Q1

Please enter your contact info here

* Name:Keith Baraka
* Phone #: 415-577-6858
* Email:keithbaraka+dccc@gmail.com

Q2

Why do you want to be a member of the County Central Committee of your party? If you are currently a member, why are you seeking another term? (Please Limit your response to 250 words)

I have earned my seat at the table. I have decades of adult life experience and my day job centers around helping others as a Firefighter for the SFFD. I earned a B.A. from The Ohio State University in 1988. My brand of politics is rooted in integrity, compassion, truth-telling, authenticity, mutual respect, showing up, and doing the work of the party. Fighting for progressive values like medicare for all, the concept that housing is a human right, and criminal justice reform. I am seeking another term to continue this work and to retain representation from a segment of this community that has experienced an enormous amount of gentrification and out-migration. As a Black, gay, homeowner in SF, I believe I have a moral obligation to serve in this capacity.

Q3

What do you see as the city's most important environmental issue, and why? (please limit your response to 250 words)

The sheer number of vehicles on the road in SF has caused Carmageddon! Too many cars are running on fossil fuels. The BOS should consider legislation requiring rideshare companies like Uber & Lyft to maintain a fleet with a certain percentage of electric vehicles. The toxic superfund site at the shipyard in D10 is an absolute disgrace. Haven’t the folk in these communities suffered enough? I have spoken with Supervisor Walton on the matter, but frankly, it should be something our federal representatives should make a priority. This is the most pressing environmental justice issue right here in our back yard! Furthermore, Bike Coalition has done a superb job thus far in helping make our streets safer for cyclists but SF could do better in terms of clearing red tape. More cyclists mean fewer cars on our streets.

Q4

What do you see as the function of the County Central Committee? What are its strengths and weaknesses? What role does it play with environmental issues? (please limit your response to 250 words)

The function of the DCCC is to register voters, raise money for the party to make things like "Red to Blue" come to life, endorse local candidates and measures, and engage the local electorate through community engagement and outreach. Our body also makes policy statements through resolutions.

Q5

What relationship do you see between environmental protection and the quality of life in San Francisco? (please limit your response to 250 words)

Mass transit is broken in San Francisco, and it isn’t reliable for a lot of people, mainly working-class and lower-income families. I live on the West Side of town. Frequently, whether it be due to a very full, hectic schedule of my choosing, or, the time it takes to get to the other side of the city; it doesn’t leave enough time to get from point A to B. If we had more reliable service this could be mitigated somewhat. As a board member of Alice, we have tried to make some inroads with the MTA, but it is a work-in-progress. Better management and coordination among our various modes of mass-transit would be a good start. I also like having the option of using alternate forms of transportation like rental scooters and bikes (I recommend them to all that will listen). I am so thrilled they are back in the city. I truly believe they make a difference in reducing emissions. Just don’t forget your helmet! These items along with preparing our city for inevitable future sea rise (building the sea wall, mitigating flooding with engineered drainage systems in flood-prone areas) could go a long way in improving the lives of San Franciscans now and into the future.

Q6

Why do you want the SFLCV's endorsement? (please limit your response to 250 words)

I want the SFLCV's endorsement because we need leaders with diverse backgrounds from all walks of life. As a Black, gay, homeowner in San Francisco, I would like to continue the work I have started. I authored a resolution to support the CCSF Retirement Board divestiture in fossil fuels, the resolution passed overwhelmingly, but the Retirement Board is taking a more conservative approach. I want to keep up the pressure to make this happen and for it to come to fruition. Lastly, Black folk for centuries, have suffered extreme injustices, environmental and otherwise. It is quite the miracle that I stand today, a college graduate, 22+ year firefighter, and homeowner here in SF. These accomplishments did not flow to me out of thin air, and I have worked hard to achieve the "American Dream" through much adversity, determination, and the knowledge that I did not get here on my own. It was the work of my ancestors, my community, activists before me, friends, and of course, family. It would be an honor to have SFLCV's endorsement so that I can continue to do the work our community needs around environmental justice and conservation.