

CENTRAL VALLEY PROGRESSIVE PAC

Candidate Questionnaire for Fresno City Council June 8, 2010 Election

Name Tate Hill II Office Fresno City Council- District 3 Date _____

Name of Campaign Committee Tate Hill for Council 2010

Address 835 N Fresno, CA 93728

E-mail victory@tatehillforcouncil.com

Web Site <http://tatehillforcouncil.com>

Phone 559-862-0196 Fax _____ Campaign Manager/Consultant Kevin Hall

1. Please list the name and dollar amount of your four largest financial contributors.

Answer: Carla Hill (\$300); Rofus Morris (\$250); Aubry Stone (\$250)

2. Would you support privatizing public services, if there is a cost savings to the City?

Answer: Potentially. Core public safety services should not be privatized or outsourced. I am open to other opinions if it enables the City to maintain services.

3. The Fresno Police Department is installing video surveillance cameras in Fresno. There are plans to vastly expand the project, merge the cameras of local businesses into the system, and actively monitor the cameras from a central location. Describe any civil liberties concerns you have about this development.

Answer: People have the right to be safe and feel protected. Some neighborhoods in District 3 have requested and are in favor of police cameras. The use of such technologies would require direct and specific policies on how, where and when such cameras should be used. It could create new opportunities for increasing necessary evidence in violent and property-related crimes, especially in neighborhoods where residents are concerned about retaliation.

4. Do you support the proposed 10 X 10 Housing Plan?

Answer: As a former staffer of an affordable housing developer and formerly on the District 3 Implementation, I have been a long supporter of housing people can afford. At the same time, I believe in the need for mix-income housing/neighborhoods that dispel the results of concentrated poverty.

5. Fresno has a long history of urban sprawl. Is there a limit to how far Fresno should expand its boundaries? What steps should Fresno take to reduce our dependency on automobile use?

Answer: According to the 2025 General Plan, Fresno planners and developers must steer development to the urban core and southern part of Fresno. The Council must have the political courage to stay on course and highly scrutinize any proposals that deters from that. In order for the City to revitalize the urban core, it must encourage higher density yet quality developments in downtown and its surrounding neighborhoods. In order to make mass transit more feasible and worth the public investment, the urban core must reach the critical mass of people and businesses that will support these urban amenities.

6. Do you support or oppose efforts to build a nuclear power plant in the Central Valley and why? While it is important to reduce our city's and country's reliance on foreign energy and from fossil fuels that count for 82% of the country's energy-related carbon emissions (International Atomic Energy Agency, 2001), this is a decision that can not be made without completely weighting all implications. There are several questions I would have: (a) how

would we paying for it? (b) where would it be located (no where in District 3)? and (c) who owns the site and right to the energy? I rather we explore other alternative energy sources like hydro-electricity and photovoltaic (solar) energy before going a nuclear path.

Answer:

7. Police accountability is a concern of the progressive community. We believe it is in the interest of the FPD and the community that there is trust and transparency in all police operations. Why do you believe the Office of Independent Review will or will not work?

Answer: The Office of Independent Review is a part of a larger opportunity to build the trust and creditability of the Fresno Police Department especially in neighborhood where historically there higher than normal incidents of shootings, arrest, and concerns about profiling. In general, the community is demanding greater accountability in all areas—finance, development, indebtedness, and public safety. The Office in and of itself, will not be an end all solution but it must be accompanied by a greater enactment of community policing.

8. What are the three most important issues in your Council District?

Answer: While there are a number of challenges that the greater city of Fresno faces (high unemployment, increases in property crimes, etc.), the following are my priorities because they specifically hold back District 3: (A) Fighting concentrated poverty; (B) Changing the perception that our neighborhoods are not good investments for homeowners or entrepreneurs; and (3) Ensuring the district gets its needed share of resources to development safe, walkable communities.

9. Do you support re-establishment of an independent Human Relations Commission?

Given the creation of the Office of Independent Review, the re-instatement of the Commission would require redefinition of the mission. Developed to address and enhance community-police relationship, the Commission and the Office may a duplication of purpose.

Answer:

10. What do you propose the City should do regarding our homeless population?

Answer: I believe the City and the County's creation of the Homeless Prevention & Policy office housed in the City was a move in the right step. I agree with the outline in the *10- Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness*, focusing on establishing 'housing first' then providing the person with the necessary wrap-around social services (mental health, job training, soft skills, etc.). Given the social context of the situation, the City must have strategic partners like the Department of Veteran Administration, Fresno Housing Authorities, and the County to leverage local and federal dollars to service our homeless population.

