

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 1

DATE__December 20, 2014_____

WARD__Seventh [7th]_____

NAME__Flora Digby_____

VOTING ADDRESS__7942 South Luella Avenue_____

HOME PHONE__773.978.0763_____BUSINESS PHONE__773.406.1082_____

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS__2225 East 79th Street; Chicago,IL 60649_____

CAMPAIGN PHONE__872.666.5165 / 5166_____FAX_____

CAMPAIGN WEBSITE__www.floradigby7thward.com_____EMAIL__florafiodigby@gmail.com_____

CAMPAIGN MANAGER__Joseph Bertrand_____

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED__2900_____NUMBER REQUIRED__473_____

Please provide the following background information:

A. Elective or appointive public and/or party offices previously held including dates.

- . elected – 1st Vice Chair 7th Ward Business Advisory Council; xx/2011
- . appointed – Special Service Area 49 Commissioner; 05/2012
- . elected – Treasurer, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Chicago Alumnae Chapter; 05/2013
- . appointed – Economic Development Co Chair, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Chicago Alumnae Chapter; 05/2009, 05/2011

B. Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.

C. What is your primary occupation?

- . Financial management

D. Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years.

- . as 1st Vice Chair 7th Ward Business Advisory Council – creation of a resource package focused on Resources for new and sustainability of existing businesses in the ward
- . as Special Service Area 49 Commissioner – budget management of business owner annual tax levy for additional security, beautification [garbage cans, flower planters, façade improvement, seasonal banners], . . .
- . as Economic Development Co Chair – organized empowerment fairs, book bag drives [disburse over 500 per event], free income tax preparation services, series of financial management workshops

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 1

E. What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek?

. subjects studied include budget management, auditing, finance, accounting, management, entrepreneurship,

F. What candidates have you supported in past elections? Please be specific in describing your role in each campaign.

. most recently Governor Pay Quinn for re-election, November 2014

G. Please list all endorsements you have received so far.

. some pending, none confirmed at this time

H. As concisely as possible, state why you feel you should be endorsed over the other candidate(s). What goals for the office you seek are most important to you personally?

I feel that I should be endorsed over other candidates because I believe in the seventh ward which represents community, family values and the opportunity for economic growth. Based upon many conversations with residents and businesses we share the same vision for our ward – the need for engaged leadership that will represent us in the ward and in city council. Together we can improve our schools, create more jobs and make our streets safer as we rebuild a stronger 7th ward.

I. What is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date?

Our campaign budget is \$200,000.00. We have raised \$15,000.00 to date with events pending.

J. How many people are on your campaign staff? How many volunteers are on your list?

. 20 people currently on the campaign staff
. 50 volunteers currently on our list

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

Most questions on this questionnaire can be answered by checking either YES or NO. Others are essay questions and all have the option of answering in greater detail. Just hit enter at the end of the question and begin typing your answer in the additional space.

