



## **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) 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 13, 2022. Responses will be shared with C-PAC's membership.

**Office Sought: County Council District 3**

**Candidate's Name: Eric Olson**

**Current Occupation: Recently resigned as Executive Director of the College Park City-University Partnership (a community development corporation) to run for County Council Party: Democrat**

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

**Friends of Eric Olson  
PO Box 78  
College Park, MD 20741  
240-416-3184  
[eric@electericolson.org](mailto:eric@electericolson.org)  
[electericolson.org](http://electericolson.org)**

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1. Will the County Executive re-establish a community liaison within the Department of Community Relations to serve the needs of the Caribbean community?

I favor a county liaison to serve the needs of the Caribbean community in the Department of Community Relations.

2. Will each council member create community liaisons within their district to address the needs of the Caribbean community within their constituency?

In my district, I have always had a strong community outreach team. This has always been central to my public service. I will again employ a strong team who will serve as liaisons to the Caribbean community as well as all other communities in my district. I can not do my job serving the people of my district if I do not know the concerns of the whole community.

3. Will you be interested in creating a community-infused team with the Office of Economic Development to address development needs?



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Yes, I am interested in discussing the ways community voices can be elevated within our county's economic development work.

4. What is your position on strengthening protections for Caribbean immigrants within the County?

I have always been a strong ally and advocate for our immigrant communities within Prince George's County. I have stood with immigrant taxi drivers who were taking on the powerful cab companies, and I have earned the support of CASA in Action because of my work on behalf of immigrant communities. Going forward I will remain a staunch advocate for Caribbean immigrants and all immigrant communities.

5. Would you support introducing books by Caribbean authors into the Public School system and county libraries?

Yes I am highly supportive of efforts to introduce books by Caribbean authors into the school and library systems. Children of all backgrounds must see themselves reflected in books, media, and popular culture.

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 access, and 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?

Yes, I will be supportive of the effort to re-establish and allocate the necessary funding to institute the programs created by the Governor's Commission on Caribbean Affairs.

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?

During my prior service on the County Council, I did several things to strengthen both public safety and relations between law enforcement and the community. I conducted community walks throughout all of the District 3 neighborhoods to bring residents, police, and other agencies together. We formed several civic associations and strengthened community relations as part of this effort. In addition, I convened a county-wide youth and gang violence prevention task force which included schools, nonprofits, police, parks and recreation, and other



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stakeholders. This work focused on prevention, creating services, and outreach to address the needs in our most at-risk communities. I am a strong advocate for prevention and getting youth involved in meaningful, uplifting activities that instill strong community values and responsibility.