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1. Motivation -- Why did you choose to run for City office?

I want to be a real voice for the people of District 6. There are very few times in Oakland's history that the city has had an elected official who spoke for or presented policies that benefitted all of the people of Oakland. I can be that voice.

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?

I intend to bring ideas such as the port paying an equal share in taxes. We need to rewrite the city charter. We should hold developers accountable when deals signed with the city are later found corrupt. I see education, healthcare, employment, and housing as my main priorities. The taxation and development policies would be used to fund these priorities.

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?

My background is in grassroots organizing. I have worked with the National Lawyers Guild doing both legal observing and paralegal work. I have been the point person for the Oakland Greens Outreach Committee, increasing visibility of green issues by engaging hundreds of people on city issues during the 2012 General Election. I have business experience running two city youth and adult sports programs, during which time I increased community involvement by hundreds. I served on the Measure Y Oversight for a term, presenting the "people before profit" standard of the success regarding funding allocation. I served as treasurer for the Macleay for People's District 2 Campaign.

4. Local groups -- Are you affiliated with any of the active Oakland groups? Such as TOLA, Make Oakland Better Now, 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.

I am an active leader with many local neighborhood Oakland groups and organizations including:

- ***Oakland Greens Outreach Committee***
- ***Oakland Green Party Activist***
- ***Education Policy Member OOEC***
- ***106th Community Farm Project***
- ***Island Cat Rescue Outreach***

As a Direct Action Activist for over two decades, I have the knowledge and experience to effect change in burdened communities. I am certain that I can and will bring group issues to the council.

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.

- **Island Cat Rescue**
- **106th Community Farm Project (Legal Aide)**

6. Budget -- If you were on council for the next budget in 2015 how would you act differently from the council members dealing with the budget in 2013? What do you think is the cause of the current budget crisis?

Make no mistake, if elected I will advocate for a complete change in priorities when it comes to the city budget. We have a one billion dollar city budget. I would start by introducing plans that focus on education, healthcare, and housing. This would encompass employment for all who want to work. I know you asked whether the education policy would include full renovation of our schools. I remember working at Parker Elementary School and having to wait four months to have the boilers repaired. One day it was so cold we could not teach and resorted to indoor movement games to keep the students warm. The reason for the delay was the city only had two boiler technicians. For an entire major city! This is unacceptable. Other policies will target similar problems that affect people today. Right now, most of our budget goes to police. While fully funding this department is obviously critical to public well-being, law enforcement should be a public service job, not a corporate property security force. In addition, we are in a state of emergency with many of our elderly and youth. Times like these call for a complete rethinking of how we conduct business.

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?

I believe that the people of District 6 would agree with me that our youth are in extreme distress, none more so than the youth of People's District 6. Allow me to expand on my end game for education: First, every school will have a real food preparation area (more jobs), play areas that will not cause harm to students, music, theatre, sports, actual work training education, science, bilingual education (from preschool thru 12th grade, parents and students could choose English/Spanish, English/German or English/French), urban farming education, and world history. Educating our children is our best hope of eradicating poverty from our city. While I understand this vision cannot be implemented by one City Council member, I would propose an agenda that prioritizes a majority of the people's taxes for public benefit. I will also seek out other creative thinkers for their input. It will take direct action from the council to help pay for this radical policy change.

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. **I begin my answer with a question: “Do we have community policing?” I believe that most of the residents in People’s District 6 do not have a relationship with community law enforcement unless there is serious violence. At that time, it is just reactionary. The first step to bridging the divide between community and the police is to open a dialog about perceived racism that runs rampant in our police force. I support changing the rules so that police are required to live in the city, not the suburbs. Currently, many live away from the areas they are supposed to protect, which indirectly leads to racism and harassment of poor communities.**

I do believe in restorative justice, but I am not convinced that the city should be involved. This is a great job for communities to take on themselves. The courts could send cases to the community group where the crime took place or we could set up rules that bypass the courts and go directly to the restorative justice groups or both.

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? **Unfortunately, these projects are mired in corruption, which seems to be entrenched in the city’s history. If elected, I can assure you I would advocate for transparency, hiring local first, and development that benefits all of the community. We must ensure that what is promised is actually delivered. When it isn’t, we in the community will vote out or fire those involved. This is the only way to be sure that there will really be community safety.**

10. Police Misconduct. What are your thoughts and how do you feel Oakland should deal with it? How would they get the Oakland Police past the current oversight under Judge Henderson? **As a longtime activist, I have put my body on the line in the face of police terror. The militarization, poor training, and lack of police coming from Oakland are a direct formula for police misconduct. We need to first hire a police chief with the strength and courage to fire people who, in some circumstances, do not have the qualifications to even be a security guard. We should start at the top and work down. This strategy has worked well in Richmond.**

An independent police commission would be great, but we will not obtain one in the current system. When the people get tired enough, it will happen. I hope that time comes soon.

11. 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?

