

**Name:** Mekia Fields

**Phone:** 614-783-2841

**Email:** mekia.fields83@yahoo.com

**Website:** www.fieldsforcitycouncil.com

**Current occupation:** Human Resources (Staffing)

**1 --- Qualifications: Please give a brief summary of your background and qualifications for the office of City Councilor. 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?**

Hi! My name is Mekia Fields, I earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Franklin University in Columbus, OH. I have specialized in Human Resources (Staffing) for more than 5 years. This profession has provided me with the opportunity to view many prospective employees and assess their opportunities, potential, and career development needs while finding the perfect candidates to become new corporate citizens.

**2 --- Local groups: Are you affiliated with any of the active Hayward or other local citizen or environmental advocacy groups?**

Asian Business Alliance

**3 --- What are some of the largest issues in Hayward that need to be addressed now? What creative ideas do you have to address these issues?**

### **Employment**

As a professional, I have worked in Staffing for several years and understand the need for good jobs that provide advancement opportunities, close to home. I will partner with fellow council members, the Mayor, local corporations and business owners to define a plan to expand corporate development that will enhance access to employment opportunities. Additionally, I will partner with other civic organizations to maximize the utilization of the new public library and employment readiness programs.

### **Education**

As a parent, I have seen the beauty of Hayward, but I have also seen areas that need improvement. One of my objectives will be to partner with the Hayward Unified School Board and push to rebuild schools that are in need of more resources and funding sources. School should be a place of education, enlightenment and exploration and it is my goal to make that happen for all Hayward children. For principals, teachers and students; health and safety should be one of our top priorities. As a parent I value quality education and supportive before and after school care programs. There have been measures created to support both, but there is always room for additional growth.

### **Enjoyment**

As a resident, I will work towards uniformed store front standards that will embody the beauty of Hayward. I will help to develop additional retail spaces, dining, and entertainment venues (skating, bowling, concert theatre, arcades, etc). Hayward should have a variety of entertainment (arts, education, and relaxation) that reflects the culture and diversity of our neighborhoods.

**4 --- Who has endorsed you so far (groups and individuals of note)?**

My husband, Kwame Fields, Corporate Information Security Officer (CISO) of the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco  
My family

**5 --- Why did you choose to run for this office? What strength/skills would you bring to the Council?**

I am running for City Council because as a new resident I feel I can bring a renewed spirit to the city through public service. I believe in the people and prospects for the future prosperity of the City of Hayward. I will bring diversity of thought, ambition, contract negotiation experience, an employee focused mindset, conflict resolution capabilities, and management skills to this position.

**6 --- Given the issues with campaign finances at the national level, we regard transparency in fundraising as highly critical at this time -- how much money do you currently have for this race? Are all your donors publicly listed on your website? How much money do you plan to raise? Where will the money come from?**

I currently have \$3,000. I plan to raise at least \$45,000 from friends, family, neighbors and other constituents that believe in what I have to offer the City of Hayward through fund raisers and other events that will facilitate my outreach.

**7 --- The Hayward Police Department has been steadily increasing bike patrols in the Downtown area, which has helped with connecting with the community and has shown to be very effective. Do you support expanding these patrols in other neighborhoods around the City?**

Absolutely, I support and welcome community policing! A visible and interactive police force will help to break down the stigma that may accompany law enforcement to make them more accessible and improve their ability to safely carry out their duties.

**8 --- Do you consider environmental stewardship and sustainable development as core parts of your vision for Hayward's future?**

Hayward has consistently created and executed sustainability measures. I support the current efforts and look for to future endeavors to expand the usage of renewable resources and build green and environmentally neutral facilities.

**9 --- Will you work closely with EBRPD and HARD to expand protected open space and add to the Bay Trail wherever possible?**

Yes. My husband is a avid cyclist and we also enjoy walking all the trails around Hayward and the surrounding areas. I feel it is my duty to continue to expand those opportunities for all Hayward citizens in a way that highlights the natural beauty of our city while protecting natural habitats of native plants and animals.

