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1. Why I Am the Right Choice for the Democratic Nomination for Ward 7 Councilmember

My candidacy for the Democratic nomination for Ward 7 Councilmember is deeply rooted in a lifelong commitment to public service and an unwavering dedication to the betterment of our community. Living in the District of Columbia, my 53 years here have been characterized by a profound connection to its people and an intimate understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities facing our residents. Specifically, my 41-year residency in Fort Davis area of Ward 7 has not only enriched my life but has also provided me with the honor of serving and advocating for its people through various capacities.

My journey in public service began with my role as Chairman/Commissioner of ANC7B, where I was entrusted with the responsibility of representing our community's interests and working towards actionable solutions to improve our quality of life. I was able to obtain 3.5 million in Federal funding through President Bill Clinton to rebuild the "O" street wall located in Penn Branch. This role laid the foundation for my tenure as Chairman of Ward 7 Democrats and active participation in the Fort Davis and Hillcrest Civic Associations, where I deepened my engagement with community issues and contributed to meaningful change. I am a 33-year Retired Government Official serving in the Administration's of Mayor's Sharon Pratt Kelly and Anthony Williams.

Beyond local governance, my extensive experience in organized labor over the past 25 years has been pivotal in advocating for workers' rights and social justice. Serving in leadership roles within AFGE, AFSCME, and CWA, I have been at the forefront of campaigns to elect Democratic candidates committed to our shared values, from the presidential level down to local government. My role in electing the first Black National President of AFGE underscores my commitment to diversity, equity, and representation.

My work extends beyond election campaigns to substantive policy achievements and community projects that have tangibly improved the lives of Ward 7 residents. Whether it's advocating for labor rights on the 1450 WOL radio program, navigating the intricacies of our government to secure proclamations for community improvement, or leading initiatives like the development of the Fort Davis Shopping Center and the establishment of a police substation, my efforts have consistently demonstrated a capacity to not just envision change, but to actualize it.

This vast array of experiences has equipped me with a unique blend of leadership, insight, and resolve that is critical for the role of a Councilmember. I understand the complexities of our local government, the importance of building coalitions, and the need for strategic negotiation to drive progress. More importantly, my deep roots in and unwavering commitment to Ward 7 inspire me to serve with integrity, passion, and a steadfast dedication to ensuring that our community not only thrives but also sets a standard for inclusivity, prosperity, and resilience in the District of Columbia.

My candidacy is built upon a foundation of extensive experience, proven leadership, and a genuine love for our community. It is these qualities, coupled with a relentless pursuit of justice and equality, that make me the right choice for the Democratic nomination for Ward 7 Councilmember. Through collaborative efforts, innovative solutions, and a commitment to serving the best interests of our residents, I am ready to lead Ward 7 into a future characterized by growth, prosperity, and opportunity for all.

2. Building Relationships with the Council, Mayor, and Unsuccessful Ward 7 Candidates

Building strong, effective relationships with key stakeholders is essential to the successful representation and advancement of Ward 7's interests. My approach to fostering these critical connections is multifaceted, grounded in mutual respect, open communication, and a shared commitment to the welfare of our residents.

My existing relationships with the Mayor, members of her administration, and members on the Council have been instrumental in advancing initiatives that benefit our community. These relationships are built on a foundation of trust, collaboration, and a deep understanding of the issues facing our community. As Ward 7 Councilmember, I will continue to strengthen these connections, leveraging them to advocate for policies and projects that directly benefit our residents.

Engagement with unsuccessful candidates and their supporters is equally important. Recognizing the value of diverse perspectives and the passion that drives individuals to seek public office, I will actively seek out their insights and ideas. The diversity of thought and experience within our community is a strength that can be harnessed to address the complex challenges we face. By inviting these voices into the conversation, we can build a more inclusive and effective approach to governance.

In the first 60 days of my administration, I plan to convene meetings across Ward 7, bringing together residents, community leaders, and stakeholders from all sectors. These meetings will not only serve as a platform for dialogue but will also facilitate the development of a comprehensive blueprint for our community's future. This blueprint will outline specific objectives, timelines, and benchmarks for success, ensuring transparency and accountability in my administration.

My approach to relationship building is characterized by active listening, empathy, and a genuine desire to understand the needs and aspirations of our residents. It is through this approach that I aim to unite our community, fostering a sense of shared purpose and collective action. Whether

working with the Mayor and Councilmembers to secure resources for our ward, engaging with unsuccessful candidates to broaden our coalition, or consulting with residents to refine our vision for the future, my focus will always be on what is best for Ward 7.

