

Calvin S. Hawkins, II  
Prince George's County Council Member at Large

**Responses**

1. Will the County Executive re-establish a community liaison within the Department of Community Relations to serve the needs of the Caribbean community?
  - A. I cannot answer the question because I have not spoken with the County Executive to learn of her intentions regarding re-establishing a community liaison to the Caribbean community within the Office of Community Relations. However, I will speak with the County Executive to learn of her thoughts....
2. Will each council member create community liaisons within their district to address the needs of the Caribbean community within their constituency?
  - A. I had a staff person that was of Caribbean descent. She was my connection to the Caribbean community. Because of love for the Caribbean community, she still volunteers with my office to assist me with my extension in the Caribbean community.
3. Will you be interested in creating a community infused team with the Office of Economic Development to address development needs?
  - A. I support re-creating a community infused team with the Office of Economic Development address development needs. Moreover, I will take the lead and collaborate with your leadership to convene meetings to discuss and agree on a strategic plan and timetable in ensuring that we realize your economic development opportunities. I have been involved and a leader in removing the embargo against Cuba. I have supported and have been public in my support for Cuban medical personnel receiving authorization for entrance inside of U.S. borders.
4. What is your position on strengthening protections for Caribbean immigrants within the County?
  - A. I support and have been very vocal and loud in my position as a Council Member at Large and Chair of the County Council for the last two years in my outspoken position on strengthening protections for Caribbean immigrants. I have been involved in the discussions and protests over Caribbean immigrants not just in Prince George's County but the entire DMV. I not only support protection for Caribbean immigrants, I supported the United Nations General Assembly Resolution entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the government of the United States of America against Cuba" [and any other discrimination/undermining of Caribbean countries.

5. Would you support introducing books by Caribbean authors into the public school and public libraries?

A. Yes, I would support introducing Caribbean authors into the public school system and county libraries. Would you please share me where you are in the discussion with our public-school leaders and public library officials insofar as the introduction of Caribbean authors into the public schools and 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?

A. I would support the re-establishment of the Governor's Commission on Caribbean Affairs. I would request it receives full funding. My question to you is how are your discussions with the gubernatorial candidates—both Democratic and Republican—on their views and commitment to re-establishing the Governor's Commission on Caribbean Affairs

7. It is difficult to balance crime prevention and community safety with trust and improve relations with local law enforcement. How will you work to strike this balance?

A. Communications..., communications..., and communications...Our community leaders and law enforcement officials must talk frequently, candidly and honestly. As Chair of the County Council, I have worked with the community, my Council colleagues, and the County Executive to improve police accountability while ensuring our law enforcement agencies have the necessary resources to fight crime while building trust throughout our neighborhoods. The County Council placed money in the budget to increase community policing. It should be noted that there is an additional one million dollars in FY 23 spending to support 'use of force' tracking, which is another step toward improving police accountability>