CITY COUNCIL REFORM AND ETHICS

	YES	NO	
1.	x		Do you favor maintaining the current number of City Council committees?
	ESSAY		Which committees, if any, would you combine or eliminate? At this time I would not recommend combining or eliminating any existing committees.
2.	ESSAY		What reforms are necessary in the City Council's committee rules and structure? I would like to obtain more information before providing recommendations for reform.
3.		X	Would you give the Inspector General's office independent subpoena power or other compulsory process that can be directed against city officials, agencies and employees without necessitation the approval of the Mayor or Corporation Counsel? I have concerns about any person/organization having independent or compulsory power and believe that there should always to be a check and balance.
4.		X	Should the Inspector General be able to initiate his or her own investigations of Aldermen without a complaint from outside the office?
5.	X		Should the Inspector General be able to pursue anonymous complaints?
6.	X		Do you support patronage in hiring and promoting public employees?
7.			Will you employ or have you employed staff, in your office who hold other public sector jobs concurrently? Our staff will need to move with a sense of urgency and devote all efforts to the economic growth of the 7th ward, however that doesn't mean that future opportunities won't have considerations
8.			Will you employ or have you employed staff, in your office who have either outside employment or contracts with entities which do business with the City? Our staff will need to move with a sense of urgency and devote all efforts to the economic growth of the 7th ward, however that doesn't mean that future opportunities won't have considerations
9.	X		Will you vote for an ordinance mandating that the City contest unemployment claims by former employees who were fired for cause?
10.	X		Will you vote for an ordinance forbidding the City to hire or contract the services of anyone previously fired for cause from the City or any other unit of government?
11.			Will you support an ordinance to reduce the number of wards? I would need to complete research of the effectiveness of the current number before making this decision.
12.			Have you joined or will you join: I have not joined, however if representing the Ward causes unpopular decisions [progressive] then consideration to join will be given.
			The Paul Douglas Caucus
			The Independent Progressive Caucus
			Both
13.	Y		Do you support changing the state statute to return to filling aldermanic vacancies by special election, rather than Mayoral appointment?
14.	Y		Will you vote for an ordinance requiring redistricting of the wards to be based on non-partisan criteria and not to benefit any specific individual or political party?
15.	Y		Will you or have you accepted campaign donations from current or potential suppliers or employees?

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

16.		X	Will you or have you accepted campaign donations from people or businesses seeking zoning changes in your ward?
17.			Do you support public financing of municipal campaigns? I need to complete further investigation before making an informed decision.
	ESSAY		Please explain your position.
18.	ESSAY		Who are your top 5 contributors and how much has each contributed to your campaign? . Flora Digby \$10,000.00 . Dwayne Digby \$10,000.00 . Ken Mason \$ 1,000.00 . Keith Ramsey \$ 1,000.00 . Big Mo Movers \$ 1,600.00
19.			What changes would you support to the redistricting process? I would support a fair allocation of voters, businesses and budget dollars to the redistricting process.
REVENUE AND BUDGET			
20.	X		Will you vote to hire independent analysts to conduct a forensic audit of past City spending?
	Will you vote for a budget ordinance which would require:		
21.	X		public questioning of city department heads concerning their departments' specific budget requests?
22.	X		making budget copies available to the public 30 days in advance of hearings?
23.	X		restoring city-wide community group budget hearings several months prior to the publication of the budget, as were held under the Washington and Sawyer administrations?
24.	ESSAY		What additional revenue sources, if any, would you propose? One proposal for additional revenue would be the non - privatization of parking contracts, thus recirculating funds within the city revenue system.
25.	X		Do you support casino gambling for Chicago?
26.	X		Will you vote to require a citywide referendum before any gambling is instituted in the City?
27.		X	Will you vote to roll back Mayoral and Aldermanic salaries to pre-2007 levels?
28.	X		Will you vote for an ordinance limiting future Mayoral and Aldermanic salary increases to the same percentage as the lowest raise for any class of city employees?
29.		X	Do you agree with the criticism that City government is top heavy with management?
	ESSAY		Please explain your position. I would need further review the organizational structure, responsibilities and salaries to provide an informed decision.
30.	ESSAY		What measures will you vote for to reform the city pension plan and ensure its solvency? At this time I could not vote for any measure of reform for the city pension plan ensuring solvency.
31.	ESSAY		How would you modify (if at all) the benefit and contribution levels and eligibility requirements for public employee pensions? I would not modify the benefit and contribution levels at this time.

