



The Caribbean-American Political Action Committee

1015 18th Street, N.W., Suite 200, Washington, D.C., 20036 | 202-349-1498 | www.CaribbeanPac.org

DC 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, August 27, 2020. Responses will be shared with C-PAC’s membership.

Office Sought: DC Council at Large

Candidate’s Name: Michangelo “Doctor Mic” Scruggs

Current Occupation: Podiatrist/CEO

Party: Independent

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

1. What specific actions will you take to improve the well-being of your constituents and improve District services and access for all residents?
 - 1) Healthcare- I will work to improve healthcare by advocating to construct a new hospital on the current campus of United Medical Center with a Level 1 Trauma Center. I will sponsor legislation that allows for ease of access to healthcare for all communities all over the District. I will work to expand DC Medicaid coverage to more citizens.
 - 2) Education- Work to provide for resources and development for teachers, support more afterschool mentoring and tutoring programs, sponsor legislation for more safety in schools, hold our school leaders accountable for developing a curriculum across the District where all of our students may be educated in such a way that they will be able to compete globally with their peers.
 - 3) Public Safety- develop zero tolerance policies for "bad cop" behavior, take cops under investigation for bad practices and tactics off the street, incentivize good cops, further police training about anti-excessive force tactics. and institute policies that reduces that significantly reduces gun violence in all parts of the District. There are many more things I will do in terms of Economic Empowerment; Citizen Engagement- such as holding bi-annual town hall meets in each quadrant to consistently engage citizens; Housing- working to keep people in their homes by working with landlords to keep rents as low as possible, especially for those on "fixed" incomes, and requiring instant inspections when citizens complain about poor living conditions for the landlord is responsible; Homeless- working with the Homeless to build more residential shelters, give grooming and transportation vouchers, and opening warming and cooling stations year-round for the homeless population; Caring for Our Elders- Building more residential living facilities that are up-to-date and offer amenities such as an on-site Wellness Center, proving End-of-Life seminars so that our Seniors may have the last say and may learn how to prepare wills, living wills, choose power of attorney, etc; COVID-19 aftershocks- getting people back to work by requiring an increase in required percentage of DC citizens as workers on DC-government funded contracts, support an extension of rent, mortgage, and public utility abatement by 12 months, increase the availability of free mental health services to combat PTSD suffer by DC citizens due to COVID.



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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 fully support this initiative and believe in the power that Caribbean-Americans bring to the DC infrastructure in terms of entrepreneurial endeavors, in terms of the investment they make in the community.

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

As a health care provider, I treat many Caribbean-Americans in my practice. Recently, I went to St. Kitts/Nevis to educate and attempt to sponsor a relationship for Podiatry in the Caribbean nations, so that there would be direct link between DC and the Caribbean in terms of healthcare.

4. Are you familiar with the status and impact of Caribbean-American owned businesses in your community and throughout Washington, D.C.? How will you support the viability and competitiveness of the City's small, minority, veteran, women, and especially Caribbean-owned businesses? In addition, how will you improve procurement and contract opportunities for these businesses?

I am familiar with the impact of Caribbean-American communities in DC, and as an African American small business owner myself, I also understand the challenges we face when it comes to procurement and contract opportunities. We need a level playing field. I will work to ensure that notices of opportunities for procurement and contracts is widely publicized, and that each business is evaluated fairly and by the same objective measures across the board. I will ensure that we maximize a fund specifically for minority owned and women-owned businesses that ensure job growth.

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?

We must do better to curtail this violence. I would work to repeal part of the Home Rule Act that allows the Attorney General to have jurisdiction over the prosecution of felonies here in the District, which is not the case currently. With this authority, the Attorney General may then seek stiffer penalties for would-be assailants. We have to increase our gun buy-back programs to take weapons off the street, and we must have an mandatory upgrade charge to adult for trial and conviction policy for juvenile shooters. I support rebuilding the broken



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relationships that communities have with law enforcement by holding unity rallies and sponsoring a law enforcement mentoring program for our youth.

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

Healthcare has always been a top priority for me. In addition to building a new hospital in SE DC with a Level-1 Trauma Center, I would sponsor legislation that requires a full complement of services in each quadrant, and the funding of more Disease prevention services such as Diabetes Management, Senior Wellness Checks, Glaucoma screenings, Breast, Ovarian, Prostate, and Colon Cancer screening. I would specifically focus on how we can bring these services more remotely to the patient. Additionally I would ensure that pregnant mothers are able to receive full access to prenatal care and be able to deliver their babies at hospitals and health facilities close to where they live.

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

I do support comprehensive immigration reform. Most of us, either by choice or not, are immigrants into this country, and we must have high regard for those seeking a better life here in America. That said, we also need to work on ensuring that we document workers on a local level, even if not yet at a national level, so that we may not only justify funding to this population, but also be sure that the funding and services provided to this population is adequate. I believe the DREAMERS should be allowed to stay and receive citizenship so that they can continue to invest in America. I am concerned about the Trump Administration separating families. That's not the America many of us grew up in. In fact, families have been the foundation of our America since the beginning of time. On the local level, I would sponsor legislation that allows the DC government to work with the federal government to streamline the process to US Citizenship. I will also work with businesses to ensure that all employees are at least locally documented, and work to establish programs for local documentation. In addition, I would sponsor legislation to decriminalize the hiring of undocumented workers, so long as they are locally documented, and are in the pathway to becoming a US citizen.

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? I



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support this amendment, as it is my belief that these scavenger debt companies seek to harass and pressure citizens to pay a debt that may already be satisfied or a debt that is no longer legally valid, all for profit at another's misfortune.

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? We will hold school leaders accountable for ensuring a curriculum that will allow our students to compete globally with their peers. However, it is our obligation on the Council to ensure that we are supplying adequate resources for the educational success of our public school system. I would sponsor funding that, once earmarked, could not be used for any purpose outside of our public education system, regardless of which mayoral administration is in power, and regardless of who sits on the Council. Next, I will advocate for and sponsor legislation to increase after school mentoring and tutoring programs; sponsor legislations that provides for more teacher and staff development, and fixes the physical infrastructure of schools that are crumbling. I would sponsor legislation that would fix the safety in schools issues by having more resource and school officers present, and in some cases MPD, to keep order. Finally, I would advocate for a zero tolerance in school for students who present under the influence of drugs and alcohol. These students would be sent home, and would only be able to return to school with their parent. Repeat offenders would have more severe consequences such as mandatory participation in drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs.
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 would sponsor legislation to allow more family members and friends to become home health aides and personal care attendants, and also sponsor legislation that calls for the increase of private duty nurses so that a senior can feel safe to stay in their homes. Additionally, I would sponsor end-of-life planning seminars so that Seniors and their families could gain valuable information about planning their wills, living wills, and creating power of attorney documents.

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

After conversing with many DC Citizens, I have established 11 platforms where citizens have stipulated a need for resolution, all of which are extremely important.. However, the 7 main priorities that drive my desire to serve as DC Councilman at Large are Healthcare, Education, Public Safety, Care for the Homeless, Care for the Elderly, Care for our Youth, and Citizen Engagement, and Fair and Equitable Housing.