

NAME: Jerry A. Benya

1. Please describe your background and your qualifications for this position? What experiences caused you to run for this office? What unique qualities would you bring to this position and what differentiates you from other candidates in your race?

Background:

- A. Lived in District 1 For 9 yrs.
- B. Previously ran for this seat in 1998
- C. Served on Councilman Jimmy Moore's Crime Commission
- D. Worked on Campaigns since Bill Gibbons Mayoral run 1988
- E. President of Wells Station Neighborhood Watch For 7yrs.
- F. Neighborhood of the Year in 1998
- G. Board of Directors, Mphs Area Neighborhood Watch 5 yrs.
- H. Founding Member of National Civil Rights Museum w/ D'Army Bailey.
- I. Outstanding Young Man of America, 1996 w/ Councilman Taylor
- J. Appointed by Mayor to Memphis Landmarks Commission '99-'04

Differences between myself & other candidates:

I am the only one running who is actually doing what a Councilman should be doing; I feed the hungry & I clothe the naked.

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2. What is your vision for the City? How would you use this office to achieve the vision?

My vision for Memphis is to defend our families, by defending our neighborhoods.

Person by person, street by street.

How can we achieve this goal. Many ways already available. People who have a physical need met open a window to allow a spiritual need offered.

- ① We will create "communities" from within our neighborhood
- ② We will use M.A.N.W. program called "Neighbor-Labor" to allow pride brought back. Avoid "Broken widow theory".
- ③ Also I will serve people, as I do now, through the agencies we don't use enough to get goals met, i.e. Code Enforcement, Health Department, District Attorney. Many don't know how to consistently use these tax-payer institutions to get needs met.

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3. How do you plan on insuring that there is diversity, (including race, age, gender and socio-economic) represented in the development of public policy and government?

No district is as diverse as District 1.

Beginning in Frayser and ending next to Lakeland. How diverse is that?

I have lived in district 1 for nine years and worked in the Heart of Frayser for 6 years.

I have worked with gangs to senior whites.

I help widows and kids parents have discarded.

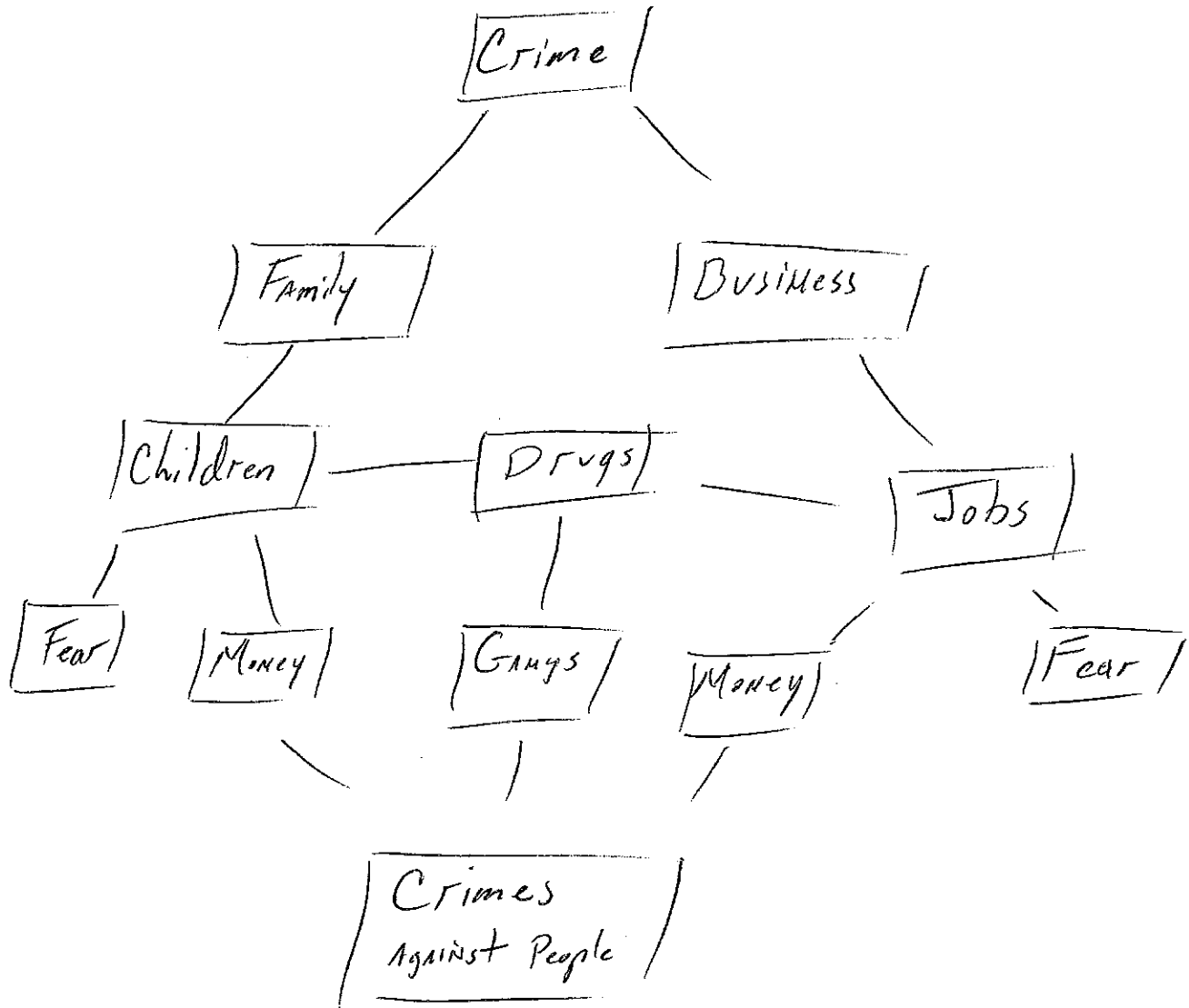
I serve because I chose to. I Samuel 15:22.

