

1. As we all know, DPW has undergone an extensive reorganization of their department. The goal was to bridge the disconnects that were prevalent relative to this particular entity. My approach to aid in these efforts will be to allocate funds to each council district for a full time code enforcement officer. These individuals would not only be responsible for enforcing code violations, but also credentialed to conduct inspections and issue permits. I believe that this would alleviate some of the congestion in the workload of the permit and inspection division that causes some permitting functions to matriculate slowly.

2. Yes, I support the use of third party review. However, I do believe that there should be a system of checks and balances in place as to licensing requirements; to make sure that these outsourced vendors are adhering to the city/parish's Unified Development Code. Moreover, it is my sentiment that the vendor performing these inspections pay a percentage of their fee to the permitting and inspection division. In contrast, however, I am not a proponent of outsourcing the entire Permit and Inspection division to a commercial entity. It would be a huge fiduciary encumbrance to the role of our municipal government.

3. I trust that the role of government is not to direct private business, but rather provide a safety net for them to thrive. Governmental moratoriums should, in my opinion, only be exercised when it's function is only to prevent or contain public health and safety, neither of which will be accomplished by restricting development on Highland Rd. Although there are other parts of the parish the are in severe need of redevelopment and infrastructure upgrades, it would not be in the best interest of our city as a whole to restrict development in particular area. Furthermore, it is not the function of government to direct private businesses, so for those reasons I humbly disagree.

4. My plans concerning policy and development in our parish is very voluminous in nature. Obviously, one of my main goals is to attract, recruit and retain businesses and industries here to our region. I believe that it is a necessity to the viability of our unique city makeup and landscape. It is going to take an increased planning capacity to ensure that we address the major gaps that exist. The Smart Growth concept is a viable tool that I believe serves as a great blueprint to encourage equitable and efficient access to public services, revitalization efforts and transportation streamlining. Organizations such as BRGC, CPEX, DDD and the RDA have done a significant job acting as a catalyst for these improvements and I will be the advocate in city hall furthering those initiatives. It will take a collaborative effort on all fronts to bring this concept among others to fruition.

5. To be quite honest, governmental salaries when compared to industry salaries hardly ever mirror one another, because the function of government does not operate for profit. Alternatively, I wholeheartedly support a raise and pay equity for our employees. Therefore, I will follow the recommendations of the City/Parish compensation study that aims to bring all employees into the 50th percentile, also known as market based pay levels. The ten million dollar cost associated with reaching market based pay is not financially doable all at once, however, the findings of the compensation study suggests that these changes be implemented over a three year period. Taking this avenue will allow us to address pay inequities by 1/3 of the cost each year. If we want to recruit and retain highly qualified, knowledgeable and diverse workforce, we have to prioritize and incentivize our pay and benefit packages to match that level of talent.

6. I am sure that we all can agree that this particular project should be of high priority, given the recent chain of events that have plagued our parish in the wake of the Great Flood. My administration, more exclusively, the MOSHEP and City/Parish Engineering departments will have my full support and oversight relative towards completing and maintaining the canal. We will expend federal resources, some of which have already been allocated, and my influence in the legislature to ensure that our region has sufficient infrastructure and drainage with the capacity to operate efficiently.

7. It is my belief that all of my appointments as well as my cabinet should be in sync with the vision that I hold for the City/Parish. The person that I appoint to the Planning and Zoning commission will possess a high level of competence, expertise and the ability to work alongside others. There has to be an extreme degree of synergy between the board, residents, other local officials and stakeholders to progressively move our municipality forward. Great things are sure to follow.

8. I will start by first saying that I am very uplifted by the abounding support and unselfish display of humanity in the eve of this tragedy as Baton Rouge stood unbroken as one. I too suffered from this devastating event as well, and I've been in recovery mode both personally and within the community. Although I have experienced some loss of my own and am finally trying to re-establish some sense of normalcy, my call to service and my passion for the people of this parish is of equal importance and priority. With that being said, my administration will be dedicated to the inclusion of small business owners to aid in rebuilding and recovery efforts. I believe it is vitally important that entrepreneurs, employees, and residents who spend their tax dollars in our parish have the right to aid the community and nurture their business in the place where they work and reside. I will ensure that all city/parish departments have key individuals who are dedicated solely to the efforts of recovery in their respective capacity so that every facet to rebuilding will have precedence and accountability. I will continue to work alongside other local, state, and federal agencies as I have done, to ensure that there is a seamless stream of resources that is available and expendable to East Baton Rouge Parish. We will get our kids and educators back in their classrooms, our families get back in their homes, and most importantly

we will advocate on all levels for the citizens of this parish to secure adequate and equitable access to those resources. Its going to take a concerted all fronts, but it is most certainly attainable, and it is what I will continue to do from the third floor of city hall!

9. Well as any may know, the EBR School System is not directly under the purview of city government administration, as they are actually to completely separate entities. However, I too can agree that education is one of the main components to the success of our economy and livelihood. With that being said, I will work alongside the school board and Superintendent Drake as well as utilize our grant writers to petition state and federal agencies for funding to provide resources for our parish schools. Moreover, I intend to facilitate a new educational initiative for Baton Rouge called the "Cradle to K" program. The program's focus will be to began learning and logical reasoning from the cradle, until these children are able to commence with our top rated head start program or enter kindergarten. I will also focus our efforts to my "SuitUp Campaign", which will be geared toward educational and professional development for high school students in the parish. The main goal of this initiative is to assist public and private institutions with assuring that graduates are prepared to enter into some type of post secondary education as well as the workforce.

Additional Comments:

I am grateful for the opportunity to share some insight on what my plans are for the City of Baton Rouge and the Parish of East Baton Rouge. I am willing, ready and able to lead this region to its next great place in history.

-Sharon

Sharon Weston Broome