CANDIDATE: ERIK POWERY (D)

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.

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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 overhaul the training program of the BPD. We train, they quit because the training must be focused on conflict deescalation. We still want criminals to be taken ALIVE and receive due process. But we also want good citizens to have great experiences with BPD. I will fully fund the Safe Streets program and hire a Youth Mayor and his cabinet. Training our young citizens how to be leaders and a pride for their city will grow inside of them. I will increase pay and retrain BPD. This will improve department morale.
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- As Mayor, what steps would you take to improve coordination across federal, state, and local criminal justice agencies and with the Judiciary?

*My administration will reach out to all Maryland government officials and be leaders in fostering teamwork as the largest city in Maryland.*

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

*Give these hard working "Squeegee Kids" the skills that pay the bills. Drywall, construction workers, electricians, auto mechanics, HVAC professionals, bricklayers, concrete pourers, demolition experts, plumber, carpenters, etc. I will expand the Vocational School system.*

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 we must "RebuildBaltimore" and "RebrandBaltimore". I will lead an effort via social media, print, and television to let all entrepreneurs know that Baltimore is open for business. Baltimore will the leader in this region of attracting ambitious entrepreneurs who dream big! Day 1 we will implement our #NoVacancy plan which will have Baltimore fully occupied much sooner than later. We will clean the streets in all neighborhoods. Put trash cans in every neighborhood. People in my neighborhood litter so much. But if there was a trash can available they will think twice. Baltimore is setting an example for citizens by saying: #PleaseThrowYourTrashInTheGarbage*

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

*My administration will continue to improve Baltimore daily so that businesses get so comfortable socially and economically they will never leave Baltimore.*

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

*We must tax reasonably in order to not break the citizens spirit. I would tax by percentage of income for anyone that is below a poverty line that is set by us. When you send people astronomical bills they cannot pay, these bills will just pile up.*

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

*Increase occupation in order to be over 99% occupancy. Overhaul our record keeping systems so we are sending citizens invoices on time. We must improve our delivery and collection systems.*

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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?

Because I am not in this to enrich myself. I do not have children so #NoNepotism over here. I love Baltimore more. I want to to see this city be greater than Manhattan. People are fleeing exorbitant tax, high rent states for Charlotte, Raleigh, Durham, Atlanta, South Carolina, and Florida. Baltimore will be a city of refuge for residents seeking a reasonable cost of living and great quality of life.

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

Full disclosure. PERIOD!!! No more wast, fraud, abuse, and crony capitalism. Baltimore City treasury is The People hard earned cash. I, Erik Powery, solemnly swear to be a good steward by budgeting and appropriating OUR money with honest, integrity, and wisdom.

- Several charter amendments have been proposed and are pending legislative review and approval.

  o What is your position on the composition and function of the Board of Estimates?

Its functions are absolutely necessaty.

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

Absolutely. In my administration my CAO will have laser focus on all administrative actions of the BOE. The 5 officers on the Board are distracted which makes it difficult to be efficient in these crucial matters of spending and who Baltimore chooses to do business with.

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

My administration will continuously communicate with clarity what we expect from every member of the BOE.

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
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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.

Departments that will be see increased funding is the Board of Education, BPD, BOE, Sanitation, and private businesses that partners with these agencies. Nothing will be defunded unless with proven evidence it is clear the program must be defunded or even eliminated.

- 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?

Workforce development and training must be improved from the trainers, educators, and workers. Workers seeking upward mobility should have a fighting chance and should not have their precious time wasted by poor training. We must promote self-improvement which improves Baltimore as a whole.

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

We should lead the Maryland in job creation and innovation. We do this by business growth and development and also policing and cleaning up neighborhoods where these employees will reside.

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

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

I am a Baltimore Link user, so I got this. Expand the bus coverage first and foremost. We must have compassion on the handicapped by improving their services also. We should run trains more often especially during rush hour and weekends.

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

Yes. In my Coppin Heights neighborhood the improved and expanded sidewalks. Bike lanes must be well defined. We want to be a more health Baltimore so making walking and bicycling more attractive is a public health issue too.

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

_Not necessary! The MTA simply needs additional funding and better training. MTA keeps the city in motion so they should be proud of what they do for Baltimore. Under my administration department morale will be elevated._