



The Caribbean-American Political Action Committee

1015 18th Street, N.W., Suite 200, Washington, D.C., 20036 | 202-349-1498 | www.CaribbeanPac.org

Caribbean-American Political Action Committee (C-PAC) District of Columbia – 2018 Candidate Questionnaire

Please return the completed form via email to cpac.dmv@gmail.com by Wednesday, October 24, 2018. Responses will be shared with C-PAC’s membership and the Caribbean-American Community.

Office Sought: DC Council, Ward 1

Candidate’s Name: Jamie Sycamore

Current Occupation: ASL Interpreter

Party: Progressive- Independent

Campaign contact information (Address, Phone, Fax, Email, Website):

1. 909 W street NW

Washington, DC 20001

2. 202- 870-7736 (cell)

3. Manager@sycamore4dc.com

4. www.sycamore4dc.com

1. Please explain your plan or approach to improve agency responsiveness and the quality of the District’s constituent services.

Strong and prompt constituent services is one of the cornerstones of my campaign. Being present in the community and getting out and involved with the people that you serve is the key to the success of any public office. Only by knowing where your constituent’s stand on issues that are important to them can law makers make the best, person centered decisions, that strengthen a community and all those that call it home.

2. What specific actions have you initiated or will you take to support the Caribbean-American community in Washington, D.C.?

Like many minority communities in Ward 1, affordable housing/living and safety are crucial to their success of the Caribbean- American community, allowing it to not only survive, but to thrive. Not only will I work to create, protect and expand truly affordable housing, I will work to make sure that the community’s infrastructure works for its residents. By not only



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introducing affordable businesses, but by supporting small and local businesses will we secure the success of a community.

In the realm of public safety, I want to ensure that MPD recruits and hires police officers from the community where they live, but also that this housing is financially available to them. This is how that we ensure that not only do officers have the cultural competency, but also a pre-existing relationship with the community, improving trust among the police force and the public.

I would also work to make sure that incidents involving specific communities are handled swiftly and sensitively, with opportunities for education.

3. Unfortunately, throughout the City many Caribbean-owned businesses closed in recent years. How will you support the viability and competitiveness of the City's small, minority, veteran, women, and especially Caribbean-owned businesses?

Currently there are very few protections for small and local businesses in Ward 1. I will enact legislation that will protect small and local businesses from landlords taking advantage of their business tenants with inflated rents, resulted in unnecessary closure. I will work to create tax incentives for small and local minority owned businesses, allowing them to remain in their neighborhoods and serve the communities they love, and who need them for an affordable lifestyle.

4. What policy actions would you propose or support to improve the opportunities and rights of Caribbean immigrants in the District of Columbia?

- Hire more MPD Officers from the community in which they will serve, and also work to build affordable housing for those serving in the police force.

- Ensure our status as a sanctuary city, and work with other members of the council and government to protect this.

- Increase the funding of the immigrant legal trust fund and expand services for more outreach in the community to make sure all residents know their rights. Also, expand the use of that fund to residents who have been detained by ICE to fund legal services.

- Establish a bank of pro bono lawyers to assist in trials of immigrant residents.



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5. The City's Caribbean Community is the only immigrant community without an Office to address and support community affairs and services. Would you support the creation of such an office?

Yes. The Caribbean community is as diverse as they come. They speak many different languages, and have so many cultural nuances that cannot just be handled by other offices. It's an important resource of the community, and I will work with the community to ensure the office's creation and implementation, but its continued success.

6. How do you plan to help strengthen the Certified Business Enterprise (CBE) program since larger business take advantage of many small businesses, including Caribbean-owned ones, with whom they partner under this program?

Again, it's all about the outreach and connection to the community. The District government is located all across the city, and offering contracts to small and local businesses in the area is just common sense. I will push for the District government to contract with businesses that are in that immediate area to ensure the vitality of the business and the community which it serves.

7. What policies will you support to address the challenges facing DREAMers, the administration's suspension of temporary protective status for many D.C. residents, and the threats facing sanctuary cities?

Please see question #4

8. What concrete steps will you take to improve the District of Columbia's Public School system – including facilities and equipment, teacher treatment, relationships with parents, as well as education standards and test scores in all wards of the City?

While the Council does not have direct control over DCPS, we do have oversight of the Mayor, who is the head of DCPS. I will ensure that the education committee calls upon the mayor to testify in front of the council when problems arise, and I expect the council to hold the mayor accountable, especially when the public demands it.

I also want to take away total mayoral control; as elected officials, the role of the DC Stateboard of Education is diminished by having it only be an advisory role. More power must be given



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to the school board, as they are the voice of their constituents and their constituents are the ones impacted the most when DCPS fails.

9. In Washington, D.C., many seniors seek to age in their homes and/or communities. What efforts will you take to improve access of services and the quality of programs for the City's senior citizens?

As an ASL Interpreter and disabilities advocate, I am very familiar with the barriers that face people with disabilities and our seniors. There are many people who live in historic neighborhoods in the city who cannot have their homes retrofitted for accessibility due to strict and burdensome process of the historic Preservation board. I will work with historic preservation to ease their standards when it comes to seniors and persons with disabilities so that people may enter their long-term homes via ramps or whatever type of accommodation maybe necessary for them to age-in-place. I will also work on ease or eliminate the property tax burden for seniors and long-term residents, to ensure that those on a fixed income can stay in their homes.

10. What issues are you most concerned about in your run for political office?

Equity, transparency and accessibility.