

Ward 7 Councilmember Candidate Questionnaire Thank you for agreeing to participate in the 2024 Ward 7 Democrats Candidate Forum for candidates in the Democratic Primary for the Ward 7 Council seat. Below is a pre-Forum questionnaire that will give you the opportunity to expand on your position and goals in depth and afford our membership the opportunity to truly understand your positions. Please respond no later than 11:59pm on Wednesday, March 13, 2024. Timely completion and submission of this questionnaire is a prerequisite to participate in the Candidate Forum. Candidate Information Your responses will be posted on the Ward 7 Dems webpage. Please provide a headshot of the candidate.

Candidate Name: Denise Reed

Current Neighborhood: Ft. Davis

Candidate website: DeniseReedforWard7.com

Candidate Twitter: @DeniseReedforWard7

Candidate IG: @DeniseReedforWard7

Candidate Facebook: Denise Reed for Ward 7

Other social media:

General Questions

1. What makes you the right selection for the Democratic nomination for Ward 7 Councilmember?

After several years of serving my community from The Wilson Building to the grassroots level, behind the curtains, without the limelight, I've determined it is time to be that example of wisdom, experience and to properly pass the baton of true public service without the need of celebrity status. It's time to show the voters just how much they matter to the ward, from Deanwood to Hillcrest, and Fort Davis to Hill East. There is a dire need to make The River a

connector, not a divider while having the qualifications and knowledge of how compromising, coalitions and even respectful dissent works within City Hall.

2. How would you build relationships with the Council, Mayor, and Ward 7 Candidates who were unsuccessful in their bid to ensure that the needs of Ward 7 residents are met?

I already have respectable relationships with The Council, and Mayor, and I've always been approachable for all of my fellow opponents and their supporters. Agism does not stop me and youth excites me. I don't intend to stop working for my community. I can not stop working for my community, And I'll work with everyone who strives for accountability, inclusive growth and clear communication.

Education

In recent years, Ward 7 has faced significant challenges in public education, including disparities in academic achievement, access to resources, and support for special education. If elected to the Ward 7 Council seat, what specific measures will you implement to address these educational disparities and ensure that all children in Ward 7 have equitable access to high-quality education and support services?

Our public schools have the most dynamic and dedicated heroes to mold DC's future. They came here to teach, and no greater reward than when a child "GETS IT". I hesitate to say what I've believed these last few decades, but in the most struggling Ward 7 schools, the classrooms are overcrowded. The student is not getting the occasional one on one because the teacher is struggling to keep

decorum and order. I believe 1 teacher to 15-20 students in the lowest performing schools will make a difference.

Tell me there isn't enough money, Then I'll say the administration seems to be a tad too top heavy. The teacher should not be consumed with tutoring after teaching. Perhaps move a little of that human equity from the administration to a classroom hour.

I also believe in strong public schools in the community that students can walk to in groups, not take 90 minutes in commute time to arrive to school tired and arrive home too beat to study.

Economic Development

In light of the current economic landscape in Ward 7, as Ward 7 Councilmember, what innovative measures would you propose to bolster economic development in Ward 7?

Ignorance is expensive. There is so much our Ward 7 residents do not know, therefore they do not know where to inquire, thus where and when to begin their personal journeys.

More seminars and cohorts for everyday citizens with a dream are not accessible to our neighbors. Introduce them to key contacts within DC and Federal agencies that are here to help and hold their hands from the dream to the ribbon cutting and 'Open For Business' sign.

I'd like to have more PSA's on how long a dollar circulates within our ward before leaving and how significant it is to keep the Ward 7 dollars circulating as long as possible = Buy Local and make the product, quality and price worth buying local.

I want an indebt list of the buyers who don't choose to live in our homes and the developers who live nowhere near our city. Economic Development also begins with owning a piece of the Ward one lives in, not renting from a soulless management community with Orwellian rules to live by.

Housing

In October of 2023, the agencies that fund HPAP (the District's Primary First-time homebuyers' program), revised their distribution requirements to be based on a "first come first serve basis." By January of 2024, all funds were exhausted. This development shook lenders, Realtors, and especially, first time home buyers. As Ward 7 Councilmember, what specific measures and/or initiatives would you champion to improve homeownership opportunities for individuals and families who would like to make our Ward their home?

There are philanthropists in the nation ready to give. We have some dynamite grant writers here to help steer that money our way. We must also have strict oversight to assure those funds get to the hard working earnest citizens deserving of it. Now that's one small path toward ownership.

Another is starting with co-ops and finding ways to turn slum lord rentals into condominiums for current residents if they so want it and are willing to work toward it. Don't allow President Jimmy Carter's legacy go away vanish.

I'd also seek to know the many homeowners who are loosing their homes in silence. Can't seek help because of price, or they fear rejection and give up. We'll only end up housing them at three times the cost to help them keep their homes.

Public Safety

Ward 7 and the entire city is experiencing an increase in crime. What would you identify as the core causes of this spike and what legislative tools would you suggest that could stop the increase and address the root causes?

This is a multi-faceted crisis where there is no one culprit to blame.

Carjackers have been discovered to be organized crime headquartered outside of our borders as far as East Africa. We must partner with area ports and identify area chop shops. Car trackers in various places known to the carjackers to dismantle is a start. Placing the vin numbers in unique places unknown to the general public is another idea. We must build communication and coalitions with area other cities close to shipping ports and partner with federal authorities.

Unexplained murders and robberies are a result of young adults and teens needing attention. Well, lets give them attention. Amp the newly signed crime bill, making accountability mission one. When possible, bring the parent in for accountability and a better understanding of the home.

- I've seen very little migrant and immigrant crime in the city, but somehow make it known that immediate deportation is possible. Or military draft for both immigrants and our resident offenders.
- Bring back orange hats
- Give more car trackers away to residents with verified registered vehicles only
- Expand grants for surveillance cameras as long as the residents promise to share footage only when asked by the police.
- Get more cops out of their cruisers and walking our communities.

Transportation

What do you see as the biggest transportation needs facing Ward 7 residents? As Ward 7 Councilmember, what specific measures and/or initiatives would you champion to improve the transportation infrastructure in Ward 7.

- Safety
- Public respect for fellow passengers
- Paying what you owe, or not riding at all
- And getting the word out about door-to-door transportation for people finding it hard to walk from their door to the nearest bus stop.

- I'm not sure about available funding but a pilot program for four free ride share services per month based on income and health need is worth a try.

Health & Human Services

What are the biggest health and human services challenges that you see facing Ward 7 residents? As Ward 7 Councilmember, what specific measures and/or initiatives would you champion to improve health outcomes of Ward 7 residents?

Start again in schools. Robust gym classes, recess and perhaps school-wide wakeup drills before the day begins. French and Japanese style meals with small incentives for students who clean their plates. These habits are likely to stick throughout their college years on in to adulthood.

Everyone has a resolution or two every year. Simply walking these beautiful hills of Ward 7 will do, but when they don't see enough people out there, they continue to hesitate for safety reasons. Emergency buzzers and safety cams may ease their fear of getting outside to enjoy the elements.

Our community is in a mental health crisis of epidemic proportions. I promise to gather the information needed to know if these popup mental health facilities are here for the Ward 7 person suffering in silence until they finally cry for help, or if they are treating our residents like numbers for a DC contract dollar.