Policies such as the “just cause” ordinance are good. Unfortunately, we see a systemic issue with gentrification. As San Francisco seeks the wealth of Silicon Valley forcing people east, we see local owners cashing in on their ability to request more for rent. We have to secure living wages for all, while controlling the ability to gouge hard-earned income from our citizens.

12. Environment -- What do you think the Oakland City government should be doing about the environment? **I would ask the people to allow me to introduce bills that would let the city run commercial diesel vehicles on biodiesel. Also, based on current environmental**

risks, I would push for fair taxation on the port. I believe creating a more efficient transit system would be a step in the right direction. As always, I believe the strongest voice for environmental justice should come from the council members, with direct action if needed.

13. Satisfaction of Residents -- How do you think the average resident feels about city government? How would you rate the satisfaction level? **A majority of people in District 6 feel (and rightly so) that the system is only working for the wealthy, and that city government is riding the cash train right along with them. The words in the flats where I live cannot be expressed here; the word in the hills is "fear." Everyone knows the current system is working exactly how it is supposed to work, which is unfortunately in direct opposition to equality and social justice. I have personally spoken with five families who are doing well economically, but see the walls creeping in slowly—they know they are next.**

14. Accountability -- How do you propose making yourself accountable and accessible to the citizens of Oakland? **I am the only person, who if elected, would receive a pay raise. I would keep normal business hours not only for the people's council seat, but any committee work to which I am appointed. I would also continue my outreach directly in the community, not only in the flats where I live, but in the hills too, hearing directly from them on district and city concerns.**

15. Do we need an Oakland Progressive Alliance akin to the one in Richmond, and if so, who should be members? **I was directly involved in 2012 when the Oakland Greens called for an OPA. We reached out to everyone. Anyone who has a "people before profit" attitude should be a member. We should initially focus on the things we agree on and work to make them happen. We can then debate things we do not. I firmly believe we have the ability to not only follow Richmond, but go beyond.**

16. Governance -- What kind of relationship could you have with other office holders? Who do you see as a working majority on council and who can you work with?

If elected, it would not be business as usual. While I will maintain a professional demeanor at all city events and business gatherings, I am running to change a system that puts profits over people. I promise to be the people's voice.

When I ran for school board in Martinez, I predicted that, if I was elected, more people would attend board meetings because I would listen to what they had to say. Although I wasn't elected, more people started to attend meetings even before the election. Having no campaign money, I began attending every Martinez Unified School District Board meetings, speaking on most items. Additional people started attending these meetings because they knew at least one person would say what was on their minds. When the public attends and becomes producers of their own government, amazing things can happen.

17. Endorsements -- Who has endorsed you so far? Who do you expect to endorse you? Who do you endorse in the other City races? Include your #2 and 3 choices for your own race and note that this year the City races are Mayor, Council seats, School Board seats and City Auditor. **I am happy to be endorsed by the Oakland Greens and the Alameda County**

Green Party. I also enjoy a working relationship with Shanthi Gonzales and proudly endorse her campaign for OUSD Board People's District 6. I do not always follow my political registrations. I strongly suggest voters follow the Alameda County voter guide. I personally cannot endorse any other candidates. The current group across the board will give you more of the same, whether that is political business as usual or personal liabilities far too great to ignore.

18. Campaign Funding -- How much money do you currently have for this race? How much money do you plan to raise? Where will the money come from? Describe sources of financial contributions for your campaign that you would refuse to accept (if any).

I have no money currently with no plan to seek political contributions. As my campaign is based on being a voice of the people, I would refuse any corporate donations. I am confident I will receive in-kind donations of post cards and printing, but my primary campaign strategy is shoe soles, handshakes, and listening to your concerns.

19. Checks and balances -- How do you view current the relationship between the Council and Mayor? Any comments on the same question for the Auditor and City Attorney? Are there any changes they would propose to the city charter? **I have been involved in community politics for a long time. Oakland's council has one of the worst working relationships I have seen. The mayor and council members often seem to allow personal issues to divert attention from people's issues. I propose writing a completely new charter. We need a new system.**

20. Money in elections. -- Does Oakland need campaign finance reform? If so, what kind? **Yes. We should change to publicly funded elections. Take private money out of elections. We could give candidates in-kind media time and equal printing for candidates, and let's see how that changes city politics.**

21. Anything Else? -- Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?

I am not a career politician. My passion is education. I believe that by rethinking how we match education to our students instead of teaching for tests, we can critically think our way out of many of the problems. Overlooking or remaining silent on these problems is no longer an option.

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

-- Do you support the renewal of Measure Y? No

-- Do you support the minimum wage proposal? Yes

-- Are you in favor of a police commission? Yes

-- Do you support Dan Kalb's proposal on oversight and transparency? Yes

-- Are you in favor of receiving public complaints against police officers at the Civilian Police

Review Board? Yes

-- Would you vote for using eminent domain to abate foreclosure crisis? Yes

-- Do you support Ranked Choice Voting? Yes

-- Would you support Proportional Representation? Yes

-- 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

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire.