

NAME: Riesel Sandridge

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?

I am married and the father of two children, I was educated at Memphis Technical High School and LeMoynne-Cheney College. I have a B.A. Degree in Sociology and attended U-T Graduate School of Social Work (Mphs.). I am a Shelby County Government employee and a supervisor in my department. I ran for this office in 1999. The experience is that, I have helped other candidates and I like the process. I will bring integrity and credibility to this position. The status that differentiates me from the other candidates in the race, is that, I am a former member of the Democratic Executive Committee and I know the issues, I have the ideas, as well as the budget.

NAME: Riesel Sandridge

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

My vision for this city, is that we become the tourist Mecca of the south or mid south. Downtown Development is on target, we already have the Elvis Presley Mansion, the Civil Rights Museum, Beale st. and now the N.B.A.

I would use revenue from the budget, in order for this to be accomplish. Earmarks are also a means to fulfill this goal.

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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?

I plan on insuring that there is diversity in the development of public policy and government by conducting town-hall meetings at least three times a year. I plan to propose an ordinance, that council members have at least three town-hall meetings a year.

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

The three greatest issues facing the city of Memphis are, economic segregation, blight and crime. We must have parity in our city. Economic development must be an avenue to curtail our city from becoming out of control. Crime is pre-meditated, but I feel, that police patrols, arresting and incarceration, can alleviate the problem for the future.

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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?

The City of Memphis government, should play every angle in the economic development of promoting our City with the revenue of the budget.

Our communities should have quality housing, a community center and a library. Our police precincts should be visible.

Citizens shouldn't have to call the media, to get things done in their neighborhood.

I would promote more input from the citizens with outdoor events and holiday events.

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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?

I would strengthen and support our neighborhoods within the inner city, by working closer with civic clubs, churches and community center directors.

The barrier that I see to community redevelopment, would be trust and the working relationship between the Council person and city administration. I hope that the case, I would address blight with economic development. The Federal Government mandates, how much money can be utilize on the city. That will be the deciding factor. Code enforcement must be a vital part of the blight problem.

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

The Mayor can be the greatest obstacle or barrier in the City today. If he or she is opposed to inner-city development, we have a problem. If he is stuck on himself, we have a very serious problem.

We need a quality lawn care service, with the Division of Public Works.

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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.

I feel that the charter commission has its place, but the City Council has the power. Ethics as well as ideas are the main issues, that should be taken into consideration by this group. Change should start when some Council member has violated the law or the community is frustrated about the way, council business is being conducted. I am oppose to consolidation. After the Tenn. waltz corruption indictments, I feel we have a while to go.

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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 this office is to plan, decide, or give advice, a group of people elected to make laws for a city. The City Council member is the representative between the citizens and the City Administration.

The relationship between the Mayor, the Council and other legislative bodies, should be one of unity. Except for party affiliation.

NAME: Riese L Sandridge

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?

I would effectively reduce the crime rate with economic development. When people have somewhere to go, something to do, a nice gathering place, crime will be curtail.

I would continue to support police patrols, arresting and incarceration, to curtail crime. The court system has what is call "orders of protection", police precincts should have copies.

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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. The Tenn. way set our democratic process of elections back a little while, but I believe integrity can be restored.

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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?

I have read and do have a copy of the Draft Memphis Code of Ethics March 29, 2007.

By the Memphis City Council, that the following Code of Ethics is adopted for application to all elected officials and employees of the City of Memphis, and to all boards, commissions, authorities, corporations, or other instrumentalities appointed or created by the municipality. It is sufficient and excellent.

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

No, they should not. Read the Commercial appeal.