

Name: Husniyah Dent
Bradley
Seeking Office:
Richfield City Council
(At-Large)

Interview #5

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How long have you lived in your community?

20 years

Are you a Homeowner or Renter?

Homeowner

Do you own other real property (e.g. Business, Cabin, Investment, or Rental Property)? If so, which?

No

Describe your civic and/or community engagement.

I have been involved in the community for a long time. I previously served as a DFL Senate District Vice chair for 8 years and the Congressional District 5 (CD5) chair and with those roles I planned precinct caucuses and conventions and had a lot of exposure to community leaders. I currently serve as the president or chair of the Richfield Foundation, the chair of the Richfield Transportation commission, and past Richfield Human Rights Commission member. I am the district alternate on the Transportation Advisory Board with MET council and on the Transportation Equity Policy group.

What is your fundraising goal? How much have you raised to date?

My goal is \$10,000. I have raised \$3,000 so far.

Are you accepting PAC contributions?

Yes

Please list any notable supporters or groups of supporters for your campaign

Richfield DFL, Richfield Firefighter L1215, LiUNA MN &ND, AFSCME Council 5, Women Winning, Black Women Rising, County Commissioner Debbie Goettel, Richfield City Councilmember Mary Supple, Past City Councilmember Edwina Garcia, Richfield Mayor Maria Regan Gonzalez, Richfield City Councilmember Simon Trauttman, Richfield City Councilmember Sean Hayford Oleary, Richfield City Councilmember Ben Whalen, MN State Representative Mike Howard, MN State Senator Melissa Wicklund, MN State Senator Bobby Jo Champion, Minneapolis City Councilmember Andrea Jenkins, Minneapolis City

Councilmember Jason Chavez, Minneapolis City Councilmember Latrisha Vetaw, MN State Representative Ruth Richardson, MN State Representative Ginny Klevorn, MN State Representative Kristin Bahner, among others.

What are the most important housing challenges facing your community?

Making it affordable for people to stay in their homes as they age, affordable housing units within the newly developed luxury apartment complexes, and aging housing stock.

The Twin Cities Metro is facing a housing shortage unlike any we have experienced in recent history. What will you do to increase the number of homes available to residents of your community?

I will work with the other councilmembers to ensure that new housing units are built in the city as new land becomes available or as land is repurposed. If there are open lots available then encourage people to build new homes in the lot. There will be an increase in the number of people moving out of their homes as they retire and want to move into senior housing and that will make the availability of homes increase at varying times..

Minnesota has one of the largest homeownership gaps between Whites and Blacks, Indigenous, and People of Color. This is one of MAR's primary concerns. What would you propose at the local level to close this home ownership gap?

Educating more Black people, Indigenous, and People of Color about home ownership programs that are available. More opportunities need to open up for Black and Indigenous people and barriers need to be removed like some of the issues that they have historically ran into it with lending, appraisers, agents, etc. There have been major roadblocks to them attaining homes in MN due to prejudice, racism, discrimination, and bias.

How do you think the city can best balance the rights of tenants and property owners to effectively manage rental housing?

By listening to the concerns of both property owners and tenants as issues arise. The city should have listening sessions when new developers are attempting to apply for ordinance changes of particular plots of land around the city and the city should weigh the benefits vs liabilities of the project. If the city receives complaints or concerns from tenants then they should be properly investigated and the city should try to come up with the best way to resolve the issue that is beneficial for both parties involved. The city should take into consideration both tenants rights and property owners rights when approving new projects that will impact their areas.

What are your views on property tax rates in your community? Do you have concerns related to the city's property tax rate? If so, how would you address those concerns once elected?

The property taxes in my area have steadily increased over the last few years. It has made a big jump a few times but the increase did not go too high. I think that every once in awhile property owners need a break and therefore no increase for a year and then back to a small increase the following year. The city has been able to raise revenue from the property taxes because of the new buildings that have been built over the last few years. I currently do not have any major concerns with the property tax rate but I have seen that for some properties throughout the city, the tax rate may be too high for the older properties that do not have major upgrades. It has been questioned before by property owners, whether or not the rate is correct and there is currently a way to bring those questions and concerns forward to the county assessor.

Please provide links to all social media accounts connected to you or your campaign if any.

<https://www.facebook.com/HusniyahDent>, @Pleasant_11, IG: gently75

The Minneapolis Area Association of REALTORS(R) may plan to interview some candidates virtually, would you be willing to participate, if contacted?

Yes