



**THE AFRO AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS
MAYORAL QUESTIONNAIRE
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Name: Chris Otten
Office Sought: Mayor of DC
Address: 1830 Belmont Road, NW WDC 20009
Ward 1, ANC-1C03
Campaign Number: 202-234-7075
Campaign Email: mayorchrisdc@fastmail.fm
Website: <http://www.otten06.com>

1) What current national legislative issues have a direct impact on citizens of the District and how do you address these issues?

- Literacy - Illiteracy is at staggering levels in the District. 4 neighborhood libraries are closed. Schools are being sold or demolished because they have been neglected so long. Vocational training has all but been eliminated. The candidates running for Mayor who currently sit on the Council have witnessed this looming problem for many years but decided to not fully utilize their government resources such as a large paid staff with the latest communication equipment and the ear of the media to galvanize grassroots support and pressure to make sure we turn this around. Why would they do it as mayor?

- Poverty -- The working class folks of the District are under attack. While the federal government is burning & shredding people of color around the planet in the name of Democracy, hundreds of thousands of people don't have it right here in the District. Some would argue that these two facts are implicitly linked, and I happen to agree. Throwing homeless folks onto the streets in bad weather, seniors being left to fend for their house and home in the face of rising property taxes and rents, working families fraught with the stresses of making it every month as basic utility costs continue to rise while their income remains the same... these are the consequences of poor policy choices on behalf of so-called City leadership. The war on the poor has got to end.

- Diversity -- The District is being choked by condos. Condos help to raise area property taxes, rents, and hence general living expenses. Who can purchase condos? Wealthy suburbanites. I call this Displacement-Development. The Mayor's city-vision combined with a weak City Council has helped bring more wealthy people into the District. But the consequences, once again somehow overlooked by City leadership, have been the displacement of long-time working class District families. And, because the Mayor and Council do not make developers inquire with neighborhood leaders about their backroom plans this twisted process is not transparent to us until it may be too late to fight. As Mayor, I will help promote comprehensive tenant advocacy programs, strong rent control, property tax-caps for seniors, and much broader inclusionary zoning laws.

2) Since 1969, nearly 5,000 murders have gone unsolved in DC. The police chief claims that at least half of them could be solved with our own forensics lab. Do you agree/disagree? What would you do to ensure DC gets a forensics lab within the next few years?

I would cut the police chief's salary by at least 45% and take the money we save to begin to pay for a forensics lab. Then I would cut it again by 20% and use that money we saved to better train our morgue technicians to be skilled in forensics and more importantly use a computer. As only a few months ago, public testimony has showed that our morgue does not log, into a computer or even in a physical logbook, which bodies are coming and which ones are going. This is just the tip of the iceberg of inefficiencies regarding government services under this Mayor and City Council.

3) What will you do in this new term that has not been done in the past to ensure a fully funded and properly staffed forensics lab by 2008.

We can do this... its shouldn't be too hard. Figure a team of 5 forensic technicians housed in the morgue with some tools and other resources might cost 1 million a year. We can very easily find this money if it is deemed a must-need big priority to solve crime in this City. Much more resources must be put into preventing crime, like helping to provide good education, promoting citywide job training, and growing career opportunities.

4) Congress approves the capital improvement budget for major construction projects in the District. Place in order of importance and tell why - a forensics lab, new schools, a new downtown library, or development of the Anacostia Waterfront would be important to list among projects in need of funding.

Why focus on new when we can refurbish neglected but still very useable public buildings and resources. Schools can be and must be refurbished first. New vocational training facilities need to be built. Adult education opportunity centers can be infused into our neighborhood libraries. But why does Congress have to approve these community desires?

5) What do you favor most about DC Statehood or the Home Rule Charter? What provisions of the Home-Rule Charter do you believe need to be changed?

Home-Rule's time has come and gone. We need Statehood Now! We must reclaim our right to self-determination... our local dollars are to be spent how District folks want them to be spent. No more praying for Congress not to slash our public services budget or strike out any winning initiatives. Its time to cut the District's purse strings loose from the choking grip of a small group of typically racist wealthy white men who sit up on the hill and smirk at our misfortunes.