Building and maintaining strong relationships is not a means to an end but a continuous process that requires dedication, humility, and a commitment to service. As Ward 7 Councilmember, I pledge to embody these values in all my interactions, working tirelessly to ensure that our community's voice is heard, respected, and acted upon at every level of government.

3. Enhancing Public Education in Ward 7

The future of Ward 7 and the broader District of Columbia hinges on our ability to provide all children with equitable access to high-quality education and support services. Recognizing the significant challenges our public education system faces, including disparities in academic achievement, access to resources, and support for special education, I am committed to implementing specific measures to address these issues head-on.

First and foremost, ensuring that schools in Ward 7 receive the funding and resources they are allocated is critical. Too often, funds intended to support our schools and students are misallocated or insufficient to meet their needs. I will work diligently to oversee the distribution of grants and other financial resources, ensuring they are used effectively to enhance educational outcomes for all students. Regular visits to schools will be a cornerstone of my approach, providing me with firsthand insights into the challenges faced by educators and students alike. These visits will also serve as opportunities to engage with teachers, administrators, and parents, fostering a collaborative environment where ideas can be shared, and solutions developed.

Moreover, it is essential that we address the undue burden placed on teachers who are often required to perform duties beyond their educational roles, such as those of social workers and nurses. This not only detracts from their ability to teach but also impacts the overall learning environment for students. I will advocate for increased support services within our schools, including access to qualified social workers and healthcare professionals, to ensure that teachers can focus on their primary responsibility of educating our youth.

In addition to these immediate measures, my long-term strategy involves a comprehensive review of our public education system, identifying areas where reforms are needed to promote equity and excellence. This includes but is not limited to, enhancing curriculum offerings to reflect the diverse needs and interests of our student population, investing in technology and infrastructure to support modern learning environments, and implementing targeted programs to support students with special needs.

Engaging with the broader community, including parents, educators, and local organizations, will be key to identifying effective strategies and mobilizing the resources necessary to implement them. My administration will prioritize education, not as a standalone issue but as a fundamental component of our community's overall well-being and success.

Addressing the educational disparities in Ward 7 requires a multifaceted approach that combines targeted investments, strategic reforms, and community engagement. By focusing on these key areas, I am confident that we can create an educational environment where every child has the opportunity to succeed, regardless of their background or circumstances. My commitment to enhancing public education in Ward 7 is unwavering, and I will work tirelessly to ensure that our schools are places of learning, growth, and opportunity for all students.

4. Bolstering Economic Development in Ward 7

Economic development is a critical component of a thriving community, and Ward 7 is no exception. As the Councilmember for Ward 7, I am committed to implementing innovative measures that not only bolster economic growth but also ensure that the benefits of this growth are felt by all residents. Understanding the current economic landscape of Ward 7, my approach to economic development is centered on inclusivity, sustainability, and strategic partnerships.

Firstly, any economic development initiative in Ward 7 must directly benefit its residents and the community at large. This means prioritizing projects that create jobs, enhance local infrastructure, and improve the quality of life for all who call Ward 7 home. My track record of negotiating development agreements that include grants for community organizations, such as the \$100,000 grant for the Fort Davis Civic Association, free office space for ANC 7B, and funding for the Civil War Memorial, exemplifies my commitment to ensuring community benefits are integral to development projects.

Moreover, the inclusion of affordable housing options in new developments is essential to maintaining the socio-economic diversity of our community. I will advocate for a percentage of new housing to be set aside for low-income, moderate-income, and senior residents, ensuring that Ward 7 remains accessible and welcoming to all. This commitment to affordable housing is not only about providing shelter but also about fostering a sense of community and belonging among our residents.

Economic development in Ward 7 must also focus on supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs. I will work tirelessly to promote policies that encourage the growth of small businesses, facilitate access to capital, and provide technical assistance to business owners. By creating an environment where businesses can thrive, we can ensure that Ward 7 becomes a vibrant hub of economic activity, offering a diverse range of services and amenities to its residents.

Safety is a foundational element of economic development. Without a safe community, residents cannot fully participate in economic opportunities, nor can businesses flourish. I am committed to working with law enforcement, community organizations, and residents to address public safety concerns, ensuring that Ward 7 is not only a great place to live but also a safe place to work and visit.

The economic development of Ward 7 requires a holistic approach that considers the needs and aspirations of its residents. By focusing on community benefits, affordable housing, support for local businesses, and public safety, we can ensure that Ward 7's economic development is inclusive, sustainable, and beneficial to all. My vision for Ward 7 is one of prosperity and

opportunity, where economic growth leads to improved quality of life for every resident. As your Councilmember, I will champion these principles, working tirelessly to bring about positive change and economic vitality to our beloved community.