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

32.	Choose One	Should discretionary funds for ward services and infrastructure improvements be allocated
	X	in equal amounts to each ward
		based on the size of each ward
		based on the needs of each ward
	YES	NO
33.	X	Will you institute participatory budgeting to allow ward residents to vote on discretionary spending in your ward?
PRIVATIZATION		
34.	ESSAY	Which city services or assets, if any, do you believe should be privatized and what is your criteria? I do not currently see the need to privatize city services or assets. Privatization is not the most effective process for the city at this time.
35.	X	Will you vote for an ordinance requiring an independent analysis of any lease or outsourcing arrangement?
36.	X	Will you vote for an ordinance requiring detailed analysis and evaluation of any lease or outsourcing arrangement at least 30 days prior to the City Council vote?
37.	ESSAY	Before voting on privatization contracts, what will you do to ensure that they deliver the maximum return and best service for city residents in the long term? Before voting I will perform due diligence and resource comparison to make sure that all viable possibilities have been exhausted in order to make an informed decision.
38.	ESSAY	What procedures will you implement to ensure that privatization arrangements are not being used to move patronage workers outside of the scope of the Rutan decision requirements or any other anti-patronage rules or protocols? I would need to put together a strategic plan to make sure that arrangements are not tools used to work outside of the system.
PLANNING, ZONING, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
39.	ESSAY	How will you involve ward residents in planning? I will provide a series of meetings, providing the history of spending and recommendations for future spending based upon the needs of the community and available resources.
40.	ESSAY	What is your long-range plan for development of the ward? My long range goal involves creativity and sustainability. I envision a phased in process of: [1] increasing the quality of education [2] identifying and creating local job opportunities [3] identifying incentives for new businesses [4] exploring manufacturing opportunities.
41.	ESSAY	What criteria do you or will you use in determining whether or not to grant a zoning change or variance? The criteria that will be used will focus on determining the impact of the zoning on the community, i.e. jobs, economic development, safety.
42.	ESSAY	How will you involve residents in planning, approval, and oversight of TIF districts? I will implement participatory budgeting, encouraging input based upon needs, as well as transparent reporting of actual activity compared to budget. I will also have a committee dedicated to making this a priority initiative for the ward.

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

43.			Will you vote to terminate a TIF if the objectives of the TIF plan have been accomplished before the 23 year period is ended? If the objectives are met and funds reimbursed, terminating the TIF could be considered.
44.	X		Will you vote to return unspent and uncommitted TIF funds on an annual basis to the various taxing bodies? To the extent that there are contingency provisions in placed and exercised for the unseen possibilities.
45.	ESSAY		How do you propose to replace property tax revenue for CPS and other taxing bodies that is lost to TIF development? This question will require further research and consideration.
46.		X	Will you support a moratorium on creation of any new TIF districts until new funding sources are identified to replace the revenue diverted to the TIF? Not at this time because the 7th ward needs TIF funding and we need to move forward with a sense of urgency.
47.	X		Will you vote for an ordinance requiring that large corporate entities receiving \$250,000 or more in public subsidies, and their tenants, must pay their workers a living wage (currently \$11/hour)?
48.	X		Will you vote to invest substantially more in job-training and the creation of transitional job programs in disadvantaged communities, including the formerly incarcerated, homeless, youth, and non-English speakers?
HOUSING			
49.	X		Will you vote to amend the Vacant Properties Ordinance to require mortgage servicers to register their properties?
50.	X		Do you support enacting an ordinance to preserve Single-Room Occupancy housing?
51.	X		Will you vote for an inclusionary zoning ordinance requiring developers to set aside 30% of residential new construction or renovation for the creation of affordable housing? Affordable housing based upon the 7th ward characteristics not the city of Chicago.
52.	ESSAY		What measures will you support to guarantee that some of the foreclosed properties saved through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program are made affordable to families at 40% and 60% of AMI? Measures that I would take include an analysis, taking into account the economic level of the 7th ward as a bench mark when determining affordability.
53.	ESSAY		What procedures and safeguards would you put in place on conversion/demolition of SRO's and other low income housing to ensure that affordable housing will continue to be available for low income tenants who would otherwise be displaced? This question will require further research and consideration.
54.	ESSAY		What measures will you support to ensure that there is an adequate supply of affordable family sized units available to families in the Section 8 program? This question will require further research and consideration.

