

# Candidate Questionnaire Local Candidates Committee New York City Council Elections 2019

Citizens Union appreciates your response to the following questionnaire related to policy issues facing New York City and our interest in reforming city and state government. **Please return the questionnaire to us as soon as possible, and no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>.** Responses to these questions will be one of several factors Citizens Union uses to evaluate candidates running for the New York City Council, and to issue our preference for the Primary and endorsement for the General Election. Please feel free to affix any additional information such as a résumé, campaign brochure, or issue statements.

If you seek our support, we will also need to schedule an interview with you as part of the evaluation process. **Please contact us if you wish to be interviewed.** We plan to make responses to this questionnaire public on our website, printed voters directory, and other appropriate venues.

We thank you very much for your response.

## **Biographical Information**

Candidate Name: **Monique Chandler-Waterman**

Candidate Cell Phone: **(347) 351-3791**

Party Affiliation(s): **Democratic**

Age: **38**

Education:

**Boys and Girls High School**

**B.A., Business Administration, Berkeley College**

**M.B.A, Metropolitan College of New York**

**Coro New York Leadership Training Program**

Office Sought (including district):

**New York City Council, District 45**

Occupation/Employer:

**Currently Not Employed**

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

*(Please feel free to affix any additional information such as a résumé, campaign brochure, or issue statements.)*

### **Campaign Contact Information**

Campaign Manager Name: **Vaughn Mayers**

Additional Staff Contact: **Ashaina Cumberbatch**

Address: **4111 Glenwood Road, Brooklyn, NY 11210**

Telephone: **(347) 406 - 6213**

Fax:

Website: **www.moniquefornyc.com**

Email: **monique4nyc@gmail.com**

Twitter: **@MoniqueForNYC**

Facebook: **www.facebook.com/MoniqueforNYC/**

### **Affirmations**

Have you completed required campaign finance filings? **YES**

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee? **YES**

*(Please note: interviews are prerequisites of being considered for Citizens Union endorsements.)*

Signature of Candidate:

Date:

## I. POLICY QUESTIONS

Please state whether you support or oppose the following reform measures, and feel free to elaborate in the space provided at the end or on additional paper.

### VOTING AND ELECTIONS REFORM

1. What is your position on instituting ranked choice voting for all citywide offices, including all special elections? **Support**
2. What is your position on creating a voluntary municipal poll worker program to supplement poll worker recruitment by district leaders? **Support**
3. What is your position on requiring the Board of Elections to report performance metrics to the City Council that conform to the Mayor's Management Report? **Support**
4. What is your position on modifying the City Charter to require that laws enacted by referendum only be changed through approval by the voters? **Support**

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

5. What is your position on prohibiting participants in the city's campaign finance program from using public matching funds to purchase strategic campaign consulting services from firms that also provide lobbying services? **Support**

### CITY COUNCIL REFORM

6. What is your position on the following proposals enabling Council committees to function more effectively and independently of the speaker: **Support**
  - a. Should committee chairs have the ability to hire at least one committee staffer? **Support**
  - b. Should committee hearings and votes be scheduled at the direction of the chairs? **Support**
  - c. Should committees be able to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members? **Support**
  - d. Now that committee chair stipends have been eliminated, what is your position on reducing the overall number of committees so members can participate more meaningfully in fewer issues? **Support**

7. What is your position on ensuring a more equitable and needs-based distribution of discretionary funding? **Support**

8. What is your position on increasing transparency of discretionary funding by requiring the list of capital and expense funds and their sponsors be provided to Council Members and the public three days in advance of any vote, and expanding the online searchable database of expense funds to include all capital fund recipients and applicants? **Support**

9. What is your position on making all actions designed to influence any City Council outcome, including the choice of Speaker, reportable as a lobbying expense? **Support**

## PUBLIC SAFETY AND OVERSIGHT OF POLICE MISCONDUCT

10. What is your position on enhancing the Civilian Complaint Review Board's (CCRB) authority to initiate an investigation into reported or known incidents of police misconduct without receipt of a formal complaint? **Support**

11. What is your position on granting the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) the authority to prosecute officers found guilty of lying during CCRB investigations? **Support**

12. What is your position on reinstating the zero tolerance policy for false official statements by public officers? **Support**

13. What is your position on requiring the Police Commissioner to explain divergence from NYPD trial judge and CCRB disciplinary recommendations and to make the explanation public? **Support**

## BUDGET REFORM

14. What is your position on establishing independent budgeting for:

- a. borough presidents? **Support**
- b. The Conflicts of Interest Board? **Support**
- c. The Public Advocate? **Support**
- d. Community boards? **Support**

15. What is your position on making the budget process more transparent by clearly defining and limiting units of appropriation? **Support**

16. What is your position on release of revenue projections (other than property taxes) prior to Council hearings on the Executive budget? **Support**

17. How do you feel the reformed bill drafting process is going under the enacted 2014 Council Rules Reforms, and do you think we need a more independent process similar to New York State Legislature's bill drafting commission?