5. Improving Homeownership Opportunities in Ward 7

Homeownership is more than just an economic transaction; it's a cornerstone of stability, community, and generational wealth. In Ward 7, we face unique challenges that require targeted solutions to ensure that homeownership remains accessible and affordable for all who wish to call our ward their home. The recent developments surrounding the HPAP program highlight the need for equitable and sustainable homeownership initiatives. As your Councilmember, I am committed to championing measures that address these challenges head-on, fostering a community where homeownership is within reach for everyone.

Firstly, equitable access to homeownership programs is paramount. The distribution of HPAP funds on a "first come, first serve" basis has revealed significant disparities that disadvantage our residents. I will advocate for a fair and balanced allocation of resources across all eight wards, ensuring that Ward 7 receives its fair share of support. This approach is about fairness, equity, and recognizing the diverse needs of our community.

Beyond HPAP, I plan to introduce initiatives that connect prospective homebuyers with the resources they need to navigate the complex process of purchasing a home. This includes organizing community events in partnership with the Housing Authority, where experts in lending, real estate, and housing counseling can provide invaluable guidance to our residents. Additionally, I will ensure that a dedicated staff member within my council office is focused on addressing housing challenges, serving as a liaison between residents and the resources they need to achieve homeownership.

Supporting our long-term residents, particularly seniors, in maintaining their homes is another critical aspect of my housing strategy. Programs that assist seniors in aging in place, such as home modifications and property tax relief, will be a priority. I believe in honoring the contributions of our senior residents by ensuring they can continue to live in the community they have helped build.

Attracting young professionals and fostering mixed-income neighborhoods are also essential components of a vibrant, diverse community. By implementing programs that address youth violence and promote educational and career opportunities, we can create an environment where young adults are empowered to build their lives in Ward 7. Similarly, initiatives that support veterans in finding a home in our community will contribute to the rich tapestry of experiences and backgrounds that define Ward 7.

Improving homeownership opportunities in Ward 7 requires a multifaceted approach that addresses the barriers to entry, supports our most vulnerable residents, and fosters a community where diversity and inclusion are celebrated. My commitment to these principles is unwavering, and as your Councilmember, I will work diligently to ensure that Ward 7 is a place where the dream of homeownership is accessible to all. By building a community that supports each other, values

diversity, and provides opportunities for growth, we can ensure that Ward 7 remains a vibrant, welcoming place to call home.

6. Addressing Public Safety and Crime in Ward 7

Public safety is the foundation upon which thriving communities are built. In Ward 7, the increasing rate of crime poses a significant challenge to our residents' well-being and our community's overall sense of security. Identifying and addressing the core causes of this spike in crime is essential to developing effective strategies that not only reduce crime rates but also tackle the underlying issues contributing to criminal behavior. As your Councilmember, I am committed to implementing legislative and community-based solutions to create a safer, more secure Ward 7 for all residents.

The legalization of marijuana has been identified as one of the factors contributing to the increase in crime, particularly among our youth. While the intention behind legalization was to reduce criminalization and provide economic opportunities, it has inadvertently led to increased accessibility for underage individuals and challenges related to public safety, such as impaired driving and enforcement of age restrictions. My approach to addressing these issues involves a comprehensive strategy that balances the benefits of legalization with the need to protect our community, particularly our young people, from the negative consequences associated with marijuana use.

In addition to legislative measures, I believe in the power of community-based solutions to combat crime. Revitalizing and investing in recreational facilities is crucial to providing our youth with safe, constructive outlets for their energy and creativity. These spaces not only offer sports and recreational activities but also serve as hubs for educational support and community engagement. By providing our young people with alternatives to the streets, we can steer them towards positive paths and reduce their involvement in criminal activities.

Furthermore, the reintroduction of vocational training in our schools is a vital component of my public safety strategy. Recognizing that college is not the right path for everyone, vocational training offers practical skills that lead to meaningful employment opportunities and entrepreneurship. By equipping our youth with the tools they need to succeed in the workforce, we can reduce the allure of criminal activities and foster a generation of skilled, productive members of society.

Enhancing our police force's ability to effectively combat crime is another critical aspect of my public safety plan. This includes hiring more officers from within our communities, who understand the unique dynamics and challenges we face. Reinstating specialized units, such as Vice and Violent Crime Units, and increasing visibility through community policing and neighborhood watch programs are essential to deter crime and build trust between law enforcement and the community.

Addressing public safety and crime in Ward 7 requires a multifaceted approach that combines legislative action, community engagement, and effective policing. By focusing on the root causes of crime, providing our youth with positive alternatives, and strengthening our law enforcement capabilities, we can create a safer, more secure environment for all residents. My commitment to

public safety is unwavering, and as your Councilmember, I will work tirelessly to ensure that Ward 7 is a place where everyone can live, work, and thrive without fear.