I quit my high paying job at Marriott Mount. to go to Seminary & to serve in the Frayser Community.

I have a passion for Jesus Christ, but I have always had a heart for my city.

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4. What are the three greatest issues facing the City of Memphis today and during the future?



Keep the Main thing the Main thing.

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5. What role should the City of Memphis government play in promoting the economic development for the community? What specific initiatives or actions would you promote and/or support?

City Government should be the Driving Force in economic development.

City Council should be the servant of the people.

My initiatives are simple:

1. Have neighborhood support local neighborhood small business. Do this through discounts on goods & services in exchange for loyalty. Protect small business & owner loyal to neighbors

2. Council Member meet with stores such as Dollar Tree, Big Lots, & have city PAY for Loss Prevention for stores in exchange for building stores in our District. Loss Prevention falls under

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6. How would you strengthen and support existing neighborhoods that are within the urban core and what barriers to community redevelopment do you see in these areas today? How do you propose to address the current blight in many of these areas?

As said before, redevelopment can be done by applying said responses to Question #5 on business.

Current blight will be met as stated in response in Question #2 item #2.

Use those tactics offered by Memphis Area Neighborhood Watch Programs. Avoid Broken ~~with~~ window theory by hold property owners heavily responsible whether in state or outta state.

We can do this street by street; but only by family by family. The City Councilman must Reach out, not sit back.

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7. What do regard as the greatest obstacle or barrier to growth in the City today?

Crime breeds Fear.

We are no longer servants.

We are no longer pro-active but reactive.

We don't reach needs, but look for excuses.

Our greatest obstacles are ourselves.

A 747 has over 6 million parts, but not a single part can fly, but if all the parts are assembled together correctly they make one of the most impressive machine known to man.

Our neighborhoods are like those parts & our City is like that 747.

MEMPHIS CITY COUNCIL QUESTIONNAIRE 2007

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8. Give us your thoughts on the Charter Commission. What are the main issues that should be taken into consideration by this group and what items in the City Charter should be considered for change? Please comment specifically on your ideas around consolidation and/or a metropolitan government.

Consolidation of services & Financial.

I have seen in it in Duval County Florida &  
in Davidson County TN.

Pride keeps us from accomplishing this.

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9. What is the role of this office? What do you think about the relationship between the City Mayor/City Council and other legislative bodies, Shelby County, Memphis City Schools, MLG&W, Chamber, Center City Commission, etc.

The role of City Council is to serve.

To look out for the best interest of the families within their neighborhoods.

IF each Council member took care of their own Districts, together as a whole, the city would prosper.

MLG&W - I have program called "Season of Grace" that would be implemented

We have created a "monster" and now we are too afraid to kill it.

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10. How would you, as a member of the City Council, effectively reduce the crime rate in the City of Memphis? What current strategies would you continue to support and what changes would you propose?

to reduce crime rate please read the  
reposes to the previous questions concerning  
neighborhoods.

We must Reach out, Fixad out, & help out  
our neighbors. Love them, even when  
they don't love you.

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11. In light of recent events, would you be willing to submit to a background check and then allow the results to be published?

Yes, I am a sinner saved by grace  
at the Mid South Col. Oct 3, 2000  
at a Carmen concert.

I have nothing to hide.

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12. Discuss the recently passed ethics ordinance/policy at the State and local levels? Is this sufficient and if not, what changes would you recommend?

When I ran previously the Republican Party chose to support Darrell Catron. And if you read the papers you'd see he went the scandalous ways of Tennessee Waltz.

I asked that they back me for my loyalty to the Party, but they chose otherwise

I went the way of the Ministry. I serve Christ only. Christ said to serve God's children. Whether elected or not my mission will not change. Feed the hungry & clothe the naked.

Make the strongest policy any city has seen & put some teeth in it.

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13. Should the City Council Committee and full Council Meetings be video cast live?

Yes, what are we afraid of?