

COALITION FOR A BETTER MEMPHIS
Shelby County Commissioner Candidate Questionnaire
Election Date: May 6, 2014

**AN ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THIS FILE CAN BE RECEIVED BY SENDING AN EMAIL
TO peggy@bettermemphis.org**

Name: Naser Fazlullah _____

District for which you are running: ___ District 3 _____

Section 1: Qualifications and Background (2 questions)

Section 2: Vision and Strategies (4 questions)

Section 3: Improving the System of Government (4 questions)

1. QUALIFICATIONS AND BACKGROUND

- 1. Describe your qualifications for holding the office of Shelby County Commissioner. I am the poster child for the American dream in very humble way. I went to Bishop state community college, a predominantly black college. I worked from cleaning the floors, flipping burgers to an assistant manager in less than a year and worked my way up to corporate level in a very short period of time. I am well known for “compassionate, no nonsense” management style. I have successfully managed diverse employees from teens to adults, all economic levels, multi-racial, different cultures, different religions, men women but with all of them I am well respected because I am firm and fair. As general manager, district manager my stores consistently did better financially than any other stores in the district and state, and that was due to my managing “content workers”! I worked for a international trading company where I gained experience to deal with people with different ethnicity and culture.**

2. What events or experiences caused you to decide to run for this office?

Policies and guidelines that directly impact businesses.

2. VISION AND STRATEGIES

- 1. In your opinion, what are the three greatest issues (problems or opportunities) facing Shelby County in the next four years? Moral improvement, improvement education and economic growth.**

I would influence change for a more vibrant environment for the small business and their customers. More business more income and less or no debt. Minimize the excessive regulations that strangle business growth and innovation.

- 2. How would you recommend we continue to pay down County debt and still fulfill the financial obligations of the County? What budget priorities must take precedence? Stop spending, infrastructure should be priority.**

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3. What are your views regarding the best way to fund public education of Shelby County and Memphis children? Schools are run by the individual school boards, my job would be to help them secure the funding they need to operate efficiently.

4. Some people believe that urban communities should adopt policies that encourage what is called “smart growth.” Do you believe Shelby County should have a general policy about new residential and commercial

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developments? If so, what should that policy be? Yes, with the allowances of variances to the plan with no over regulation from government.

- 5. Are you satisfied with the economic growth (jobs and income) of Shelby County today? If not, what should the county government do to improve economic development efforts? What incentives would you support or oppose be used to attract future economic development? Improve tax incentives to attract future developments.**

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3. IMPROVING THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

- 1. What do you regard as the greatest obstacle or barrier to economic growth in Shelby County today? What can the County Commission do to reduce that impediment? Too many vacant buildings, decaying infrastructure. We must clear a path for businesses large & small to move into these areas and promote growth and community pride.**

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- 2. What is your philosophy about offering incentives to companies that are considering major new investments or job expansions in Shelby County?**

As just stated we need growth and to do that incentives need to be offered or companies will go to other counties.

- 3. We must increase our revenue by promoting business. What is your position on consolidation of city and county governments?**

Maintain sovereignty of both. The city is not in position to handle the business of both the county & city.

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- 4. When you complete your service as commissioner, what do you want your legacy to be? I want to be remembered as Naser, the commissioner who listened to everyone, honestly answered people's concerns, whether they liked the answer or not, and tried to address their concerns the best way I knew how. But, always worked my hardest to do what was best, not for me, but for the citizens of my community.**

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