

Nehanda Imara for Oakland City Council District 7
Green Party Endorsement Questionnaire 2016

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1. Motivation -- Why did you choose to run for City office? If you are running against an incumbent, what are your main dis-satisfactions and differences with him or her?

As an educator, community advocate and mother I am deeply committed to working to heal and make Oakland a safe, sustainable and inclusive space for all residents. Many parts of District 7 has been underserved and disinvested for decades. I will bring my decades of service to City Council and make real equitable and progressive change.

2. Program and Priorities -- Elected office provides the opportunity to proactively lead by placing new ideas on the agenda for consideration and development. What are some specific ideas you intend to pursue if elected? What do you believe are the main priorities for the City?

My vision for East Oakland is to create a united community that closes the gaps and divisions between those that have access to resources, information, clean air, non-blighted streets and healthy food and those that do not. I am deeply concerned with issues of safety and policing and again the lack of equity in promoting safety and just policing in all neighborhoods of Oakland.

Therefore, the top priority areas for me are:

- Economic and educational opportunists**
- Environmental Health and Justice**
- Equitable Safety and Policing**
- Affordable Housing & equitable development**

3. Qualifications -- Please give a brief summary of your background and qualifications for the office of City. If you are a current City Government elected official, what issues can you point to in your time as an elected official that have had a positive impact?

As an organizer with Communities for a Better Environment I have been working full time for the past 9 years promoting, advocating and organizing for environmental health and justice issues. I led several

successful campaigns in those nine years. Specifically, (1) we moved an ordinance to change diesel truck routes in East Oakland to reduce the impact of mobile sources of pollution on the most vulnerable; (2) In the past years we have conducted 4 community based participatory research studies on the cumulative health impacts of the most industrial parts of East Oakland with over 200 community members participating. These studies are innovative and cutting edge tools that we use in our organizing, education and training of community leaders; (3) most recently for the past three years I have been leading a campaign stop an industrial crematorium from setting up in East Oakland. This campaign continues.

4. Local groups -- Are you affiliated with any of the active Oakland groups? Such as TOLA, Make Oakland Better Now, Oakland Justice Coalition, Block by Block, Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club, GO Public Schools, OCO, or any other. Describe your involvement and why you feel this group is worthy of your support.

State of Black Oakland Coalition, Haiti Action Committee, Malcolm X Grassroots Movement

5. Local activities -- Other than local politics, are you involved in any other Oakland based community activities that you would like to share with us? This can range from volunteering in your school to being in your church baseball league.

African American Studies Merritt Community College, Black Student Union, Black Consciousness Raising Tour-Ghana Study Abroad

6. Budget -- If you were on council for the next budget in 2017 how would you act differently from the council members dealing with the budget in 2015? How much additional revenue should the City aim to take in, and how would you generate it?

I would work for a more transparent, participatory budget process the genuinely engages residents and youth from all of Oakland. I

7. Youth -- Describe the condition of youth in Oakland? What would your priorities for youth be for Oakland government and how would they get implemented and paid for?

Oakland youth are some of the most resilient residents of the City. As a mother with a child that attended public schools K-12th grades, including OUSD, I am gravely aware of the need to make stronger pipelines for our youth into Peralta Colleges and beyond. Youth jobs and employment would also be a priority. Finally, working with youth and restorative justice programs that also educate youth about their rights and responsibilities. My work with Leadership Excellence for 6 years (2004-2010) I worked with Oakland Black Youth included cultural esteem and leadership development programs was an example of how to

address some of the deep rooted youth issues.

8. Police -- How do you think our community policing is going and what are the next steps? Describe the current relationship between the residents and the Oakland Police. Do you suggest any changes? Do you support Restorative Justice programs and how should the city be involved, if at all. What are your thoughts about police misconduct and how do you feel Oakland should deal with it?

Oakland needs a new approach to policing, one that takes into consideration the specific needs of all of the different communities that are represented in the city. I will work to clean-up the corruption, push for equity in the delivery of service and equity in police monitoring and stopping of residents. There are some deeply rooted issues with OPD. I will work closely with the new Department of Race and Equity to make restorative justice and reshaping and cleaning up OPD from top to bottom.

