



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) District of Columbia – 2020 Candidate Questionnaire

Please return the completed form via email to cpac.dmv@gmail.com by 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, September 24, 2020. Responses will be shared with C-PAC’s membership.

Office Sought: Ward 8 Councilmember

Candidate’s Name: Frederick Hill, III

Current Occupation: Entrepreneur

Party: Independent

Campaign contact information: 1730 18th Street, S.E. Washington, D.C. 20020

Telephone: (202) 747-8105 and Website: www.FredHillWard8.com

1. What specific actions will you take to improve the well-being of your constituents and improve District services and access for all residents?

Great question as I am already taking specific actions to improve the well-being of my constituents by introducing legislation that will support small business; making certain the first source agreement is implemented and enforced, and that CBES have a stake in the wealth building exercise. I also have several businesses that employ those who may not have adequate training and skills. After giving them appropriate training and assisting with their skill development, we are able to offer them “living wage” employment with upward mobility.

I have already introduced recommendations concerning the level of services needed in a fully implemented healthcare network. I have made great strides in making known our need for a Level 2 trauma hospital in Ward 8. A level 2 state of the art trauma hospital can satisfy the requirements for treatment of all forms of trauma. This includes, but is not limited to prenatal/maternal care, pediatrics. physical and mental health emergencies and other physical health services.

I keep my finger on the pulse of the Ward 8 residents who express their concerns to me regarding legislation that will affect District services. This includes, but is not limited to, new development in the Ward; ghost guns that are getting in the hands of our youth; services that will provide incentives to our seniors; people re-entering the community from treatment and incarceration; as well as, close relative caregiver subsidies. Some families are not traditional but they need support and resources too.

All residents in the District of Columbia should have access to services and resources no matter the demographics and income status. I will introduce legislation that will provide real affordable housing, 100% elimination property tax for seniors Sixty-Five(65) years and older who have been in their homes for a certain period of time, and access to high quality home based child care that



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is reasonably priced giving families peace of mind regarding the safety of their children while they work or go to school.

2. During recent legislative sessions, the D.C. Council advanced B23-0201, a bill to establish a District of Columbia Office of Caribbean Affairs (OCA), which is a long-standing priority of the Caribbean-American Community. Please explain your position on this legislation and whether you will support efforts to staff and fund the proposed office?

I will support the efforts to staff and fund the D.C. Office of Caribbean Affairs. I presently support the recent legislation to advance Bill 23-0201. The office is absolutely necessary as it will help provide the equity and diversity we need as a city becoming a super multicultural urban center.

Staffing and funding the (OCA) will assure that the rich history and culture of our Caribbean Caribbean-American community will be an integral part of our education and cultural institutions in the District. Every District resident will experience the creative expressions by having access to information and activities initiated or supported by the work of the OCA. The cultural experiences alone will provide a needed perspective for our school system, introducing youth to OCA services and resources, and of course, the wonderful food.

3. What initiatives did you lead or support that impact Washington, D.C.'s Caribbean-American community?

My recent initiatives to introduce three pieces of legislation were not personally directed to the Caribbean-American community but with their broad reach, I am certain the community will directly and adequately benefit by virtue of the legislation. Within my business structure, we utilize a catering of a small business, as well, assist in locating space to open a free-standing restaurant. I also employ persons from the Caribbean and hope to employ more, paying living-wage employment.

4. Are you familiar with the status and impact of Caribbean-American owned businesses in your community and throughout Washington, D.C.?

Yes, and I encouraged more by what will be done to make certain that our Caribbean-American businesses (CAB) are given resources, visibility and promoted in a way that monetizes and has a strong fiscal impact.

At this time, there are more Caribbean-American business in the District than there has ever been. During the first year of Caribbean-American Heritage Month (2006), there were over 175 businesses in attendance at an event targeting CAB. Business owners like Dumas Simeus



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a former presidential candidate in Haiti and entrepreneur was the keynote and heads a company with revenues exceeding \$100 Million dollars. If he can do it, anyone else should have access to “doing it” and I want to make my resources available to those CAB’s.

4. How will you support the viability and competitiveness of the City’s small, minority, veteran, women, and especially Caribbean-owned businesses?

I will make certain that legislation, resources and opportunities are in place if a CAB wants to turn its ideas into capital. When a person comes to the District of Columbia, I want to make sure there is a fully staffed office like OCA to welcome them in case the person needs non-traditional support, housing, employment opportunities or if they want to start their own business.

In addition, how will you improve procurement and contract opportunities for these businesses?

I will improve procurement and contract opportunities by introducing new legislation, supporting existing legislation or strongly enforcing what is already in place to facilitate access to procurement and contractual opportunities and processes. There may need to be “set-asides” for start -ups that can finance and provide needed resources that give a fresh start to our CAB.

5. There are increased concerns regarding violence – especially gun violence – in many parts of the District. What are your proposals to address and stem violence with 21st century tools and policies?

I am already involved in several initiatives that will hopefully assist in curbing and eliminating the violence in of our community by continuing to provide jobs, even if they are “day-jobs” for our youth. I have introduced legislation for home-based child care so parents who want to work can do so while feeling confident about the safety of their children in day care.

