

## 12<sup>th</sup> Suffolk District Representative *Dorchester Reporter* Questionnaire: Jovan Lacet

### **1. What is your name, age, place of birth, and present address?**

Jovan Lacet. Age 51. Born in Haiti, W.I. Presently reside at 30 Cedar Street in Mattapan. I've lived in the 12<sup>th</sup> Suffolk since 2000 and have lived in the 12<sup>th</sup> Suffolk for thirty-seven of the forty-five years I have lived in Mattapan and Dorchester.

### **2. Please describe your professional background. Feel free to note any experience that may be relevant to your candidacy.**

I am a United States Marine Corps Veteran, former Boston Police Officer and a nineteen-year Practicing Attorney.

### **3. Please describe your community background. Feel free to note any local organizations with which you have been involved.**

I have been a productive working member of the Mattapan, Dorchester, Hyde Park, Roslindale, Roxbury and Milton communities since I was a child.

I worked on Boston and Milton residents' motor vehicles for free or for a minimal fee from the summer of 1976 to the summer of 1983 when I worked at my parents' AMACO Gas Station/Garage at the corner of Blue Hill Avenue and Hazelton Street, Mattapan. Later after I proudly served my country in the US Marines, I worked as a mentor and coordinator of a youth non-violence program at the Roxbury YMCA during part of my last two years at UMass Boston, 1990 to 1992.

As a Boston Police Officer, I served and protected the Boston Community that I grew up in with pride and distinction. I policed the community as a member of that community. I policed the community to work with the community. I engaged in true community policing when I worked as a Boston Police Officer. As a nineteen-year practicing attorney, much of my weekly work is pro bono work. I assist many Boston and surrounding suburb residents with legal matters for free.

Besides the answers of prayers, the pro bono and everyday legal work that I deal with on a regular basis is but one of the many things that drew me to the calling of a state legislator. Many of our laws are archaic and need to be changed and we also need to legislate and or lobby for policies and/or laws to address many concerns of the 12<sup>th</sup> Suffolk residents.

### **4. What is your party affiliation and how would you characterize your political ideology?**

I am a registered Democrat. I am an independent Democrat who will work with all party affiliations and residents to bring about what is in the best interest of the 12<sup>th</sup> Suffolk.

### **5. Please name up to three (and at least one) of your political role models? Please feel free to explain your choices.**

President Barrack Obama. President Obama has been one of our smartest and best presidents. Although the Republicans placed many barriers in his way, President Obama does not disparage the Republicans and continues to work with the Republicans to do what is in the best interest of our country. The President is a true family man as I am. He does not put his job before his family duties. He understands and practices the true art of being a father and husband. Lastly, President Obama has always been a voice and a leader of his surrounding community.

**6. If this is your first run for office, what drew you to seek this post? If you are an incumbent, what would you like to build upon from your earlier terms?**

I am running for the 12<sup>th</sup> Suffolk State Representative in order to give the 12<sup>th</sup> Suffolk a voice that will speak to their concerns, advocate, legislate and lobby for laws and policies that will address their concerns, which are also my concerns.

**7. What are some policy platforms you would like to highlight during the campaign?**

To name a few: Public Safety (Police and residents working together and respecting each other to establish the common goal of having a clean, safe, vibrant and friendly Boston and Milton). Have the police force make-up resemble the community it works in; Education, improve and provide more resources to our traditional public schools; Employment; Housing, Affordable rental and home ownership for seniors, veterans and working residents.

Part of my senior care program will work with small and big companies in Massachusetts to provide part-time jobs to many retired seniors who want to work for income to supplement their pensions and/or other retired income. I will also work to obtain more paid internships and part-time work for youth who want to supplement their household income and/or to simply earn their own pocket money for their afterschool and weekend activities. CORI Reform.

I will work with the local and federal government and private agencies to change the CORI system so that we can allow our fellow residents who have served their time in incarceration and paid for their alleged misdeed a true second chance to start over and go to school and/or obtain employment that will allow them to be productive members of society and care for themselves and their families.

**8. Boston is in the midst of a development boom. How do you plan to advocate on behalf of the neighborhood in ensuring responsible development projects are considered and constructed?**

I definitely plan to keep the 12<sup>th</sup> Suffolk Residents aware of the development that is planned and those in discussion. Most importantly, I want to work with the residents, the Community Development Councils (CDC), Neighborhood Development Associations (NDA), establish a working CDC and NDA for Mattapan and insure that the CDCs, and most importantly, the residents have a say as to whether they want certain developments to take place in their immediate community.

Many developments are taking place today in the 12<sup>th</sup> Suffolk without any input from the neighboring residents/community. This practice has to stop. Mattapan, Dorchester, Hyde Park and Milton residents should have a say in all the developments that are taking place or are planned to take place. Under my Team leadership (the 12th Suffolk and I), we will insure that the 12<sup>th</sup> Suffolk residents have a say in the development that takes place in their neighborhood/community.

Lastly, I will advocate for a percentage of the development work that is taking place in the 12<sup>th</sup> Suffolk District be done by qualified residents of the 12<sup>th</sup> Suffolk.

**9. What would be your top priority if elected?**

Public Safety, Education, Employment and Housing opportunities for 12<sup>th</sup> Suffolk Residents.

**10. What in your experience to date will most help you to be an effective State Representative?**

I am an actual practicing attorney who lives in a community that needs actual changes and progress for all its residents. As an attorney, I've dealt with the mortgage companies, insurance companies and government

agencies, to name a few, who do not provide the majority of the 12<sup>th</sup> Suffolk residents the same quality of services that are provided to different communities in Boston and the surrounding suburbs. In 2016 and the coming 2017, the 12<sup>th</sup> Suffolk Residents can no longer accept this.