

LaRuby May

My name is LaRuby May and I am a candidate for DC City Council to represent my community in Ward 8. I have been asked numerous times "Why are you running?" For some, I may seem like an unusual candidate. I am not a politico by trade nor have I ever run for office. But as a long term Ward 8 resident, I have seen many changes within our Ward and I appreciate the diversity in our city. I love and believe in Ward 8. I strongly believe that if given the right resources and leadership, we can live up to our full potential as a Ward. That is why I am running to represent my community.

Many people see Ward 8 in a negative light but the realities of Ward 8 residents prove that to be greatly untrue. I appreciate the hard work of leaders such as Phillip Pannell and Brad Lewis and their efforts to highlight the many wonderful positives aspects of Ward 8. If elected, I will help dispel these rumors by reaffirming our city's commitment to serving all residents. A top priority is ensuring we are building FOR Ward 8. There is so much potential in Ward 8 and we must tailor future economic growth projects to better address pressing issues within our community like job creation, affordable housing and available commercial development so we can collectively achieve economic success. Specifically we must address the quality of city services provided for Ward 8 residents, especially our seniors and the LGBTQ community. It is important for us to eliminate the barriers that keep residents from accessing important government and nutritional services like quality healthcare, safe housing and reliable transportation. I have been blessed to provide safe work spaces and housing for young adults in the LGBTQ community for over 15 years. When the work environment is safe for our LGBTQ members it is a better environment for every employee.

Lastly, I want to ensure we live in a safe ward. We need to increase public safety through community policing, job creation and youth development programming to help Ward 8 solve the public safety issues in our neighborhoods. This is an especially important issue for our gay, lesbian and transgendered community who are unfortunately the target of hate crimes on our city's streets. Earlier this month, Sgt. Jessica Hawkins took over the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit on a full-time basis. As monumental as her appointment is, it reaffirms that there is so much more to do. Too many of our LGBTQ community members are targets of crime and then not provided quality services by our public safety officials. Although GLLU officers are now regularly detailed to ordinary patrol duties throughout the city, we still need to ensure they are equipped with the tools they need to properly serve the LGBTQ community. I look forward to working with the LGBTQ community as Ward 8 provides leadership for the District.