One of my initiatives is the work with the embedded officer programs that place FBI agents inside our police department. In that way we can utilize federal resources. I have training programs that I currently finance that include garment making classes and media exposure sessions for youth who are 16-24. I intend to introduce legislation that will bring trades back into our middle and high schools through the creation of intensive vocational education programs..

6. How do you propose increasing access to safe, quality, affordable mental and physical health care and services throughout the District of Columbia?

I will make certain holistic and self-care services are a part of the mental and physical system health system. Everyone has mental and physical health but not everyone has physical and mental illness. Access in our community is paramount and that is why I will fight to have



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physical and health centers in our community, in non-traditional spaces like grocery stores and schools and in our parks through mobile transport and tele-medicine.

I will also fight to make certain that these services offer language access and cultural competent so that they honor the diversity in our great city. Access to affordable and safe housing is a part of my platform as it leads to poor mental and physical health for adults and children. When families struggle to pay their rent, other bills and do not have access to nutritious food, this could cause stress which leads to poor health. I will make certain that areas that are food deserts have grocery stores or markets that provide fresh food and vegetables. I will advocate for walking neighborhoods that have green space and places to relax as well as, participate in recreation.

When it comes to safety, I am already involved with making District residents aware of the Private Security Camera Rebate and Voucher Program, as well as, advocating for safety pole-cameras in hot spots.

7. Unfortunately, the challenges and concerns facing immigrants are increasing at an alarming rate. Do you support comprehensive immigration reform?

Yes. I support immigrant reform in the District because the United States would not be here had it not been for immigrants. They built this country and deserve support, resources, and an opportunity to live their best lives. The culture and history that our immigrant community brings adds to the beautiful mosaic we all enjoy and love.

How do you propose addressing the challenges facing DREAMERS, the administration's suspension of temporary protective status for many D.C. residents, and the constant threats facing sanctuary cities?

In January Mayor Bowser announced that her Administration would provide funding to community-based and private organizations, associations, and law firms that do legal work for immigrants in Washington, D.C. through a newly created Justice Legal Services (JLS) grant program. The program was launched with one million dollars. It is a very important program and I will advocate for continued funding and resources.

8. There is growing attention and distress about the significant increase in lawsuits filed against District residents by debt collectors over the last few years. What is your position on the Debt Buying Limitation Amendment Act, which is pending before the D.C. Council's Committee on Business and Economic Development and the Council's Committee of the Whole?

On April 7, 2020, the D.C. Council unanimously passed the COVID-19 Response Supplemental Emergency Act of 2020. This Act is emergency relief for D.C. Residents and



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business and dramatically affects consumer financial services operations. This legislation includes mandatory mortgage payment deferments, a credit reporting restriction for mortgage services, renting restricting and significantly prohibits debt collection activities.

I support this emergency legislation and hope that similar legislation can be introduced and signed into law for the hardworking District residents who are having temporary difficulties during the pandemic, as well as, once they return to working regular hours and may need a bit of support. I also support financial literacy for D.C. Residents so that they do not find themselves in the same situation after achieving their financial goals.

9. 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?

My wife owns a Homebased Childcare Center that provides professional and adequate childcare for children and their families. In some cases, she receives children who need temporary fostering or other special needs services that may not be available at the time of temporary placement. Childcare is needed in the public-school system that supports families who may be teens. I will and have supported legislation that will make certain adequate equipment and fair treatment of teachers are in place, as well as, increased awareness of parent-teacher associations that work, offer incentives and opportunities to have input on matters that effect our students.

Education standards and testing are very important but I realize that there are underlying issues that may affect a very bright student from scoring at a level that is considered "passing". I want to make certain that trauma informed teaching is implemented because some students learn differently, but they still can learn. Every Ward in the District of Columbia should have access to the best and brightest teachers that have all of the supports, opportunity to do "self-care" during teaching hours, and are paid at a rate that is competitive and adequate.

We must get creative when we are serving our students by finding out how they learn and not just enforce "what they learn".

10. In Washington, D.C., many seniors seek to age in their homes and/or communities. What efforts will you take to improve service accessibility, support for families, and the quality of programs offered to the City's senior citizens?

I support any legislation that assists in making certain our seniors can age in place, as well as receive caregiver services and resources that may be non-traditional. I support B23-0203 which is the "Close Relative Caregiver Subsidies Act of 2019", as it makes extended relatives eligible for support while they care for a cousin, niece or uncle who may need support when a direct-close relative is not able or available.



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Also, I support legislation that makes certain our seniors, who have been in their homes for a specified period, will not have a real property tax bill after age 65. Seniors should be able to relax in their golden years and not be burdened with property taxes when they should be living their best lives.

11. What priority issues inspired your candidacy for political office?

Issues that are directly tied to my platform encouraged me to run and continue to inspire my candidacy. I am not running against the incumbent; I am running for our city. My platform of youth, senior citizens, home based childcare, re-entering residents, jobs for anyone who wants one with a living wage and making certain small business/CBE's can participate in procurement and contracts that are fiscally adequate are other reasons I want to serve. I am a veteran who voluntarily served in the United States military. I raised my hand to serve the country and now want to raise my hand to serve the District, specifically Ward 8.