

CROWDED FIELD

Incumbent City Councilor Ricky Burgess faces three challengers: former City Councilor Twanda Carlisle, businessman Andre Young and long-time community organizer Judith Ginyard. The candidates agree on the problems facing the impoverished district, which includes Homewood, Garfield, Larimer, Point Breeze, Friendship and parts of East Liberty, but differ in their blueprints for making improvements.

{ COMPILED BY REBECCA NUTTALL }

CANDIDATE	 <p>RICKY BURGESS</p>	 <p>TWANDA CARLISLE</p>	 <p>JUDITH GINYARD</p>	 <p>ANDRE YOUNG</p>
BIOGRAPHY	<p>The two-term incumbent wears many hats. Along with his council duties, he has served as pastor of Nazarene Baptist Church for the past 30 years and teaches communications at Community College of Allegheny County.</p>	<p>Served on city council for five years before resigning while under indictment for charges of theft and criminal conspiracy. Was convicted of diverting \$42,000 in public money for personal use and sentenced to state prison. Since being released, she has worked as a receptionist for the Pittsburgh branch of the NAACP.</p>	<p>For eight years, Ginyard served as the executive director of the Lincoln-Larimer Community Development Corporation. She is currently the workforce-development and training coordinator at the Homewood-based Community Empowerment Association. Ginyard also owned her own real-estate firm and is a veteran of the United States Army.</p>	<p>As an entrepreneur, Andre Young has owned a variety of businesses including stationery, seasonal, gift and coffee stores. He is also currently a partner in businesses at the Pittsburgh International Airport. He is on the board of Pittsburgh Major Taylor Cycling Club and helped develop a program to provide bikes to Pittsburgh youth.</p>
PUBLIC SAFETY	<p>Claims to have proposed more legislation related to public safety than any of his predecessors. Responsible for: creating the Pittsburgh Initiative to Reduce Crime; implementing the Shotspotter gunshot-detection system; and 40 surveillance cameras. He also sponsored legislation to require annual reports from the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police.</p>	<p>Is an advocate of more diversity on the police force and would look at testing barriers that prohibit African Americans from getting onto the force. Would also push for more police officers to walk through neighborhoods and get to know residents.</p>	<p>Says elected officials need to speak out against police brutality, and police officers must be fired if they engage in such conduct. In terms of reducing crime, she is critical of Councilor Burgess' initiatives, saying they haven't reduced homicides in the district and have unfairly targeted ex-offenders.</p>	<p>Says local incidents of police brutality, particularly the case of Leon Ford, who was shot and paralyzed by Pittsburgh police, were what inspired him to run for office. Young says education is key to reducing youth crime and would work to spur youth interest in public-safety careers.</p>
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	<p>Says he's responsible for the largest development investment the district has seen in 50 years: a \$30 million, 400-home development in Larimer. During his tenure, he's also fought to make sure CDBG funds are used for individual neighborhood needs, instead of city-wide distribution. District CDBG funds are distributed through the nonprofit POISE foundation.</p>	<p>During her time on council, Carlisle allocated funds for a Walgreens pharmacy in Point Breeze and development in Garfield. When it comes to future development, she says community input is integral to preserving the "community's roots." Would work to rehabilitate existing homes in the district instead of tearing down homes and giving land to developers.</p>	<p>With experience in residential development as a real-estate broker, and through involvement in the construction of new homes in the district, she would use construction companies within the community to spur new development. Would also bring control of the district's CDBG monies back to the council office and says residents should have more input in development.</p>	<p>As a proponent of home ownership, Young would dedicate resources to helping residents become self-sufficient. "Homeownership is an integral part of building wealth," Young says. He's also a proponent of increasing services for senior citizens who want to remain in their homes.</p>
EMPLOYMENT	<p>Says the district has seen an increase in contracts for minority developers, leading to an increase in employment opportunities. Also worked to make the minority-contract process more transparent. Sponsored legislation to ban questions regarding a person's criminal background from city job applications.</p>	<p>Says it is important to create "family-sustaining" jobs in the district. Says she would continue to push for African Americans to be employed by developments in their communities as she did during her time on council.</p>	<p>Ginyard operates a construction-industry training program for young adults and would be an advocate for expanding similar programs. Says her work has connected youth with entry-level positions and she would use this expertise to increase employment throughout the district. Would also partner with local businesses and nonprofits to train youth in other fields.</p>	<p>As a business owner, Young says he has employed more than 200 individuals. Would focus efforts on job-training and workforce development in the trade industries. He's especially interested in helping locals take advantage of jobs associated with the Marcellus Shale industry. Is working to build transportation infrastructure to connect District 9 residents with those jobs through the Homewood-Brushton Business Association.</p>
FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS	<p>Endorsed by the Allegheny County Democratic Committee, the Allegheny County Labor Council and the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers.</p>	<p>Has not received any endorsements.</p>	<p>Has been endorsed by the Steel City Stonewall Democrats.</p>	<p>While Young's only endorsement came from the Sierra Club, he has also drawn support from Vernard Alexander, a prominent figure in the African-American community.</p>