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

55.	ESSAY		What measures will you support to provide affordable housing for low-income individuals and families who are not served by any existing programs? This question will require further research and consideration.
	YES	NO	Do you support any of the following to be built in your ward?
56.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		low income rental housing that is affordable to those at 15% to 30% of AMI?
57.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		supportive housing for people overcoming addiction and other problems which contribute to homelessness?
58.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		shelters for the homeless?
59.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Do you favor a moratorium on the conversion or demolition of SRO's pending the development of protections and remedies to protect the displaced tenants from becoming homeless?
60.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support allowing the demolition of existing public housing units without new or rehabilitated replacement housing on a one-for-one basis?
61.	Choose One		Which standard should the City use to define affordable housing?
			AMI of the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area
			AMI of Cook County
			AMI of Chicago
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		AMI of the Community Area
EDUCATION			
62.	Choose One		Which of the following options for choosing the School Board do you support?
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Popular Election
			Mayoral appointment from nominations made by community representatives
			Maintaining the current system of Mayoral appointment
			A mix of elected and appointed members
	YES	NO	
63.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Will you support a city-wide lottery for enrollment in magnet schools?
64.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Will you support LSCs in maintaining full powers, and support them through adequate funding levels that provide training and support for LSCs to do their jobs?
65.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Will you support a moratorium on school closings until a detailed analysis of the impacts of shuffling children is completed, and a real plan to address the quality of education and safety for every child is in place?
66.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Will you support development and implementation of a more comprehensive and accurate approach to evaluate student and teacher performance than reliance on the SAT and ACT tests?
67.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Would you favor repealing (or modifying) the 70% requirement for voting to authorize teacher strikes?
68.	ESSAY		What is your assessment of Renaissance 2010 and its implementation in your ward as well as the City as a whole? Please include in your assessment the role of charter schools as well as the power to reconstitute schools. This question will require further research and consideration.
69.	ESSAY		What should the City do to improve the quality of all local schools? Perform a quality assessment taking into account community economics.

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

70.	ESSAY		What are your plans to improve the local schools in your ward? Plans include needs assessments and resource partnering.
71.	ESSAY		How would you modify (if at all) the benefit and contribution levels and eligibility requirements for public school teacher pension? This question will require further research and consideration.
ENVIRONMENT			
72.			Will you vote for the Clean Power Ordinance? This question will require further research and consideration.
73.		X	Will you vote to privatize Chicago's water delivery system?
74.	X		Will you vote to ban Styrofoam food containers in Chicago public schools? . with the submission of a viable alternative
75.	X		Will you vote to ban Styrofoam food containers in Chicago restaurants and food delivery services? . with the submission of a viable alternative
76.	X		Will you vote to adopt the water quality standards recommended by the Pollution Control Board?
77.	ESSAY		What should the City do to encourage and implement alternative forms of energy? This question will require further research and consideration.
78.	ESSAY		What other environmental initiatives, if any, do you propose?
PARKS			
79.	X		Do you support election of the Chicago Park District Board?
80.		X	Do you support increased privatization of park facilities and services?
	ESSAY		Why or why not? . privatization takes away the opportunity
81.	X		Do you support prioritization of land acquisition and capital improvements first to those neighborhoods which are underserved by existing facilities?
TRANSPORTATION			
82.			Will you vote to increase the City subsidy to the CTA? I require further information prior to making a decision to support
83.	Rank 1-5 or say no to any		Please indicate which CTA expansion plans, if any, you support and rank them in order of priority (1 highest)
	1		Red Line south to 130th Street
	2		Orange Line to Ford City Mall
	3		Downtown Circulator
	4		Downtown-O'Hare Express
			Other – please specify
	YES	NO	
84.	X		Do you support renegotiation of Chicago's parking meter privatization deal? .
85.		X	Do you support privatization of Midway Airport?

