



## The Caribbean-American Political Action Committee

1015 18th Street, N.W., Suite 200, Washington, D.C., 20036 | 202-349-1498 | [www.CaribbeanPac.org](http://www.CaribbeanPac.org)

### Caribbean-American Political Action Committee (C-PAC) Montgomery County - 2022 Candidate Questionnaire

Please upload the completed form here: <https://www.caribbeanpac.org/news-candidate-responses.php> and submit it by 11:59 PM (EST) on Friday, June 13, 2022. Responses will be shared with C-PAC's membership.

**Office Sought: Montgomery County Council District 2**

**Candidate's Name: Lorna Phillips Forde**

**Current Occupation: Small Business Owner**

**Party: Democrat**

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

**13017 Wisteria Drive, Germantown, MD 20874**

**240.801.6341**

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**<https://lornaforde4countycouncil.com>**

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1. What have you done, or will you do to ensure the interests of the Caribbean community in Montgomery County are being adequately addressed?

**Most of my adult life I have been an advocate for the needs of Montgomery County's diverse populations. Whether it's food insecurity, protection of women's rights, sensible gun legislation, equity in school curriculums, safety in our schools & neighborhoods or other pressing issues, I have always advocated with an equity lens. I have a special affinity to the Caribbean-American community, due to decades of emphasis on diversity by my church's Multi-Cultural ministry and also because my daughter's father is from Barbados. The Barbadian culture & influence has, and continues to be, embedded in the fabric of who they are. I will continue to ensure that this very important community connection remains a strong influence in their lives and contributes in significant ways to the strength of all that Montgomery County represents.**

2. The Caribbean- American Advisory Group (CAAG) was established by former County Executive Isaiah Leggett and continued by the current County Executive Marc Elrich, if you are elected will you support continuity of CAAG in its current form as an autonomous group. **Yes, I will. As a long-time member of the African-American Advisory Group, I am fully committed to identifying and responding to the needs in our very diverse communities.**
3. Will you proactively encourage and facilitate members of the Caribbean community of Montgomery County to be appointed to County Boards? **Yes** Please explain what mechanism your office would establish to give effect to this policy.



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**I would first rely heavily on community leaders in the Caribbean-American Advisory Group to share information with their network and identify and recommend qualified candidates. I would then consider establishing diversity criteria in selecting candidates with a wide variety of skills, experiences, and education. I would encourage appointment by my colleagues, based on diversity targets, for interested and qualified candidates representing the Caribbean-American Community.**

4. Please explain what policies you would espouse and implement to make Montgomery County **a safe haven** for undocumented Caribbean immigrants. **If elected, I will earnestly endeavor to initiate policies that protect Caribbean immigrant residents. Undocumented Montgomery County residents make sizable contributions to our local communities and the economy. I will ensure sufficient funding for the Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center so that immigrants in MoCo are safe, protected and positioned to be integrated into the mainstream economy. I will continue to support, safeguard and enhance existing policies that enable the immigrant population access to employment opportunities, adequate healthcare & mental illness resources, transitional housing and financial aid to attend our local educational facilities.**
5. Will you support continuity of Montgomery County as welcoming Caribbean immigrants and settlement of the Region's refugees? **Yes**
6. Will you support availability of books by Caribbean authors and about the Caribbean in libraries and in the schools? **Yes**
7. It is difficult to balance crime prevention and community safety with trust and improved relations with local law enforcement. How will you work to strike this balance?

**I will pursue the following non-traditional police engagement reforms to bridge the gap between public safety and community trust:**

- A. Programs that encourage compliance by promoting trust, rather than compliance through fear of punishment.**
- B. Programs that focus on institutions outside of the current traditional punishment and policing norms and support housing, education & health inequities to better understand vulnerabilities and start to develop safe & secure interactions.**
- C. Programs that reconcile and recognize the trauma of neighborhood victimization. Fully addressing trauma can start to build bridges that can heal behaviors and communities.**