9. Development Projects -- What are your thoughts and views about the West Oakland Army Base, The upper Broadway-Valdez Triangle, Oak to 9th and other projects?

Oakland is at a crossroads, we need a Council that will work to balance development and the growth of our City with the needs of our most at need residents. I am committed to creating that balance and ensuring that Oakland grows in the ways that preserve the soul of our city.

I will work to make robust Community Benefits Agreements (CBA's) a standard for all construction projects in the city of Oakland. CBA's are designed to provide residents necessary improvements while mitigating issues to be caused by the development. Working with community groups to ensure that the voices of residents are heard is critical to this process.

The Oakland Army Base project is a perfect example of this policy at its best. The policy, brokered by a coalition led by EBASE, includes the nation's first standard in the warehousing industry limiting the use of temp agencies, and created the West Oakland Job Resource Center, which has become a national model for creating a pipeline into construction careers

10. Housing & Gentrification -- Increasing rents, dislocation, and gentrification have been in the news. What policies do you advocate to assure that Oakland tenants are protected and that Oakland remains an economically and racially diverse city? Do you favor rent control?

Yes

The Impact fee schedule is not adequate for East Oakland. This is the only city that adopted tiered levels that promotes 2nd and 1st class citizens.

The County's Bond measure and the recent Kaplan ordinance will help but more is necessary. Some things we won are good like;

- Landlords are required to petition with the Rent Board for rent increases above the annual Consumer Price Index**
- Expansion of Just Cause Eviction Protections to include units constructed up until December 31, 1995**
- Expansion of the duties and powers of the Rent Board and Rent Adjustment Program to increase accountability and effectiveness in implementing tenant protections. In particular, the measure will include the creation of a "Rent Registry" which will give tenant rights organizations and advocates better access to badly needed data**
- Provisions for relocation assistance when a tenant is required to relocate through no fault of their own**
- Requirements of City staff to send out annual notices stating allowable rent increases and related laws to tenants for their awareness and protection**

11. Environment -- What do you think the Oakland City government should be doing about the environment?

As an organizer with Communities for a Better Environment I have been working full time for the past 9 years promoting, advocating and organizing for environmental health and justice issues. I led several successful campaigns in those nine years. Specifically, (1) we moved an ordinance to change diesel truck routes in East Oakland to reduce the impact of mobile sources of pollution on the most vulnerable; (2) In the past years we have conducted 4 community based participatory research studies on the cumulative health impacts of the most industrial parts of East Oakland with over 200 community members participating. These studies are innovative and cutting edge tools that we use in our organizing, education and training of community leaders; (3) most recently for the past three years I have been leading a campaign stop an industrial crematorium from setting up in East Oakland. This campaign continues.

The city needs a genuine environmental justice element in the general plan; a Clean Up/Green Up ordinance and environmental justice/equity structures and policies to guide Oakland into a truly green sustainable city.

12. Public Banking -- Will you introduce, co-sponsor and/or support an ordinance or charter amendment to create a Public Bank of Oakland, inspired by the Bank of North Dakota[i] (BND), a 100-year-old public institution? The Public Bank of Oakland would hold the city's deposits - in contrast to having them held by Wall Street Banks as currently done. It would make fiscally responsible loans in the best interest of the residents of Oakland - in contrast to Wall Street banks' record of risk and ruin. Profits made by the Public Bank of Oakland would be returned to the General Fund of the City of Oakland, or used to further buttress the loan capabilities of the bank, much as the BND does (the BND has returned over \$400,000,000 to the General Fund of the State of North Dakota over the last 21 years,[ii] while substantially increasing its capitalization and its loan outreach)

While I need more research on this issues it resonates with my values for public resources (taxes, land, etc.) for the public good.

Yes, or No questions (follow with an explanation if you want to add one)

- Do you support raising the minimum wage to a living wage? **Yes**
- Are you in favor of a police commission? **Yes**
- Would you vote for using eminent domain to abate foreclosure crisis? **Need more information**
- Do you support Ranked Choice Voting? **Yes**
- Would you support Proportional Representation? **Need more investigation**
- Do you support diverting people from prosecution if they participate in a restorative justice program? **Yes**
- Do you support Community Choice Aggregation? **Yes**
- Would you vote to allow more grey water systems? **Yes**
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