

Candidate Qualification / Position Statement For *Coalition for a Better Memphis* Website

Name: **Charles E. Carpenter**

Website: **charlescarpentermayor.com**

Candidate for: **Mayor**

Why do you believe you are qualified to run for this position?

I am a native Memphian, product of the Memphis City School system. I am a well educated, small businessman, with substantial legal and finance expertise. I am not a politician and I believe that my demonstrated professional experience separates me from the status quo politician. The City needs a visionary leader, not a politician, with direct experience in dealing with complex legal and financial matters that can build consensus within our community and provide leadership that will establish common goals that will lead to success for all of our citizens. Further, I am fed up with the same recycled politicians achieving the same old mediocre results for our community. The City lacks vision and energy. The status quo is not working for the majority of the residents of our City.

Three specific things you would like to accomplish if elected:

A. **Jobs and Economic Development**

New jobs at every level must be attracted to Memphis if we are to move our City forward. As Mayor, I pledge new, strategic and visionary leadership to accomplish this goal. This new thrust is possible because Memphis is the last frontier of major American cities. The City of “good abode” has national and international appeal due to its size, location, national and international access by air, water, rail and ground transportation. These attributes and natural resources have been totally under utilized.

B. **Crime and Public Safety**

As Mayor, I pledge to reallocate the existing resources of the Police Division to improve police community relations and public safety. This will be accomplished by replacing the current Police Director, reinstating community policing methods to enhance the image and increase the level of cooperation between police officers and the community residents, and to help restore and maintain the highest levels of

morale for police officers within the Police Division. I further pledge to modify the number of special task forces with the Police Division and assign more officers to patrol the streets of the City. Please see our "All For One" crime plan, which simply means "All Citizens for One Memphis". The full text of the "All For One" crime plan is hosted on our website at www.charlescarpentermayor.com.

C. Tax Equity

The citizens of Memphis are paying a disproportionate amount of taxes to sustain the essential services of our local government. For example, Memphis taxpayers' fund 100% of the City's operating budget and 70% of the County's operating budget. Notwithstanding the City residents contribution to the County budget the majority of the County's expenditures are being made outside of the City; hence, the City residents are subsidizing the operations of the areas within the County outside of the City limits. In addition, many of the residents outside of the City operate within the City everyday burdening our infrastructure, utilizing our parks, hospital and other amenities and do not contribute the maintenance of these amenities, creating an additional burden on Memphis taxpayers. This model is not sustainable and must be corrected. In order to have a thriving and successful community in our American society, everyone must contribute an equitable share of the costs necessary to fund the essential operations and amenities of the City that we all use and enjoy.

Have you ever been delinquent on your property taxes? Yes _____ No X

Have you filed for Bankruptcy? Yes _____ No X

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Yes _____ No X

Explanation of any of the above items _____

List other elected positions you have run for and the outcome of the election:

None

Current Employment

Company: **Charles E. Carpenter, A Professional Corporation**

Length of Employment: **31 years**

Brief Job Description:

Charles E. Carpenter

Mr. Carpenter is a principal of the Charles E. Carpenter, A Professional Corporation, a law firm, founded in 1978, and since 1992 is focused on municipal finance transactions. Mr. Carpenter has extensive experience in corporate and transactional matters and serves as general counsel for several public and private corporations and partnerships. He also has a primary practice focus in the area of public finance, wherein he has served as sole bond counsel, co-bond counsel, underwriter's counsel and issuer's counsel on various tax-exempt financing structures, including airports, utilities, general obligation, multifamily housing and 501(c)(3) financings. In this capacity, Mr. Carpenter has handled many complex public finance matters, and as such, has provided sound advice which led to successful transactions for his clients.

Mr. Carpenter also has experience in advising clients in numerous aspects of redevelopment issues and economic development projects, from inception to closing.

Mr. Carpenter has been listed in The Bond Buyer's Municipal Marketplace (the "Red Book") since 1992. The Firm was the first minority owned to achieve this status in the history of the State of Tennessee.

Education

Please list all schools you have attended from High School on.

<u>School</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Graduation Date</u>
Southside H.S. Memphis, TN	Diploma	1970
Howard University Washington, D.C.	Bachelor of Arts Degree	1974
Notre Dame Univ. Notre Dame, IN	Juris Doctor Degree	1977

Additional information as it regards to education: None

How long have you lived in Memphis? **All my life except for college and law school.**

Where did you grow up? **619 Jessamine Avenue (Downtown); 792 McKellar Avenue (Longview Heights).**

Marital Status/Children: **Divorced; two (2) adult sons**

Please identify up to five organizations that are actively supporting your candidacy.

1. **NONE AT THIS TIME**
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Please list your association memberships and identify any leadership positions you have held in the past.

1. American Bar Association
2. National Association of Bond Lawyers
3. National Bar Association
4. National Bar Association (Ben F. Jones Chapter)
5. Memphis Bar Association
6. Memphis Bar Foundation
7. Memphis Journal Club
8. Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity
9. Life Member NAACP

Please list your civic and community memberships.

1. The Salvation Army
2. Memphis Chamber of Commerce
3. Memphis in May, Inc.
4. Abe Scharf YMCA
5. 100 Black Men of Memphis, Inc.
6. Board of Professional Responsibility of the Supreme Court of the State of TN
7. Meritan, Inc. (formerly Senior Services)

Other Contact Information:

Campaign Chair: **Bishop William H. Graves**

Treasurer: **Stan Sawyer**

Any other information you would like to share with the voters:

NONE



The following scenario was developed by the Center for Ethical Leadership at Christian Brothers University. It is designed to determine how you process information and make decisions. There is no right or wrong answer.

Lost File – Ethical Dilemma Pitting Individual versus Community

You have been involved in a very tight election, opposing a very popular incumbent. About two weeks prior to election day, the local newspaper runs a very negative article about your opponent and some “shady” dealings occurring during his tenure in office. Although the allegations do not point to any illegal activity, the reporter does imply that a particular financial transaction shows questionable decision making.

Your opponent denies the allegations and insists the transaction is above board. He claims he cannot locate the files associated with this particular incident and, therefore, cannot defend his actions with anything other than his honor, reputation, and good name. The press continues to have a field day over this issue, tearing up your opponent and leaving you in the enviable position of not having to comment on the situation.

You win the election by a surprisingly large margin. Exit polls show it was your opponent’s inability to produce evidence proving there was no wrongdoing that swayed voters your way. Your opponent walks away from the election not only defeated at the polls but also in public opinion and reputation.

About three months into your new position you are working on a case that causes you to rummage through some of your predecessor’s old files. There you find the “smoking gun”... the evidence that clears your opponent of any wrongdoing. You are unsure if the information was accidentally or intentionally misfiled.

- (1) What will you do with this information?
- (2) Will you consult anyone before deciding what to do? If so, whom?
- (3) When making your decision about what to do, whose needs did you consider?
- (4) Was this an easy decision for you to make? If not, what were some of the issues that went through your mind that caused conflict?

Optional – Attach a resume.

Please email the completed Statement and any additional information to:
peggy@bettermemphis.org by September 11, 2009.