their tax obligation, to decrease negative impacts of gentrification.**

3. Do you support Good Cause and/ or Rent Control legislation? If not, what do you offer as an alternative?

**Yes, the goal is to provide a stable location for families to thrive, but we must be careful to ensure that non-governmental landlords who have bills they must pay, are allowed to maintain some level of profitability.**

4. Would you support legislation to enact zoning requirements to compel inclusion of affordable units in market rate developments, with "affordable" defined as no more than 40 % of the average household income in the ward?

**Yes.**

5. Would you require the land bank to prioritize the disposition of properties to favor low-income and cooperatively owned developments, including land trusts?

**Yes.**

B. Education

1. The Phila School District continues to lose public schools. How can we change that?

**To attract young families, we must build better schools. Many of our magnet schools are thriving, we have to expand the magnet school model to our neighborhood schools, equally investing in all students.**

2. What do you think of legislation to regulate charter schools? How would you regulate them?

**I would support a charter school moratorium as we examine best practices and implement them across city schools. Charter school oversight is an issue that may be costing children in public schools. We have to prioritize equitable classrooms.**

3. How would you increase community participation in School Board appointments?

**Out of over 500 school districts in Pennsylvania, Philadelphia is one of the few that does not have an elected school board. I believe being a school district board member is a role that should be chosen by the people.**

4. Would you compute the cost/benefit ratio for the School District of all proposed Keystone Opportunity Zones (KOZ) before they're approved by Council?

**No, In order to make improvements, the school district needs a budget, in order to have a budget, we have to have taxes. While we need business to stay in Philadelphia, not asking them to pay their fair share of taxes is detrimental to our schools and our communities as a whole.**

C. Criminal Justice

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1. How will you reduce gun violence in your district?

**Education.**

**Gun Violence is an epidemic at crisis levels in our city. We have to implement what is working in other cities here in Philadelphia, including prevention programs and peer-to-peer support systems, harm reduction approaches and public health infrastructure that provide people with care they need on a daily basis.**

2. How do we orient the police to service instead of enforcement?

**As community partners, not only visible during tragedies, but taking a lead to mentor and educate young people, in programs like PAL.**

3. What ideas do you have for reintegrating formerly incarcerated citizens?

**Recruiting and working with companies that will give our formerly incarcerated citizens and neighbors an opportunity. Identifying programs that can offer certification and building programs in correctional facilities that will segue into entrepreneurship or job opportunities.**

4. How do we keep employers from denying jobs to qualified ex-offenders?

**Tax incentives can be used. We must also ensure we are enforcing laws that we have on the books. Under our current law, employers can not just use a check mark on an application to exclude a candidate, the circumstances of their conviction and the position must also be considered. I will organize workshops to inform our business community that they hold a key role in returning members in our community that have made mistakes, back into our communities as productive members of the community.**

D. Environmental Justice

1. Would you support construction of an environmentally damaging facility such as a trash to steam plant in your district if it would bring hundreds of jobs?

**We can no longer defer attention to climate change, nationally, or locally. I will not support any project that brings more harm than it cures.**

2. What will you do to support and promote the use of solar and other renewable energy sources in your District?

**I will do everything in my power to support renewable energy projects. Solar, the use of methane from our water treatment plants, stormwater management, and any other renewable that will safely diminish the reliance on and use of non-renewable energy sources.**

#### E. Economic Development

1. What do you think of imposing an impact fee on businesses failing to pay workers \$15/hr. to reimburse the city for the costs of relieving poverty?

**Until the Federal government increases the minimum wage, I believe we must move to protect workers. We can all agree that \$7.25 an hour is not a family sustaining wage. I don't want to impose any fee that will antagonize business, however business must ensure employees are paid a living wage. The size of the business must be taken into consideration**

2. Would you fund the Philadelphia Public Financing Authority that was created by Council to lay the groundwork for a City Public Bank?

**Yes. This is an incredibly important issue and one that will generate money for people in Philadelphia rather than wealthy corporations.**

3. What do you think of legislation to bar or limit privatization of City property and assets, such as the PGW?

**I am in 100% agreement. The privatization of Veterans Stadium resulted in billions of dollars of lost revenue for City of Philadelphia Residents, shifting the tax burden from many to few. Selling off public buildings like the former School District of Philadelphia Administration building on the Parkway and moving City agencies into high cost, high rent properties has also shifted the tax burden to our residents. This practice must not only be halted, but reversed.**

4. The Board of the PIDC, the City's main economic development funding agency, is made up of members appointed by the Chamber of Commerce. Would you change that? How?

**Yes, I would also include one member appointed from the EEOC, to ensure that inclusion, and the wellbeing of the community is not lost in the discussion of business growth.**

5. Would you require the City to withdraw subsidies from large corporations that fail to provide jobs or other benefits to City residents?

**Yes**

#### F. Taxes

1. Which taxes would you propose raising to fund programs that cannot be paid for under the existing tax structure?

**While the abatement program has been successful in sparking development, the tax burden that has been shifted to the poor and middle class has been detrimental to those groups. The current tax structure is not capable of fully supporting the city's needs and requirements. Taxes must be collected to properly and functionally operate our City, but the greater burden cannot be shifted to the poor and middle class. Everyone, specifically our business community, must pay their fair share of taxes to ensure the city's core infrastructure and schools are operational. Those taxes will be an investment that will foster growth and stability in Philadelphia.**

2. What do you think of allowing a cap to be set on the number of property tax abatements granted in your District?

**I think that would be a good start.**

#### V. GENERAL STATEMENT

Use this space to provide any further information that you would like us to consider about your candidacy, not covered by the questions above.

**My name is Yvette Young. I'm an organizer and director of facilities at a Pennsylvania school district. I previously worked for United Parcel Service, the School District of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Gas Works and the City of Philadelphia. I was born and raised in the 9th District, and I have made this district my home.**

**I am running for City Council because my neighbors are demanding representation. We are tired of elected leaders ignoring us and our communities' needs in favor of bad developers and big money.**

**We have seen enough. We need folks who know what this district is like and what we need. We are tired of seeing too few resources despite our insistence on voting; we are tired of being ignored while being relied on. We are going to make our voices heard, organize and demand our neighborhoods see the investments we know we need. I am eager to work alongside you to secure good union jobs, affordable housing that doesn't simply put another poorly managed predatory development in the middle of our communities, equitable funding for our schools, safety through stability and resources, and serious public health investments.**

**We can do this and send a message that our District is not for sale to the highest bidder, but instead a place for our families to thrive, living meaningful lives and growing as a community.**

**We need someone whose heart and soul lives in our neighborhoods. We deserve a City Council person that is elected, not selected. I am eager to work alongside you to make a statement and "Be the Change" we need!**