



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) Prince Georges 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 10, 2022. Responses will be shared with C-PAC's membership.

Office Sought: County Executive

Candidate's Name: Billy W. Bridges

Current Occupation: Educator/IT Specialist/Political Scientist

Party: Democratic

**Campaign contact information (Address, Phone, Fax, Email, Website): Billy W. Bridges
P.O. Box 734 Cheltenham, MD 20623 (240)210-1381 www.bridgesforus.org**

1. Will the County Executive re-establish a community liaison within the Department of Community Relations to serve the needs of the Caribbean community? Yes, as County Executive, I will make sure that the Caribbean community will have a community liaison within the Department of Community Relations. Part of my New Prince George's Plan is about empowering all sectors of our community. The only way to empower is to make sure information travels in a two-way direction. As the only candidate who does not accept donations, I will be free to hear and address the needs of the Caribbean community.
2. Will each council member create community liaisons within their district to address the needs of the Caribbean community within their constituency? I will not only encourage, but also push, each council member to create community liaisons within their districts.
3. Will you be interested in creating a community infused team with the Office of Economic Development to address development needs? Yes, I will actively seek the economic input of citizens. Therefore, a community infused team will be part of the Office of Economic Development. The New Prince George's County Plan mentions the creation of an Office of Urban Development. This new office might replace the Office of Economic Development and could become the Office of Economic and Urban Development. I will need the community to help determine which economic and development projects they desire. The Plan also allows for citizen investments in a number of projects that will return dividends to them for the creation of generational wealth to secure their present and future.



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4. What is your position on strengthening protections for Caribbean immigrants within the County? The New Prince George's County Plan includes economic empowerment of citizens, active participation of citizens, change from Police Department to Public Safety Department, reorganization of the educational system, health care safety nets, and an Office of Inspector General. For Caribbean immigrants, that will mean they can be investors in businesses and development projects. As I mentioned in 2018, having our Caribbean immigrants to be economically invested in this county and country, may solidify any questionable immigration status, because the U.S. immigration system views business owners a bit different than average immigrants. The active participation of Caribbean immigrants in county government will mean a voice in decisions that impact them. Going from Police Department to Public Safety Department will mean a different attitude about protecting our citizens and will be more community involved. Reorganizing our school system will mean a new curriculum that will include understanding of ethnic cultures. The health care safety net will mean a robust mobile Health Department to reach all communities. In addition, there will be a portion of the budget set aside to address health care for our poorest citizens. Finally, the Office of Inspector General will handle all complaints of abuses by any arm of the county government. This is the ultimate protection to make sure our Caribbean immigrants and neighbors are treated fairly.
5. Would you support introducing books by Caribbean authors into the Public School system and county libraries? Yes, I believe that with the development of a new curriculum, books by Caribbean authors must be on the shelves of our Public School system, as well as county libraries.
6. In 2012, Governor Martin O'Malley created the Governor's Commission on Caribbean Affairs. The mission of the group was to expand outreach, ensure greater accesses and to serve as a resource to increase the economic, educational, health, political and social well-being of the Caribbean community in Maryland. Unfortunately, no funding was provided to institute such programs. Can we count on you to demand that the Commission be re-established, and the necessary funding appropriated to fulfill the mission? I will not only reach out to our delegation to the Maryland General Assembly, but I will contact the next governor about establishing and funding the Commission. However, I will not wait on the State of Maryland to act for our Caribbean community in Prince George's County. The New Prince George's Plan that I put forth addresses all of these needs within our budgetary and investment system.