

**AFSCME DISTRICT COUNCIL 47**  
**2023 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**  
**(City Council District and City Council-At-Large)**

**CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Candidate Personal Contact Information (Fields marked with asterisks are required)**

Name: Mark F. Squilla  
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**Campaign Contact Information**

Full Name of Campaign Committee: Squilla For Council  
HQ Address: PO Box, Phila, PA 19148  
Campaign Manager Name: Dan Stevenson  
Campaign Manager Phone: 2154167441  
Campaign Manager E-Mail: Dan.Stevenson.Phila@gmail.com

**Candidacy Information**

What office are you seeking? City Council

If you are running for a district seat, in which district are you running? 1st

Are you the incumbent? \*    Yes  No             If yes, year first elected: 2011

With which party are you registered? Democrat

Please list union leaders you seek input from when developing your legislative agenda: All  
Unions that will be impacted by any legislation

Who are your opponents? None

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If there is not sufficient space to respond to the following questions, please attach additional sheets to the questionnaire.

**CAMPAIGN**

1. Briefly describe your campaign's path to victory. What issues will you be emphasizing throughout your campaign and why?

\_\_\_\_\_Unopposed\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_Public Safety, Affordable housing, Job creation, Education, prevailing wage growth\_\_\_\_\_

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**PHILADELPHIA ECONOMY**

2. Do you support raising the Living Wage requirement of employers that do business with the city from its current rate? What would your approach be to promoting a Living Wage requirement for employers not covered by the Living Wage Ordinance?

\_\_\_\_\_I introduced the Living Wage bill to make the min \$15/hr and will continue to support raising the rate.\_\_\_\_\_

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- 3. The City requires companies with 10 or more employees to provide paid sick leave. Many states and cities have similar laws with no exemptions. Would you support updating the legislation to put it in line with what other states and cities have passed?

\_\_\_\_\_yes\_\_\_\_\_

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**PENSION/RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

- 4. What is your position on the current cap on annual contribution in the defined benefit plan by employees in the stacked hybrid plan of the Municipal Employee Pension system? Should the cap be indexed to include automatic increases tied to salary increases?

\_\_\_\_\_yes\_\_\_\_\_

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**EDUCATION/SCHOOL BOARD**

- 5. What qualities and experience would you look for in appointees to the School Board? What standards should School Board appointees use to evaluate current or proposed privatization measures (e.g., charter schools)?

\_\_\_\_\_I believe that half the board should be elected by the voters in order for them be held accountable for their decisions

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- 6. How would you work to support acquiring fair State funding for the Philadelphia School District? What experience and relationships do you have working with entities in Harrisburg that would help accomplish that?

\_\_\_\_\_ We work great with our State delegation and support the court ruling that the funding formula was unconstitutional. I am a member of the Fund our Facilities coalition and support of additional resources for or School buildings

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**CITY SERVICES**

- 7. What are your priorities for funding City and Court services? How would you ensure that these services are provided equitably throughout the city?

\_\_\_\_\_ **We will work with both the Court Administrators and unions to advocated for addition funding to make sure we can get the equity that is needed**

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- 8. What level of services should the city support to fully fund and fully staff our Library and Parks and Recreation systems? Please explain your position and how you believe those systems can be funded.

\_\_\_\_\_ **P&R and Libraries are an important part of our investment in crime prevention and support full funding**

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9. How would you address staffing shortages throughout departments, including those that are a result of unfilled positions? What initiatives would you put in place to help hire and retain current City / Court workers?

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**I am a part of the committee reviewing the hiring practices of the city and recommending increase in salaries , signing bonuses and retention bonuses.**

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10. What is your position on the privatization of City services?

opposed

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**ENVIRONMENT**

11. What steps do you want the city to take to address climate change and to shift away from fossil fuels toward renewable energy sources? Do you support the City amending its investment portfolio to divest from fossil fuel companies?