**10 --- How do you plan to get the city to expand solar panel coverage of roofs of all city owned buildings, as well as parking lots, as soon as practicable?**

I will research solar options and present findings during meetings and be sure to plans that are mindful of city resources and existing obligations.

**11 --- How do you plan to encourage industries with huge roof areas (especially in South Hayward) to also get solar panel coverage of their roofs?**

I will discuss not only the benefits, but the savings on electrical expenses. Business owners can benefit from state and federal incentives to potentially pay off a system quicker which will accelerate the realization of the inherent benefits of fossil fuel-based energy consumption.

**12 --- Are you committed to making sure any further parking comes with commensurate levels of EV charging infrastructure, making provisions for future EV ownership growth?**

Absolutely. I feel that the city should play a prominent role in promoting clean air vehicles and that means providing more convenient access to charging stations and preferred parking.

**13 --- Will you make sure that any future development (infill or rehab) is LEED certified or Green Point Rated, and further that provisions are made for significant water conservation and reuse of water on site, given that climate change models show California will be getting steadily drier into the future?**

As I stated earlier I feel that Green building standards, including LEED, are one of the ways to promote environmentally neutral facilities. This is how I will work to make sure that my children and other children can grow up with clean air and a smaller carbon footprint that is the city's way of reversing the impacts of human induced climate change.

**14 --- The Downtown Traffic Loop has been a disaster for Hayward with documented slower traffic on routes in and around the downtown, and a degradation in level of service in the reverse directions (such as north on Mission) to "F," which is being hidden by the Alameda County Transportation Commission. Pedestrian crossings are longer and more difficult; people have to drive longer distances to get through downtown and to downtown; there is cut-through traffic in neighborhoods, murderous lane changing challenges, and jack-rabbiting speeds between lights. Downtown is an expressway, not a destination. Will you work with Councilmember Marv Peixoto to end the Loop?**

I will work with the entire Council to propose and implement better alternatives to the current loop. I know that Councilwoman Mary Peixoto has some great ideas on how to do that. If I am elected to City Council I will partner with her to promote sensible ideas for improvement of the Loop.

**15 --- The City thoughtlessly decided to destroy a multimillion dollar building, the old library, which has potential to serve as a community center. It could be saved by change orders and saving of demolition costs, but first needs to be studied concerning its value, the interest of people in making it work, costs and other planning to see how it compares with other options. Will you support spending \$3,000 for an appraisal so that we will at least know the value of the building before it is too late?**

I agree that the building should be evaluated for further use before any further development takes place.

**16 --- The Maple Main project and the Lincoln Landing projects are proposing large scale parking structures, with buildings five and six stories high for the North side of Downtown. They have huge increases in parking and subsidizing parking. There are viable alternatives for lower rise buildings for a comparable population, designed to encourage walking and shuttle bus to downtown and BART rather than driving up Foothill out of town. Will you support parking reduction and alternative transportation? Will you support parking ratios of one half space per unit or lower based on alternative mobility policies?**

I am in favor of bring substantial business to downtown Hayward, with that being said, adequate parking will be necessary.

**17 --- Taxis and ehail, and carshare/rental, are increasingly important for mobility with less car-dependency. Will you support big projects like those above only if they can credibly achieve over 50 percent reductions in Vehicle Miles Traveled and 50 percent or fewer trips by personal car? How much greenhouse gas reduction by new developments will you support, and how will you do it? Will you support the long-overdue relocation of the taxi stand at Hayward BART, designating a place close to the exit of the station for pickup, and implementation of Flywheel by Hayward cabs?**

I am in support of public transportation to reduce traffic and greenhouse emissions.

**18 --- Will you support rapid bus -- fast, frequent, free -- in the downtown corridor and to Cal State Eastbay? Will you support land-based finance and RFP management of operations? Will you support early public involvement in discussion of City application for funds from the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program?**

I am in support of public transportation to reduce traffic and greenhouse emissions.

**19 --- Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?**

I promise to always be an advocate for the citizens of Hayward.