



Caribbean-American Political Action Committee

Caribbean-American Political Action Committee (C-PAC) District of Columbia – 2016 Candidate Questionnaire

Please return the completed form via email to cpac.dmv@gmail.com by Friday, April 15, 2016. Responses will be shared with C-PAC membership.

Office Sought: Ward 4 Council

Candidate's Name: Brandon Todd

Current Occupation: Ward 4 Councilmember

Party: Democrat

Campaign contact information (7828 Georgia Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20012; (202) 316-3537)

- 1) What policy actions would you propose or support to improve the opportunities and rights of Caribbean immigrants in the District of Columbia? *I would propose that DC government agencies develop specific performance measures to track the well being of the Caribbean immigrants. I would require agencies to provide results at oversight hearings and identify mitigation strategy to address any shortcoming. For instance I would require the Department of Small and Local Business Development to track development of Caribbean-owned businesses, resources directed at Caribbean businesses and communities and grants and contracts awarded to businesses in Caribbean communities.*
- 2) How do you plan to help D.C.-based small and medium sized – especially Caribbean-owned -- businesses realize a greater share of D.C Government contracting opportunities? *Provide for more community grants; government sponsored workshops and outreach; target small businesses for funding development and marketing initiative, which will benefit the Georgia Avenue Corridor and the Caribbean businesses, such as Main Streets; provide review and comment on proposed District laws, regulations and policies that may affect members of these Caribbean communities.*
- 3) 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? *Continuing to modernize our public schools is a top priority. Creating opportunities for greater collaboration between parents, teachers, and students will strengthen our education system. I do support standardized testing, because it is the best measure to determine how each child is performing when compared to peers in the same grade.*
- 4) What efforts do you support to make higher education accessible and affordable to all D.C residents who aspire towards completing collegiate and advanced degrees? *I support making higher education accessible and affordable to all D.C. residents at the University of the District of Columbia.*
- 5) How would you propose improving access to quality, affordable health care services to DC residents, especially those who reside East of the River? *As the Ward 4 Councilmember, I have worked the D.C. Health Link to help ensure my constituents are signed up for health insurance. A major part of this is expanding outreach opportunity to let residents know about the resources that are available.*
- 6) For many years the Caribbean Carnival was a fixture in the District of Columbia. Would you support the return of the Carnival to DC with financial support from the DC government? *I support a return of the Caribbean Carnival to DC. The DC government 19 year partnership with the Caribbean Carnival expanded the growth of Caribbean-owned businesses along the Georgia Avenue corridor and rebuilt a corridor that suffered years of neglect. A renewed partnership with the Carnival organizers will go a long way to alleviate some of the challenges faced by the DC Carnival and expand small business development on corridor.*
- 7) The City's Caribbean Community has consistently called for the creation of an Office of Caribbean-American Affairs in DC. Would you support the creation of such an office? *Yes, I would support an office because it would expand community outreach in the Caribbean-American community and improve access to city services. This office would inject continuity and stability across administrations and DC government; coordinate community outreach and partnership services with DC government agencies; assist with building and implementing planning and budget requirements; assist in setting up community workshops; and other outreach information.*

Anguilla

Antigua and Barbuda

Aruba

The Bahamas

Barbados

Belize

British Virgin Islands

Cayman Islands

Cuba

Dominica

Dominican Republic

Grenada

Guadeloupe

Guyana

Haiti

Jamaica

Martinique

Montserrat

Netherlands Antilles

Puerto Rico

St. Kitts and Nevis

St. Lucia

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Suriname

Trinidad and Tobago

Turks and Caicos

US Virgin Islands