



# GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

## GBC's 2020 Baltimore City Election Coverage Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

### **CANDIDATE: COLLINS OTONNA (R)**

The Greater Baltimore Committee has identified key policy priorities to drive discussion in the 2020 Citywide Elections. The priorities are:

1. Prioritize enhanced coordination across criminal justice agencies and support evidence-based crime reduction strategies to improve public safety.
2. Implement strategic and inclusive economic development strategies to attract and retain businesses and residents.
3. Exert solid, steady leadership to stabilize Baltimore City government and create a culture of integrity, transparency, and efficiency.
4. Support education and workforce development programs that prepare Baltimore residents for family-supporting jobs in high-growth industries and create programs or initiatives to attract talent to Baltimore City.
5. Utilize policy, funding, and intergovernmental coordination strategies to enhance Baltimore City's transportation and mobility infrastructure and operations.

*Disclaimer: As a 501(c)4 organization, the Greater Baltimore Committee does not endorse candidates for public office. The information contained on this page and all engagement activities surrounding the election are for educational purposes only.*

1. Prioritize enhanced coordination across criminal justice agencies and support evidence-based crime reduction strategies to improve public safety.
  - What are three actions that you would take in your first year to improve public safety?

*I would create a better police training strategy that would be essentially self based for the officers This will be as simple as reviewing police videos from utube etc and creating reports on what went wrong and what went right, and what lessons do they draw from the said police citizen interaction.*

*Bringing officers to see the conduct of other officers in numerous situations is very educative as all the decades of traditional police training is not eorking*

*Change does not always come from statutes but by changed hearts*

## CANDIDATE: COLLINS OTONNA (R)

*Action number 2*

*I will seek to criminalise as felony proven failure to obey police command, even if those commands are considered unjust.*

*This will help reduce police violence and incidents of police related killings*

*Third action*

*I will make 75 percent of police undercover, even the ones in traffic, however drivers can only tender identity but not come out of vehicle till uniformed officer arrived, along with this, we will implants police agents in communities to gather intelligence on potential crimes and criminal activities in their watch*

*This will help nip crime in the bud , moving away from police after event system.*

- As Mayor, what steps would you take to improve coordination across federal, state, and local criminal justice agencies and with the Judiciary?

*I think the cordination as we have them now is working, could it get better, well, I guess some view can only be seen from inside city hall.*

- What are your plans to address “squeegee kids” and panhandlers in City intersections?

*I considered a system where the squeegee kids would be gathered and educated on how we can make things work out better them*

*I will require them to wear an id as having bring trained and certified to be a squeegee, or pan handler*

*Any of them without id. would be arrested*

*However, these kids are the future, who value a dollar, and with hard to get it.*

*They do have alternatives that may be worse*

2. Implement strategic and inclusive economic development strategies to attract and retain businesses and residents.

- What strategies or programs would you put into place to encourage businesses and residents to move to Baltimore City?

*We must make personal life easier and less taxing to keep the people, and then they tend to keep their businesses*

*I will eliminate traffic cameras and parking violation booting replacing the boot with a 30 day booth warning*

*I will reduce coporarate taxes to make Bsltimore a profit Haven*

## CANDIDATE: COLLINS OTONNA (R)

*I will improve neighbourhoods now boarded for more affordable and decent living for medium income workers*

- What strategies or programs would you put into place to encourage existing businesses and residents to stay and expand in Baltimore City?

*Same as preceding answers*

- Do you have ideas or suggestions to reform property tax structures in the City?

*Property tax in low income or economically disadvantaged neighborhood should only be paid for 20 years to enable survivors to keep and maintain homes*

*Poor survivors have often been unable to maintain the tax and this is the primary reason for home loss leading to boarding of doors and windows which constituted a major problem*

- What are your top three priorities or programs to grow Baltimore's tax base?

*Keeps local grads here*

*Create incentives for young grads to move to Baltimore by a coporate nation wide canvassing of universities for example*

*As I said in a question prior, I would make life in Baltimore better and less taxing, and the people will stay here with their businesses*

3. Exert solid, steady leadership to stabilize Baltimore City government and create a culture of integrity, transparency, and efficiency.
  - Baltimore City is at a crossroads and in need of strong, ethical leadership. Why are you the best candidate to lead the City into a new decade and chapter?

*I have uncommon vision to heal the city from the root, to prepare a new generation of residents with moral superiority*

- What are three actions that you would take to improve transparency and efficiency in City government?

*Making it clear it would not take to get fired.*

- Several charter amendments have been proposed and are pending legislative review and approval.
  - What is your position on the composition and function of the Board of Estimates?

*As an incumbent, I do not have enough details of the deliberation on this important issue, and will confront it we'll inside city hall*

## CANDIDATE: COLLINS OTONNA (R)

- Do you think that the Baltimore City Charter should require a Chief Administrative Officer? Please explain your answer.

No

*We do not need a ceremonial mayor but we can have an effective deputy mayor or two to strategically assist him with policies*

- How would you structure your Administration (ie, CAO, Deputy Mayors, Chief of Staff, etc.) to provide the most efficient delivery of City services?

*Deputy mayors and advisers on strategic fronts can be summoned when needed.*

4. Support education and workforce development programs that prepare Baltimore residents for family-supporting jobs in high-growth industries and create programs or initiatives to attract talent to Baltimore City.
  - Under the recommendations of the Kirwan Commission, Baltimore City stands to receive an additional \$500 million annually in State education aid by Fiscal 2030. In order to receive this additional funding, Baltimore City must increase its investment as well, by \$330 million annually by Fiscal 2030. According to Maryland Department of Legislative Services figures, Baltimore City currently spends less than 15% of its budget on education compared to a statewide average of 36%. What is your plan to meet the increased obligation of Baltimore City? Please be specific in identifying areas or agencies that will see reduced appropriations as well as revenues that may be increased.

No response provided

- Currently, 0.2% of the City's budget is dedicated to workforce development. What is your position for funding workforce training and adult education programs to reduce unemployment and adequately prepare City residents for jobs in high-demand industries?

*We would focus more on youth force development, creating skills for living wages for at risk you*

- What role should the City play in attracting and retaining top talent to fill in-demand jobs in high-growth industry sectors?

*If we create a kind tax base, the industries will take care of themselves and prosper*

5. Utilize policy, funding, and intergovernmental coordination strategies to enhance Baltimore City's transportation and mobility infrastructure and operations.

## **CANDIDATE: COLLINS OTONNA (R)**

- What are three things you would do to improve transportation and mobility in the City?

*I will look into how Uber operates, and see if we can correct the systemic problems that is actually making them fail to deliver in low income communities*

*Mobility is doing fine for now*

- Do you support enhanced investment in transportation infrastructure, including that for pedestrians, bicycles, and scooters?

*These sectors are doing fine now but can be reviewed and improved surely*

- What is your position on the creation of a regional transit authority to oversee the transit network?

*Like wmata?, Well, we have Baltimore but Washington has Virginia and Maryland.*

*It deserves consideration*