**The bill drafting process in the City Council does not go nearly far enough to end the politicization of the drafting process. The state's version is significantly better--and faster. Members of the Senate and Assembly submit drafting requests, and those items are drafted, and in a relatively speedy process. In the council, bills are categorized and bottlenecked in the relevant committee. There should be a much larger and independent bill drafting unit.**

18. What specifically will you do as a City Council Member to ensure New York achieves a full and complete Census count in 2020?

**Just as I have done at East Flatbush Village, Inc. I will work with clergy, elected officials, other local leaders and organizations to hold information sessions about the upcoming census. There will be ongoing education sessions throughout the district in well trafficked locations**

**I have partnered with a number of churches to educate members of the community about the importance of the census and being counted. I will continue and build on these relationships across the district.**

**I will continue to work with my partners to promote census jobs within community. Hiring workers from the community who understand local culture and etiquette will lead to better engagement with residents.**

19. In 2016, Citizens Union helped craft and push for the enactment of a law that placed political contribution limits and disclosure requirements on nonprofits that are formed by, or affiliated with, elected officials, which helped prevent some significant features of an emerging “pay-to-play” culture in New York City. Do you have any other ideas to further limit such a culture and create a better environment where contributions, either personal or political, do not unduly influence the actions of elected officials?

**One idea to further decrease the risk of play-to-play culture would be to have all contributions to these committees not only disclosed online, but ensure that by any method of contribution that potential contributors are greeted with boilerplate language about the law, as related to “pay to play,” with the required posting of the phone number and email to the CFB if there are questions about the legality of a contribution or the solicitation thereof.**

Please use the space provided or a separate sheet of paper to elaborate on your positions on the issues contained in the previous pages. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

## **II. CAMPAIGN PROMISES MADE TO VOTERS**

What are the top five campaign promises you are making to the voters during this campaign?

If elected, Citizens Union will use these promises to evaluate your performance while in office, as well as to evaluate your candidacy in the future.

Please feel free to use additional paper if the space provided is not sufficient, and to affix additional information such as a résumé, campaign brochure, or issue statements. We thank you very much for your response.

## **TOP FIVE 2019 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS**

**I have chosen to focus on three issues**

## **1. Improve Public Safety**

- a. Expand the Crisis Management System:** The nearly- \$20 million dollar initiative is one of the most successful gun violence reduction programs in the city. It should be expanded to cover additional neighborhoods.
- b. End Enforcement Disparities:** For various crimes, black and Latino New Yorkers, including residents of the 45th district, face enforcement at far greater, disparate rates than those of other communities. For example, a young black male is significantly more likely to be stopped, questioned and frisked, even though the previous Council Member took substantial steps to reduce the overall amount of SQF. The disparity can be reduced on the basis of implicit bias training, cultural sensitivity training, and increasing community policing efforts. We need an all-of-the-above approach.

## **2. Affordable Housing**

- a. Re-open and improve MIH:** While the Mayor's housing plan aims to keep people in their neighborhoods, unfortunately, where there is a local rezoning, far too many of units in these residential or mixed use buildings are market rate. It's a plan for gentrification and we must fix the Mayor's housing plan to ensure that residents can stay in their homes, and actually afford the new ones that are built.
- b. Albany:** Our rent laws are expiring this year, but are perpetually up for renewal. I intend to join other elected officials to ensure that we finally adopt the strongest rent laws, especially since the repeal of Urstadt.

## **3. Education**

- a. As I've consistently said,** teachers need more funding, and public schools need more support. This is why I oppose forced co-locations, and joined the previous Council Member in defeating a forced co-location attempt at Meyer Levin School for the Performing Arts.

## **III. ETHICAL REPRESENTATION OF CONSTITUENTS**

Citizens Union believes that all New Yorkers deserve to be represented by officials who work for the public interest and honor public trust. We seek to endorse a candidate who will demonstrate that they will honor the full commitment of the oath of office, and will always represent the public interest above all else. Please give us your views on this aspect of holding elected office.

**My sole purpose in my run for this office is to serve the people of my district - and City. I began serving my community some 20 years ago. Taking elected office allows me to do even more. I want the voice of my community at the table when we consider policy, legislation and funding. I will continue to do what I have been doing for the past decade - holding civic engagement workshops to educate the community about our legislative process and how decisions are made. I will continue to host town halls, mental health, financial literacy workshops and more. want to build on what I started. Elected office is about serving the community NOT oneself. Elected office is much bigger than any single person**

Please return to: Citizens Union, Local Candidates Committee, 299 Broadway, Suite 700 New York, NY 10007 Via email to [candidates@citizensunion.org](mailto:candidates@citizensunion.org) or fax to 212.227.0345 • Call us at 212-227-0342 with questions. 7