

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2007

NAME: \_BILL MCALLISTER\_\_\_\_\_

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 was born in Dallas, Texas in 1964. I grew up in a small town called Duncanville which is a Suburb of Dallas. At the age of 10, I began repairing lawn mowers, riding mowers, and other various small engines during the summers for extra money. I attended the local public school and was a member of the high school band where I played the bassoon and tuba. One of the many things I learned, while being a part of this organization, was the importance of working together and team work. During this time I became a follower of Jesus Christ. In 1980, I obtained the rank of Eagle Scout. From my youth, I learned to appreciate our many freedoms such as the first and second amendments to our constitution. As a young man, I appreciated our country and way of life especially the sacrifices of our founding fathers and all the men and women who have fought, some dying, to preserve the freedoms afforded to us. I graduated in the top quarter of my high school class in 1982. I voluntarily joined the United States Army in 1983 in order to pay back my country due to my deep appreciation for all that I have been blessed with in my then short life. During my military career I was stationed at Fort Dix, New Jersey and then Fort Devins, Massachusetts. While in the military I received a top secret military security clearance. After my military career, I attended college where I studied the fields of physics, chemistry, engineering, social work, music, criminal justice, etc. until I found that my interest truly lied with computer science and mathematics. I worked during the summers repairing lawn mowers and automobiles to help finance my college expenses. I was eventually able to obtain bachelors degrees in both courses of study from Texas A&M University Commerce, Texas in 1994.

In 1993, I married my college sweetheart and today we have a total of five children with two from my wife's first marriage. Their names and ages are: Amanda (25), Brandon (21), Leah (9), Sarah (7) and Gabriella (3). Children always present themselves to be an eventful challenge but our little Sarah is one of our greatest gifts from God. Sarah was born, in 1999, with what is called "Downs Syndrome" and by the age of five months had endured three heart surgeries with the last one culminating in a complete reconstruction of her tiny heart which was approximately the size of a plum during the last of these ground breaking surgeries. My wife and I have, through first hand experience, experienced what it truly means to have a special needs child and this gives me a unique perspective on their needs and the effect it has on the supporting family. Sarah has taught us far more about what it means to be a caring, loving and tolerant person than I could have ever imagined possible. Through my various associations with the Memphis area support groups, dedicated to the betterment of the life of these individuals, I have the unique perspective that few elected officials ever experience thus making me far more receptive to the

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2007

NAME: \_BILL MCALLISTER\_\_\_\_\_

thousands of Memphis area citizens who are directly affected by this and many other conditions.

In 1994, I secured a position as a computer analyst with State Farm Insurance in Bloomington, Illinois. In 1995 I was offered and accepted a position as a computer consultant for a company in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. In 1997, I accepted yet another position with a computer consulting firm which placed me in Arkansas, California and finally Memphis, Tennessee in 1998. Memphis has been our home for the past decade and I am currently employed with a wonderful company as a Sr. Systems Network Engineer.

The reason I make note of the many places I have lived is because my travels have introduced me to many different local governments, cultures, attitudes and values which is a unique experience to many of the candidates and current political leaders in Memphis, Tennessee. I have seen what works and what does not in government. Even though people live within different cities, varying states with dissimilar cultures they still basically desire simple, good and honest leaders. Several common themes constantly reasserted themselves time and time again, no matter where I have lived, and it has been my observation that ethnic diversity does not automatically mean political instability with a deep hatred for those who are different from one's own self. For example, I have a wonderful sister-in-law who happens to be Black. My nephew is named Christopher and I am proud to call him and her part my family because that is what they are! We respect and love each other because of who we are and not what we are. This type of appreciation of one another appears to be what many of our political leaders fear most. There is great strength in unity.

I decided to run for the Office of Mayor because the leadership of Memphis has repeatedly failed the citizens by not putting the needs of the people of Memphis first. Too often, professional "Career Politicians" are the only choice given to the voters and it is time for men and women "of good conscience" to stand up and offer themselves to the service of their fellow citizens. Service to others and not service to one's own self is the key to saving and returning Memphis to a respectable status among her city peers across the mid-south, state, country and even the world. Too often Memphis, specifically her political leadership, is the butt of jokes and for good reasons. The average citizen, the one who pays the taxes, goes to work day in and day out and raises their children is expected to endure sub-standard leadership. The People of Memphis deserve dedicated non-career politicians whose only desire is to unselfishly provide honest public service to all of the citizens of Memphis. I present myself for service to those who have gone before us, those that are here now and for those whom we prepare this city for one day in the future.

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2007

NAME: \_BILL MCALLISTER\_\_\_\_\_

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

My vision is to make Memphis a city that is the envy of the world. A city that people are proud to say is where they live, work and raise their children. Memphis should be a city that people would want to live in regardless of their race. Too often, our leaders concentrate on dividing the various groups within our great city in order to manipulate and control them. This has to stop but only the people can make this a reality.

The mayor's office is the bully pulpit and political glue of the City of Memphis. As mayor one should concentrate on hiring the best possible candidates for operating the various city departments. These offices must not be handed out based on campaign promises or favors owed but on the true merits of each individual. If someone is found to lie, cheat or steal then they must be removed regardless of their personal attributes. If this methodology were followed, by the current administration, much of the city's past issues with MLGW, budget irregularities, etc. would have not occurred.

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2007

NAME: \_BILL MCALLISTER\_\_\_\_\_

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?