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**We need to gradually move away from fossil fuels and incetivuse the use of renewable energy**

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**TAXES**

12. What measures would you support to make sure that wealthy non-profits pay their fair share to support City and Court services?

\_\_\_\_\_ I know PILOTS have been discussed and are an option but I would support the payment of Real-estate taxes

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13. Would you support any changes to the city's property tax abatement program? If not, please explain why. If so, please explain how?

\_\_\_\_\_ yes  
I believe we should further support abatements for affordable housing.

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14. How would you reform city taxes to increase revenue? What is your position on the Net Income and Gross Receipts Tax and on the Wealth Tax legislation? If you have other ideas to increase revenue, please explain them.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not believe we need to raise taxes and we can grow our tax base through job creation and increase in salaries.

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**PHILADELPHIA HOUSING**

15. Do you support increasing revenue for the Housing Trust Fund to help residents avoid displacement in communities currently facing development pressure?

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           **Yes**  
**I supported the 1% construction tax to help grow the Housing trust fund**

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16. As a city elected official, what steps will you take to ensure local government plays a proactive role in expanding permanent affordable and workforce housing in Philadelphia?

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           **1% construction tax, Increase subsidies for affordable housing like the abatement and look at zoning to add affordability**

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17. Do you support extending good cause eviction protections to all residential leases? Do you support rent control measures to protect Philadelphia tenants?

**Yes I support good cause and supported the legislation and need to better understand how rent control has worked in other municipalities to protect renters**

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**PHILADELPHIA RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**

18. Do you support revising the Memo of Understanding between the Philadelphia Police Department and Philadelphia School District to close the school to prison pipeline? If yes, explain how you would accomplish this. If no, please explain why?

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\_\_\_\_\_ **yes** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **We need the PPD and School district to collaborate together and make this a priority as it is in the best interest of both organizations. I will work with the new Mayor to make this a priority** \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

19. Do you support additional funding for programs that are alternatives to incarceration for drug addiction, mental health treatment, and other issues? If yes, how would you measure the effectiveness of those programs? If no, please explain.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **yes** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I worked with the DA, Police, Courts, Defenders association, City solicitor, MDO ect to implement AMP and create a diversion to arrest. \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

20. What community policing initiatives do you support or propose? Please explain.

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\_\_\_\_\_ **I support Community policing through PAL and foot/Beat patrols to build trust in the community** \_\_\_\_\_

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21. What funding and staffing proposals would you support to enhance probation and parole services for Philadelphians under supervised release?

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**Work with Probation and Parole to see what they believe would work best to improve outcomes**

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22. What funding and staffing proposals would you support for the Department of Prisons to ensure incarcerated citizens are best prepared for return to the community from incarceration or from alternative detention programs?

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**Funding for MAT for addicted and a warm handoff to services once they are released. Also work on Housing to make sure residents are not released nto the streets with no where to go**

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23. What steps do you believe the City can take to reduce the availability of guns in Philadelphia?

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**We have 2 cases pending at the Supreme Courts but still need to work with our state partners to pass commonsense gun laws and prosecute straw buyers and ghost guns**

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24. Do you have any plans regarding programs that support and protect victims of crime and other affected members of the community?

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**The DA has a victim/Witness service program, but we need to better invest in protection, relocation and guidance.**

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**PHILADELPHIA CORPORATE POWER**

25. Do you support publicly financed campaigns for all City elected offices? If no, please explain.

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**yes**

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26. Do you support legislation that enables the City to recover subsidies from corporations or other businesses that fail to provide jobs or other benefits to city residents as a condition of the subsidies? Please explain.

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**yes**

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**RESIDENCY ISSUE**

27. What is your position on City and Court employees having the option to live outside the city? Please explain.

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I believe you should live in the City to have to work for the city

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28. Are there any other issues you'd like to mention about which we have not asked you in this questionnaire?

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\_\_\_\_\_ No

Thank you \_\_\_\_\_

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