





# **People-Centered Platform**

## Shaping our Future via Community-led Democracy in 2017 and Beyond



#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The 2017 City Council Movement was developed from the political caucus of Rescue and Restoration. Rescue and Restoration is a community organizing effort established in 2014 to address health, political, education and economic issues that affect predominantly African-American communities. The Movement's Mission is to strengthen the people's political power by holding elected officials accountable via organizing, education and participatory democracy; and secure political representatives who maintain practices and implement projects that demonstrate viable effective economic and social impact on people of color, working class and marginalized communities.



### **MANIFESTO**

It is time to make effective changes in the way our government is run and manipulated by special interest groups. It is time to open the local budget process for public input and transparency regarding how public funds are spent. It is past time to bring community voices into political decision making. As local residents and engaged voters who live, work and pay taxes in this city, we publicly declare that 'we the people' know best how to run and make decisions for our own communities. We have a right to be heard and represented in our city's daily governance, which includes city management, budgeting and development. We insist political decisions regarding our lives and our communities are not controlled by large corporations or their local, state and national representatives. We are committed. We affirm to correct our course and invite others of goodwill and intent to join us and add their energy, vision, courage and commitment to our process of building better communities.



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#### **GOALS**

- 1. Organize people of color, working class and marginalized communities to **build local political power** for the specific purpose of greatly improving these communities.
- 2. Establish a **community-led** process that models democracy in action.
- 3. Elect public representatives who maintain community accountability and adequately represent the needs of all residents including racially diverse and economically challenged communities that have been traditionally under served.
- 4. Engage all public officials in the process of improving services to these communities.
- 5. Host city-wide and district workshops, forums and assemblies; and restructure civic engagement in marginalized communities for the purpose of achieving these goals.



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