According to somewhat recent court decisions which have properly interpreted our constitution, which we all live by, no person should be discriminated against based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin and disability. I wholeheartedly agree with this interpretation and believe that once you base a person's performance or hiring criteria on anything other than the person's ability to best accomplish the job then you end up with a system rife with discrimination and ineptitude.

The only valid criteria, which should be employed in the assessment of ones ability to complete a task, is whether or not the person is the best possible fit for the position, period. You don't place individuals into simple or key positions unless they are the best and most qualified person that can be found for the compensation provided.

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2007

NAME: \_BILL MCALLISTER\_\_\_\_\_

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

Career politicians without a servant's heart.

Career politicians with selfish personal agendas.

Career politicians with no moral fiber.

Past, present and future.

Once we have individuals in public office willing to unselfishly serve their fellow citizen then we can reduce crime, improve our schools and lower the taxation level.

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2007

NAME: \_BILL MCALLISTER\_\_\_\_\_

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 is perhaps the most important key player in promoting an environment which is conducive for attracting good, solid and viable businesses into our area. The point to make here is that if government is good and does what is ethically, morally and constitutionally right, the environment will be conducive for businesses to prosper and grow. They will want to relocate to Memphis. Memphis should not have to sell its soul to gain new business or economic development for the community.

Tax incentives, low crime rates, good schools and effective promotional campaigns are a good start. We have a long way to go.

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2007

NAME: \_BILL MCALLISTER\_\_\_\_\_

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?

The City of Memphis should promote private enterprise where possible in a manner that is open, fair and non-partisan. By doing so, private enterprise would actually be the changing force behind renewing and redeveloping those areas requiring attention. The first step for Memphis to undertake toward accomplishing this redevelopment is to significantly reduce the amount of crime in Memphis. Go after the criminals and make the Memphis environment so unpleasant for them that they either leave our city or stop leading a life of crime.

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2007

NAME: \_BILL MCALLISTER\_\_\_\_\_

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

The leadership within our government constantly manipulates our fellow citizens which incites the people to such a degree that they are continuously at odds with one another. This being done, the people are unable to mobilize their efforts into a single constructive movement.

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2007

NAME: \_BILL MCALLISTER\_\_\_\_\_

8. Discuss the current administrative structure and do you have a vision for altering this structure? How would you strengthen a culture of accountability and outcome based on performance standards for Divisions of City Government?

First, the mayor must set the example of leadership through their own personal actions. Everything that the Mayor does must be, to the best of their ability, above reproach. This is the foremost philosophy which will carry a mayor to a successful and productive term of office. Once this is done, put the best and most talented people available into each division of city government and dismiss anyone who is caught lying, cheating or stealing.

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2007

NAME: \_BILL MCALLISTER\_\_\_\_\_

9. What would your vision be for the organizational structure of your administration and what procedures would you use to make appointments?

The first guideline must be to keep government as small as possible. The larger the government organization the slower it is to react to changes, the more wasteful and inefficient it becomes.

The procedure is simple. Each appointment must be uniquely qualified for their intended role. If your character is not above reproach then you will not be appointed. If you lie, cheat or steal then you will be dismissed.

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2007

NAME: \_BILL MCALLISTER\_\_\_\_\_

10. 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?

The Charter Commission is what it is. A group of men and women investigating what should be brought before the citizens of Memphis for consideration with respect to the way we govern ourselves. It is good, from time to time, to consider if the way in which we function is the most efficient manner or if improvements should be made to our system of government. I choose to defer to the wise men and women on the Charter Commission for their suggestions as to what should or should not be addressed by them although I do have an opinion on consolidation. I am against placing greater power in fewer hands which is simply what consolidation would accomplish. Absolute power corrupts absolutely.

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2007

NAME: \_BILL MCALLISTER\_\_\_\_\_

11. 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, MLGW, Chamber, Center City Commission, etc.?

The role this office plays is likened to that of a wheel. The office is the center spindle of a wagon wheel touching all of the spokes which would be likened to the city council, Shelby County, city schools, MLGW, etc. It either is an integral part working together with all of the other parts making for a good smooth ride or it works against itself and everyone else making the ride quite rough, unproductive and prone to failure.

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2007

NAME: \_BILL MCALLISTER\_\_\_\_\_

12. How would you as a Mayor effectively reduce the crime rate in the City of Memphis? What current strategies would you continue to support and what changes would you proposed?

This is not a simple issue. The problems we are seeing today, within our city, have been brewing for the past decade or more. First the existing criminal element must be dealt harshly with and not pandered to regardless of the criminal's personal attributes. Second, our officers must be fully supported, as long as they can show good faith, and not abandoned and in fear of enforcing the law. Third, we must ask our city churches to take a greater role in reaching our "at-risk" citizens and show them that there is a better way. Having extensively studied the field of Social Work and Criminal Justice in college I am uniquely qualified to be able make these statements.

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2007

NAME: \_BILL MCALLISTER\_\_\_\_\_

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

Absolutely.

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2007

NAME: \_BILL MCALLISTER\_\_\_\_\_

14. 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 society has deteriorated to the point that the state feels compelled to attempt to define, regulate and prohibit what one naturally knows is wrong to do then no ordinance or policy will ultimately be any consequence. Ultimately only a desire to enter heaven and be delivered from hell will bring "ethics" back to our city and government leaders.