

**Thank you for attending the HPKCC 4th Ward Candidates' Forum. Approximately 150 questions were consolidated and edited by a committee of the Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference. We read all questions and made our best effort to include everyone's questions. Note that some questions need only a short answer or a yes/no response. Please return to [gwrumsey@att.net](mailto:gwrumsey@att.net) before noon on Friday, February 10.**

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1. What are the top three priorities that you will pursue as alderman?

## **Crime and Safety**

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2. What will you do to improve policing?
3. What is your position on police walking a beat and living in the neighborhood they serve?
4. What will you do to keep youth from being involved in crime?
5. How would you increase police transparency in the 4th Ward, including providing accurate crime incidence reports?
6. What would be your basic approach to loitering, littering, open air drug sales, gun violence, and gang violence?
7. Do you favor an appointed *or* an elected board to review and monitor Chicago police?
8. How will you address the increase in robberies and rape in this area?

## **Development, Housing, and Jobs**

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9. What would you do in City Council to ensure economic parity for the residents of the 4th Ward (e.g. the kinds of investments made in other parts of the city)?
10. What kind of development do you support for the Michael Reese site?
11. Will there be a provision to select businesses in the 4th Ward for new developments such as the Michael Reese site?
12. What is your position on Community Benefits Agreements?

13. Do you support construction of a casino in the 4th Ward?
14. Would you involve the community in making development decisions before designs are chosen and decisions are made? If so, how?
15. What actions will you take regarding vacant lots in the 4th Ward?
16. How will you as alderman respond to those who wish to buy adjacent vacant lots or enlist your office for support in dealing with expensive and time-consuming legal issues such as evicting squatters?
17. What can you do to enable individuals and small businesses to stay in their neighborhoods as development occurs, keeping the area vibrant, diverse, *and* affordable?
18. What specifically do you plan to do to spur residential and commercial development in the hard-hit areas of the Ward (including youth employment) while maintaining economic diversity?
19. What is your position on Section 8 housing in the 4th Ward?
20. What is your plan for infrastructure improvement in the 4th Ward?

## Education

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21. Will you support the Chicago teachers' union? If so, how?
22. What is your position on an elected representative school board for Chicago?
23. What would you do as alderman to fund schools?
24. What would you do to repurpose vacant CPS buildings?
25. How will you support public charter schools *and* public neighborhood schools?
26. What are your plans to increase access to quality education in the 4th Ward?
27. How will you involve the community in school decisions?

## Finance

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28. What ideas do you have to generate revenue for the city?
29. What is your position on credit swaps and high cost borrowing to cover city and CPS expenses?
30. Name at least one city or ward expense you will vote to cut.
31. Are you willing to raise property taxes?
32. What is your position on the water tax?
33. What is your position on TIFs?
34. What background do you have to competently represent us on complex budgeting, revenue, and spending issues?

## Parks and Public Amenities

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35. What is your position on building in public parks?
36. What are your plans to keep facilities such as museums and golf courses affordable and accessible to residents?
37. What is your position on sustaining the library system of Chicago, including Blackstone Branch Library?

## Transit

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38. How will you improve access to transit in the 4th Ward?
39. Parking is an ongoing problem in parts of the 4th Ward. What is your plan to address this?

## Other

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40. What are your commitments to constituents west of Cottage Grove?
41. How will you support the Bronzeville area of the ward and work to preserve its history and culture?

42. How do you imagine that the mid-south side will look in 5 years?
43. What ideas do you have about improving health and mental wellbeing?
44. What is your position on working with the community for a more ecological 4th Ward, specifically for urban gardens and green spaces?
45. Will you commit to bringing technology innovation to the 4th Ward?

## **Governance**

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46. Do you support city council transparency, including allowing public comment at City Council meetings?
47. Will you support the Mayor, or be independent? If independent, how will you effectively challenge the mayor's budget and policies?
48. Do you support finding ways to take money out of local politics?
49. What are specific examples of ways you have been able to work with opposition to find common ground and get something done?

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**Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire, and for your willingness to work for a better 4th Ward.**

**Additional thanks to HPKCC members for their work on editing and compiling this survey.  
Thanks to Hyde Park Herald for agreeing to publish the answers.**

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