

## **Jai-Lee Dearing**

**Age:** 36

**Current Occupation:** Business Owner

**Education:** Wilberforce University

**Felony Convictions:** None

**Campaign Website:** [www.dearingfordetroit.com](http://www.dearingfordetroit.com)

**Campaign Contact Number:** 313-685-2304

### **Why are you running for Detroit City Council?**

My family has been in business in the city of Detroit for 86 years. I am the 4th generation of my family to run businesses in our city, I currently operate Bert's in Eastern Market and Bert's on Broadway. I am running for Detroit City Council because I believe our greatest challenges are really opportunities. As an entrepreneur, in good times and bad, I have found new ways to grow my business. I have created hundreds of jobs, balanced my books and helped serve our community. As Detroit's Housing Commissioner I managed nearly a half billion dollars in federal funds, and fought the very same corruption and abuse that holds our city back today. Because of my business and government experience I am in a unique position to serve the citizens of Detroit. We need leadership in our city that understands what businesses need to grow and create jobs. We need leadership that understands how to balance budgets, generate new revenue and run government more efficiently and effectively. We need leadership that embraces challenges as opportunities, leadership that guarantees we have a council that works for the people and not itself. I am running for Detroit City Council not because I need a job, but because I want to go do a job for every Detroiter. This is Our Time. This is Our City. And there is nothing wrong with Detroit that Detroiters can't fix.

### **What are your top 3 priorities for Detroit? \***

Detroit faces a great many challenges in the days ahead, but to lay down the foundation for the revitalization of our city, we must first accomplish the following 3 goals. Here you will find my priorities listed broadly, to learn more about my plans to accomplish these goals, please visit [www.dearingfordetroit.com](http://www.dearingfordetroit.com).

1. First we must balance our budget and build a more efficient and cost effective government. This means looking at every department and eliminating bureaucracy and excess spending where we can. In many departments there are too many managers, but not enough frontline workers to deliver quality services. In addition, we must find new ways for our city to capitalize on its assets and generate new revenue. Two of my initiatives could generate nearly \$200 million in new revenue for our city each year; visit my website to learn more.

2. As a city council we must focus on creating a business friendly environment in Detroit, an environment that lowers the cost of doing business for companies both large and small. My proposals

will create that environment, and not only attract new businesses, but empower Detroiters to build their own businesses, create jobs and support our community. Many of my initiatives focus on new development, not downtown, but in our neighborhoods through more targeted micro-capitalism efforts.

3. We must use savings from a more efficient government, the transfer of Cobo Hall to a regional authority, and money generated by new revenue streams to give the Detroit Police Department the funding, resources and equipment they need to keep our streets safe. In addition, I have proposed a new policy that would focus law enforcement attention on gun trafficking, illegal gun sales and felony gun offenders. If we want to keep our streets safe, we must get these guns out of the hands of criminals. With a safer Detroit, it will make attracting new businesses, re-building our neighborhoods and educating our children much easier.

**What have been your 2 greatest contributions to the public good? \***

Each week my businesses pass out nearly one hundred paychecks, helping put food on tables and keep roofs over heads. For 86 years my family has been proud to provide jobs and good services to Detroiters and hope to continue doing so in the years and decades ahead.

Also, through my business my family and I have been able to offer scholarships to many of our younger employees. These young folks have attended universities in Michigan and around the nation.

**What is the unique characteristic that makes you stand out among the 167 candidates running for City Council?**

There are many good people running for city council this time around, but there are none with the combined business and government experience that will allow them to hit the ground running as new council members. Being a member of city council is about service, not employment, and my experience has allowed me the opportunity to use my skill set to serve the people of Detroit.

This is perhaps Detroit's most critical hour. With unemployment at depression era levels, crime on the rise and a school system that can't educate our children, Detroit needs bold new leadership who is ready to take on these great challenges on day one. I believe this is our chance to rebuild Detroit as the first true 21st century city. With your support, and your vote, I know that together we can revitalize the city we all love.