7. Improving Transportation Infrastructure in Ward 7

Transportation is a critical aspect of urban living, affecting everything from access to employment and education to quality of life and economic development. In Ward 7, the transportation needs of our residents are diverse and complex, requiring innovative solutions to improve connectivity, accessibility, and safety. As your Councilmember, I am committed to championing initiatives that address these challenges, ensuring that our transportation infrastructure meets the needs of all residents and supports the growth and vitality of our community.

The reliance on bus services in Ward 7 highlights the need for a comprehensive review and expansion of public transportation options. With several routes operating only on weekdays and limited coverage in some areas, it is clear that our current transportation network falls short of meeting the diverse needs of our residents. To address this, I will advocate for an increase in the number and frequency of bus routes, ensuring that public transportation is a viable, convenient option for everyone in Ward 7.

In addition to expanding bus services, I believe in the importance of creating streets that prioritize the safety and needs of the people who live there. This includes reevaluating plans for flexi-poles and one-lane streets that accommodate bikes, to ensure that our streetscape designs reflect the desires and requirements of our residents. By working closely with DDOT, ANCs, and community members, we can develop transportation solutions that enhance mobility, improve safety, and contribute to the overall livability of our ward.

The safety of our metro stations and stops is another area of concern that requires immediate attention. Ensuring that these critical components of our transportation network are safe for all users is essential to promoting public transportation as a viable option for commuting and travel within the city. I will work with WMATA, law enforcement, and community organizations to implement safety measures that protect our residents and encourage the use of public transit.

Furthermore, I believe in the power of innovative transportation solutions to address the unique challenges facing Ward 7. This includes exploring options such as bike-sharing programs, pedestrian-friendly street designs, and technology-driven solutions like real-time transit information apps. By embracing innovation, we can create a transportation system that is not only efficient and reliable but also adaptable to the changing needs of our community.

Improving the transportation infrastructure in Ward 7 requires a holistic approach that considers the diverse needs of our residents. By expanding and enhancing public transportation options, prioritizing safety, and embracing innovative solutions, we can ensure that our transportation network supports the growth and vitality of our community. As your Councilmember, I am committed to working tirelessly to bring about positive change and improve the transportation experience for all residents of Ward 7.

8. Addressing Health and Human Services Challenges in Ward 7

Health and human services are fundamental to the well-being of any community. In Ward 7, we face significant challenges that impact the health outcomes of our residents, including elevated rates of heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and essential hypertension. These challenges are exacerbated by social determinants of health such as education, employment status, income level, and access to quality healthcare. As your Councilmember, I am committed to implementing specific measures and initiatives to improve the health outcomes of Ward 7 residents and address the underlying factors contributing to these disparities.

First and foremost, collaboration with healthcare professionals and employment specialists is key to reversing the negative health trends in our community. By working together, we can develop and implement evidence-based programs that advance health equity, ensuring that all residents have the opportunity to lead long and healthy lives. This includes expanding insurance coverage to encompass more healthcare costs, thereby reducing the financial barriers to accessing necessary medical services.

The introduction of telehealth services is another critical component of my health and human services strategy. By leveraging technology to provide remote healthcare services, we can improve access to care for residents who may face challenges in physically visiting healthcare facilities. This not only increases convenience but also ensures that timely medical advice and treatment are available to those in need.

Investing in mobile clinics is another initiative I will champion to meet residents where they are. These clinics can provide a range of services, from preventative screenings to vaccinations, in locations that are convenient and accessible to our community members. By bringing healthcare services directly to our residents, we can improve health outcomes and reduce the incidence of preventable diseases.

Educating the Ward 7 community about the availability of multiple healthcare sites is also essential. Many residents may not be aware of the healthcare resources available to them, leading to underutilization of services and worsened health outcomes. I will work to improve communication and outreach efforts, ensuring that residents are informed about their healthcare options and how to access them.

Additionally, improving cultural responsiveness within our healthcare system is vital to addressing the needs of our diverse community. This includes training healthcare professionals to understand and respect the cultural backgrounds and preferences of their patients, thereby enhancing the quality of care and patient satisfaction.

Addressing the health and human services challenges in Ward 7 requires a comprehensive approach that considers the complex interplay of social determinants of health. By collaborating with healthcare professionals, expanding access to care through telehealth and mobile clinics,

educating residents about their healthcare options, and improving cultural responsiveness, we can significantly improve the health outcomes of our community. As your Councilmember, I am dedicated to championing these initiatives and working tirelessly to ensure that all residents of Ward 7 have the opportunity to lead healthy, fulfilling lives.