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

86.	X		Do you support the O'Hare expansion plan?
CRIMINAL JUSTICE			
87.		X	Is 911 response time adequate?
	ESSAY		If not, how can it be improved? It can be improved by process improvements for accepting calls, disbursing details and dispatching the appropriate resources needs to be re-evaluated.
88.			Are there inequities in 911 service in your ward? I am not sure however with the level of crime challenges in the ward, a review of the process is warranted.
	ESSAY		If so, what can be done to redress them? A complete review of the process from beginning to end.
89.	X		Do you support re-allocating police services from low-crime to high-crime neighborhoods?
90.	ESSAY		What changes, if any, would you suggest for the CAPS program? Consider participating in block club and / or other community organization meetings.
91.	X		Will you vote for more funding for alternative crime prevention programs such as Cease Fire?
92.	ESSAY		What measures will you support to stop the schools to prison pipeline? Creative policing versus hand cuffs for breaking the rules, i.e. training programs with business partnerships; success planning from training to 1 complete year of employment
93.	X		Do you support gun control?
94.	ESSAY		What measures, if any, should the City Council adopt in response to recent court decisions striking down Chicago's handgun ban?
95.	X		Will you vote to order the City to stop paying legal fees and attempt to recover past legal costs of city employees implicated in the Police Board findings of misconduct related to the Burge case?
96.	ESSAY		Please share your views regarding the functioning of the Independent Police Review Authority and whether it should operate more independently of the Police Department.
CIVIL RIGHTS			
97.			Do you support affirmative action based on race, gender and sexual orientation in establishing criteria for hiring and promoting public employees?
98.			Do you support affirmative action as a criteria in letting city contracts?
99.	ESSAY		Please comment on current participation of individuals with disabilities in city hiring and contracts.
100.	ESSAY		Please comment on current women and minority participation in city hiring and contracts. Be sure your comments include firefighter and police officer recruitment and promotion.
101.	X		Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of city employees to institute gender-equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?
102.	X		Will you vote to require all City vendors and contractors to provide spousal benefits for same-sex partners of their employees?
103.			Will you vote for the Municipal ID ordinance?
	ESSAY		Why or why not?

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

ALDERMANIC PRIORITIES		
104.	ESSAY	<p>What employment, if any, other than alderman, do you intend to hold?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . immediately upon becoming Alderman, if elected, I will focus all of my time on rebuilding and rebranding the 7th ward with a tiered approach . first moving with a sense of urgency to raise the education level through programs and workshops, therefore positioning our residents to secure and maintain employment . secondly concentrate on economic development - providing resources to existing businesses and identifying creative opportunities to entice new businesses, i.e. tax credits, grace period on paying fees, reduction on license fees
105.	ESSAY	<p>How will you divide your time between your aldermanic duties and your other occupation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . division of time is not an option for at least the first half of the first term
106.	ESSAY	<p>Please specify the minimum hours per week you will spend performing your aldermanic duties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . hours spent will be determined by the needs of the community . this is not a 9a to 5p responsibility . I will be available and engaged for our community
107.	ESSAY	<p>Please describe your service office staffing plan, including the number of staff, full and part time, how you will pay for them, and the number of hours per week that your service office will be open.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . our service office staffing plan will include a staffing size to accommodate addressing the needs of the community from logging and dispatching service needs to follow up . the staff will be paid office ours will include day and evening hours to meet the community needs
108.	ESSAY	<p>What services need improvement in your ward? How will you achieve this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . after a thorough review of the current services provided, I can make recommendations for improvement . three existing opportunities for improvement include more double light poles in higher crime areas; introduction of speed bumps in areas with small children and seniors; regular schedule of cleaning and sweeping alleys . these initiatives can be achieved through having an alderman focused on building and maintaining partnerships with city services
109.	ESSAY	<p>What are your top priorities for the Ward?</p> <p>If elected alderman my priorities for the Ward will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [1] building awareness of resources in the ward [2] raising the quality of education at all levels [3] providing more jobs for our residents [4] improving economic development through supporting existing and securing new businesses [5] driving home the need for community, knowing your neighbor and knowing your alderman
110.	ESSAY	<p>How will you work with community groups and residents on City matters?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . community groups and the ward residents are the core of the ward . I will work as a resource to bring information to the ward . I will meet with the groups individually and then collectively