11. Do you support or oppose the City's Median Island Safety Ordinance and why?

Answer: If we are serious about urban revitalization, we must address the perception of the city. In addition to the safety hazards it creates for those in their cars and on the medium, it send a message that we are not properly taking care of our residents. This policy will only be effective if we properly implement the parameters of the *10- Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness*.

12. Do you support or oppose restoration of marriage equality in California and why?

Answer: I do not believe this is an issue that City Council should support or oppose.

CVPPAC Fresno City Council Candidate Questionnaire, Page 2

13. Do you support or oppose the \$11 billion water bond ballot measure and why? What about the proposal to use the Tulare Lake Basin for above ground water storage?

Answer: I am still investigating the positions of the water bond and how it would directly impact the communities of the Central Valley.

14. Do you support or oppose the City of Fresno's current policy to ban medical marijuana dispensaries? Why

Answer: The challenge is the differing and multiple jurisdictional policies on medical marijuana. The necessary clarity will only come through federal or state action. While I am open to the medicinal attributes of medical marijuana, I am not in favor of the current method of dispensing it outside of traditional methods of safely prescribing and administering similar narcotics.

15. Do you support or oppose limits on financial contributions for City Council and Mayoral campaigns and why? For me the bigger questions are who determines the limits and whether those campaigns are publically-funded and how are they funded. Overall campaign limits could be tied to the number of registered or actual voters in the council districts to ensure spending is proportional to the number of voters.

Answer:

16. What concerns, if any, do have about the displacement of residents in low-income neighborhoods by gentrification?

Answer: Gentrification is always a possible challenge to overcome in planning neighborhood revitalization. One way to ensure available, affordable housing is utilizing or incentivizing low-income units in market-rate development through the use of RDA/HOME/CDGB funds. Another way is incorporating resident's input into the planning process, the Community Specific Planning process is doing now, that can significantly reduce the negative impacts of redevelopment.

17. Do you support or oppose the proposal to delete section 1504 from the City Charter and thereby not expand the number of City Council Districts in the near future?

Answer: The current charter is vague and open to interpretation. The bigger questions are the following: (1) What policies and procedures would we replace it with to determine the size of the council?; (2) How would the districts be drawn and who draws them?

18. Do you think the federal military spending in Iraq and Afghanistan has an adverse impact on the City's ability to meet its financial needs? If yes, what, if anything, should the City do about it?

Answer: While the wars have created enormous debt for the US, Fresno's challenges with high employment, lack of economic diversity, urban sprawl and neighborhood deterioration had a genesis that dates before the start of either of the wars. The City of Fresno needs to have a razor sharp focus on neighborhood revitalization and community policing efforts to change our city.

19. Do you consider unions a benefit or detriment in the work force?

Answer: They are beneficial when they increase the quality of the work place and worker's income and a detriment if they eliminate and drive-away employment opportunities.

20. If future City budget cuts are needed, what specific cuts would you propose and why?

Answer: In general, I would evaluate both cuts and ways to increase the City's access to resources (revenue, grants, and fees)

21. What, if anything, can the City do to increase jobs in our community?

Answer: In essence rarely does the City create jobs but it can reduce the barriers and restrictions that make it difficult for jobs to be created locally. Some investment opportunities are:

- Work with the business community to create job opportunities through tax incentives and sharing resources across government agencies.

- Encourage and support local businesses and entrepreneurs that invest back into our community through local hiring/procurements ordinances and policies.
- Investing in basic infrastructure that will spur commercial and residential development throughout the District

22. What operations and services provided by the Fresno Police and Fresno County Sheriff do you support consolidating, if any? Some of these are in place now.

- Central processing;
- Dispatching services
- Special Units (mounted police, helicopters, etc.)
- Technology up-grades and integration

23. What are your concerns, if any, about the sectarian prayers used at the beginning of each City Council session? Is this an issue of concern about the separation of church and state?

Answer: I do not believe the opening prayer at City Council creates a concern about the separation of church and state. Given the challenges our city faces, we need all the help and guidance we can get.

24. Why to you feel you are the best candidate for this office?

Answer: I have demonstrated leadership and commitment to the entire district with a cross section of work, relationships and results in business & job development, environmental justice, smart growth & affordable housing, and the creative economy. I will be a fair yet strong advocate for the people of District 3 and the city of Fresno.

25. How would your election promote the Mission Statement of the CVPPAC?

Answer: By empowering the community to improve the qualities of the lives and their neighborhoods through engagement with their elected representatives and equipping them for greater civic participation.

Thank you for taking the time to complete our candidate questionnaire and for participating in the Central Valley Progressive PAC endorsement process. Please e-mail your completed questionnaire with the questions and your answers in Word format to info@cvppac.org no later than 6:00 PM on Friday, April 2, 2010. All participating candidates will be notified of the CVPPAC's endorsement decisions the third week of April.