



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 Friday, April 13, 2018.
Responses will be shared with C-PAC’s membership.

Office Sought: Ward 1 Council Seat

Candidate’s Name: Sheika Reid

Current Occupation: Director of Affordable Housing

Party: Democrat

Campaign contact information (Address, Phone, Fax, Email, Website): 3421 14th Street NW; 202-320-3897 (Sheika Reid); Sheika.Reid@Reid4Ward1.com; www.Reid4Ward1.com;

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

As a Ward 1 native, I know that the elements that make this community so unique and dynamic are the same ones that unify us as a community. That unification begins with our community’s leadership. That is why I would absolutely prioritize Constituent Services. I will improve the response rate for constituent services from my office as the Ward 1 Councilmember by designating open constituent service office hours and ensuring that my staff that is familiar with, invested, and deeply engaged in providing support for the Ward 1 community. I will also Maintain a 24 hour turn-around response for all constituent service related requests so that they may be appropriately directed to the correct District agency. I would additionally expand funding for the constituent services budget so that I would be able to provide support for constituents on an as-needed basis. I will work with community groups, ANCs, the DCDPW, and The Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) to provide recycling and composting to all Ward 1 residents.

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

Growing up, the Caribbean Day Parade was a main pillar of our community. It was an opportunity for our Caribbean community to celebrate their heritage, and to bring together generations of Caribbean-Americans to share their culture and heritage. I also came to learn about the positive impact that the influx of businesses had on the Caribbean-American community on the Georgia Avenue corridor. Through supporting and engaging with community



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leaders such as Loughton Sargeant, and his work with the DC Jerk Festival, DC Carnival, and other programs which help all Washingtonians celebrate the vibrant diversity of our community. Through programs such as the United States-Caribbean Strategic Engagement Act of 2016 allows for the District to use federal funding for work with Caribbean community organizations including, but not limited to: DC Caribbean Carnival, Inc., HUCSA, One Caribbean, Institute of Caribbean Studies, Team Soca, Crown Bakery, and create an office for Caribbean-American Affairs. As Councilwoman I will work with the Caribbean-American organizations that support the Caribbean-American community.

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?

The closing of Caribbean-owned businesses within the last few years has been a tragedy. We need to have support for our vulnerable populations and these businesses that have contributed to the fabric of Ward 1 especially in Mt. Pleasant, Columbia Heights, U street, Georgia Avenue, and around Howard University. We will work closely with the DSLBD to provide education and opportunities to support the viability and competitiveness of the City's small, minority, veteran, women, and especially Caribbean-owned businesses by making sure that they are constantly updated on grant opportunities. As Councilmember I will provide the DSLBD and the Office on Caribbean-American Affairs with the appropriate staff and resources to educate and grant resources to the Caribbean-American community. As Councilwoman I will work with the Caribbean-American organizations that support the Caribbean-American community.

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

We will work with the Office on Latino Affairs, African Affairs, and when I create the office on Caribbean Affairs the three agencies will work closely with the District's immigrant populations. As Councilwoman I will work with the Caribbean-American organizations that support the Caribbean-American community.

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, I will open the Office on Caribbean Affairs. The contributions of Caribbean-Americans are a significant part of the history, progress, and heritage of Ward 1 and the ethnic and racial which



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enriches and strengthens the District as a whole. As councilwoman when the Office on Caribbean Affairs opens they will have the resources and staff to carry out the necessary work.

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?

There are hundreds of small businesses in Ward 1, 40% of whom are minority owned. I have experienced, first hand, the small business culture of Washington DC through my family's company Avanti Real Estate Inc. Avanti's work is comprised of supporting members of their community through the process of homeownership. 92.3% of Businesses in DC are small businesses. This indicates the degree to which small businesses are the architects of the socio economic environment of the nation's capitol. The 40% of small businesses that are in DC are are minority owned, which is why the Nation's Capital should have the most robust opportunities for Small and Minority owned businesses to obtain contracts with the local government. Thus enabling small businesses to hire members of their communities and reducing rates of unemployment. 70% of businesses in DC begin in Ward 1 which is why it is a priority for Sheika to host continuous workshops to cater to the needs of business owners across the socioeconomic spectrum. The Certified Business Enterprise workshop aims to exposed small businesses to the process of applying for contracts and obtaining the CBE and SBE certifications, by featuring opportunities to access government resources. The DSLBD (Department of Small and Local Business Development) currently has a budget of over \$250 million to be applied to the strengthening of the small business community. Through identifying opportunities for internal controls and taking the appropriate measures to improve upon the department's practices, we will provide resources for the District's small business community.

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?

My plan is to start off with working with the community groups already doing the work in our communities such as but not limited to:

AYUDA, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, Inc., Latin American Youth Center, Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition International, Briya Public Charter School, which will work in partnership with the Julia M. Toro Law Firm, PLLC, Asian/Pacific Island Domestic Violence Resource Project, which will work in partnership with Libraries



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Without Borders, DC Affordable Law Firm D.C. Immigrants' Rights Project, which will work in partnership with CARACEN

Additionally, I aim to pass legislation similar to New York City's [DREAMer act](#)

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?

I have held educational forums to engage our community. I care deeply about DCPS as an alumna of the DCPS's Oyster Bilingual Elementary right here in Ward 1 I know about the disheartening situation in some of our schools. As Councilwoman I will support teachers and students to make sure that both groups have the resources inside and outside of the classroom to meet educational standards needed to

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 we have already done, we will work closely with the Office on Aging and the organizations that support our senior community. Additionally, I will allocate funding to programs that support our senior community. As Councilwoman I will enact stronger tax abatement programs for our seniors.

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

- Affordable Housing
 - Making the DHCD and DCRA more efficient so that affordable housing can be produced at a faster pace.
 - Introducing legislation for the city to purchase property as it goes on the market so that it can be resold to people using home purchase programs who have difficulty competing in the current real estate market
- Small Business development
 - Strengthening the relationship between small businesses and the DLSBD



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- Introducing programs for small businesses to get emergency grants and micro-loans
- Education
 - Creating mentorship programs
 - Allocating additional funding for after-school and summer programs for youth to supplement their regular curriculums
 - Update teacher-evaluation procedures
- Public Safety
 - Improving Police-community relations
 - Increasing the amount of on-foot police officers
- Senior Services
 - Ensuring that all seniors know how to access social service officers
 - Allocate funding for additional social workers in local senior centers