



Ward 8 Candidate Forum Agenda

Agenda:

- **Introductions and Opening Remarks (20 minutes)**
- **Q&A - See full questions below! (50 minutes)**
 - DaSean Jones - Mental Health Supports
 - Jonida Spahija - Safety
 - Dionna Howard - Gun Violence
 - Nicole Johnson Douglas - Special Education
 - Samori Williams - Supporting all residents to return to the workforce and get jobs
 - Open questions from the chat
- **Candidate Closing Remarks (15 minutes)**
- **Closing and Next Steps (5 minutes)**

Parent Name	Question
DaSean Jones, Ward 8 and CHECC, Eagle Academy and Achievement Prep Parent Leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We know that ALL kids have experienced trauma and stress from COVID on top of the other needs that they might have already been dealing with even before this started. Ward 8 is already a high-risk area for an array of abuse and neglect. - How will you make additional resources available in the school so that ALL children can have a safe space to share about the issues they are having AND give teachers, administrators, and parents the trauma-informed training so they are able to identify kids’ needs, help them address those needs, and manage their emotions?
Jonida Spahija, Ward 8 and LAMB Parent Leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Being home all day every day I have realized how unsafe it is in Ward 8. On Mother’s Day alone, there was a shooting down the street, a fight broke out in the back of someone’s house where the police were called, and then there was another shooting in that same evening all in the span of seven hours. - How are you going to keep our kids safe both on the streets and when we come back to school in light of the pandemic?
Dionna Howard, Ward 8 and Howard Middle School Parent Leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When we talk about violence I want to talk about gun violence specifically. What is your plan to PREVENT gun violence from happening in front of the kids? And if it does happen in front of the kids, what are you going to do to support them?



<p>Nicole Johnson Douglas, Ward 8 and Ingenuity Prep and E.L Haynes and Parent Leader</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Almost 20% of students who live in Ward 8 are currently receiving special education services. I am the proud parent of a student who receives these services at a school in Ward 8. - Often times, parents of these students have to obtain legal representation or an advocate to get their children's needs met. It's not enough to continue to tell parents that either OSSE or PCSB or DCPS is conducting a desk audit or investigation and its not enough for these things to happen without Parents being contacted for comments and input. - As a Ward 8 Councilmember, how will you work with Parents when presented with allegations of mishandling of special education students, non compliance of IEP services, or other adverse things that may affect the overall success of children who receive Special Education Services and make sure they get the quality education they deserve?
<p>Samori Williams, Thurgood Marshall Academy Student</p>	<p>For a long time one of the biggest barriers between ward 8 residents and quality high paying jobs has been criminal records. With companies changing their standards due to COVID-19 how do you plan on ensuring residents get in to those jobs once the stay at home order has become lifted.</p>