

**Mayoral Candidate Name: Ray McGuire**

## **UJA-Federation of New York's Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire**

1. Please describe the most significant challenges you believe NYC will be facing at the start of 2022, and how, should you be elected, you would address these challenges. Please provide specific plans.

New York is facing the most severe economic crisis in generations. Prior to the pandemic, 98 percent of businesses in New York City were small businesses. Now, one in three may be gone for good. Our city cannot come back unless we preserve and rebuild our small businesses and bring back the good jobs they provide. The McGuire Comeback Plan is a visionary blueprint to revitalize and rebuild our city, kickstarting the most inclusive economic recovery in New York City history. With this plan, New York City will be the center of the global economy, a juggernaut of job creation, one of the best places in the world to start and run a business, and a place that helps its people overcome current challenges and participate in the opportunities of a more equitable future.

As part of my Comeback plan, I will help existing small businesses get up and running again and make it easy for new small businesses to launch. To do this, I will introduce the Comeback Job Accelerator, a wage subsidy, which will bring back 50,000 jobs by covering 50 percent of a worker's salary for one year at small businesses that were hardest hit by the pandemic. I will also work to let them keep their city sales taxes for one year. To help these businesses pay their rent or mortgages, I will create a menu of financial relief options that can be made available to property owners in exchange for forgiving or lowering rent for tenants. Additionally, my plan includes the Comeback Bank initiative which would provide long term loans to businesses with low interest rates and deferred payments. As Mayor, I will streamline permits, inspections, and approvals to help new small businesses open quickly. Importantly, I will establish a red tape commission to identify ways to reduce wide-ranging unnecessary regulation, costs, and delays.

2. What previous experience(s) qualify you to be an effective Mayor? Why?

I have the management chops to lead New York City out of this crisis and have spent my career helping companies survive and grow. I will run the city with competence, energy, and commitment. I know how to tackle large challenges with high-stakes because of my business background. We have one shot to rebuild. We need a mayor who will think big and advance bold ideas, a person who will bring in every expert and call in every favor.

My life story, management experience, relationships, and vision give me a different perspective than those who have spent years in politics. I grew up with the same economic insecurity many New Yorkers feel today. That personal story is at the heart of my candidacy. I have robust ideas for lifting our schools, saving small businesses, creating jobs, making housing more affordable, and reducing crime in a way that respects everyone's dignity. I want every child in New York City to get the same opportunity that I did.

3. Please share your personal experience with managing organization(s). How does this management experience translate to your proposed management of New York City's 300,000+ workforce and associated operational complexities and challenges?

My experience in the private sector as a manager and senior executive of a Fortune 500 company makes me uniquely suited to improve management across the city's workforce. I spent my career helping companies survive and grow. My longstanding and unparalleled success with managing budgets in times of crisis means that I know

the steps required to heal our city's economy. Our city needs a manager who can bring accountability to a problem where too many others have passed the buck. I will instill accountability in the performance of agencies, and we need to evaluate every agency's budget, which requires a comprehensive approach. When we have waste and inefficiency in our budget it takes resources away from the communities that need them most. The critical need for budget savings means that as mayor, I am going to be uniquely involved in setting priorities. I see this also as an opportunity to streamline how city government runs. I will always keep issues of equity and the culture that makes NYC so unique from being excluded.

4. How do you intend to work with other sectors of New York City, including business and not-for-profit, to move your Mayoral agenda forward?

I will make sure local businesses, nonprofits, unions, and key community constituencies are at the table for all large projects. I understand that we cannot advance initiatives with a top down approach. I will work with communities, and ensure that local organizations are engaged and leading efforts to reimagine our neighborhoods. Virtual town hall meetings should also be held regularly to inform the public, gain their input, and to hold agencies and stakeholders accountable. I will partner with nonprofits and philanthropic organizations to be key players in my administration and to implement important policy goals. Those will include helping vaccinate hard to reach communities, eliminating food insecurity, providing childcare for all parents, expanding language access, hosting recreational programs for students and seniors, revitalizing the arts and culture sector, and investing in good quality parks. I will ensure that these organizations receive contracts and payments on time, and will provide added financial support to those that are at risk of shutting down.

5. What is your philosophy in approaching how to balance New York City's \$90+ billion budget? Please be very specific on if/when to raise taxes; what do you see as other cost saving methods such as efficiency, reducing headcount, cutting services, etc.

The elements of the Comeback plan that have a substantial expense are all economic stimulus: the wage subsidy for up to 50,000 workers, and the small business supports (keeping sales tax receipts, waiving licenses and fees.) Together those programs are projected to cost approximately \$900 million a year over two fiscal years - and that's on the higher end. If we keep the current cost savings measures in place, we can fully balance the budget with federal funds and have at least \$1B to roll into these stimulus programs. Second, there are other federal and state funding sources that we can tap - for example, money for shared work programs that could be applied to the wage subsidy. And finally, we can reduce current city spending through staff attrition and agency PEGs of up to 5%, which would yield over \$3 billion per year when fully phased in. The programs in the Comeback plan are economic stimulus designed to accelerate our recovery - and we believe that conservatively that could yield close to \$300 million in additional city revenue in FY22 and just over \$600 million more in FY23.

6. Please share your understanding of the relationship between nonprofits, and human service provision on behalf of the City of New York. Is the current relationship sustainable? What are the largest barriers to success and how will you address these to ensure the long-term viability of the provision of services and non-profit sector?

We need a top to bottom review to streamline the contracting process for nonprofits. I see the nonprofit sector as a critical component of the city's approach to service delivery. I will target contracts to nonprofits that have a track record of success and are best equipped to target hard to reach neighborhoods. Importantly, I will ensure that funding is timely and unnecessary bureaucracy is avoided. I would take a similar approach to support community nonprofits and their critical workforce as I plan to apply to help our small businesses. This will not only ensure we maintain a critical service delivery infrastructure when we most need it but will also save jobs.

7. We've seen a dramatic increase in hateful rhetoric and acts of violence in recent years, including a rise in anti-Semitism and, most recently, an escalation of attacks against Asian Americans. There has been much debate

about how to address hatred and increase individual and community security. “Defund the police” has become a rallying call for some – but what it translates to in policies varies widely. What’s your response to those who call for “defunding the police,” and how do you envision ensuring safety and security for all New Yorkers?

It is an essential responsibility of the mayor of New York City to ensure the safety of its citizens. Today, that’s not the case. We’ve seen a horrifying increase in hate crimes, especially among Jewish and Asian American communities. I will push for comprehensive anti-discrimination campaigns, and will call injustices out every time. My commitment to New Yorkers starts with doing something most leaders don’t do enough of, listening. I will listen to each community and encourage respectful, honest and constructive dialogue. As mayor, I will establish a 360 Racial Justice Task Force. The task force will bring together leaders from every ethnic community, conduct a study to evaluate the increase in racial and ethnic bias, and develop a package of recommendations to end widespread hatred in New York City in every institution. We must have aggressive enforcement, which is why I would preserve funding for the NYPD’s Hate Crime Task Force and expand resources as needed. We also need better data - underreporting means we may not be getting the right support to victims or getting investment in the places where we can make the most difference. My Safety and Justice plan includes shifting resources within the NYPD, in partnership with local precincts, to support a volunteer bystander program. This program will encourage and empower New Yorkers to do their part in ending hate.

My approach to public safety is to tackle gun violence head on, especially since our city is facing a disturbing surge in crime. This will assure a better quality of life for all New Yorkers — and at the same time tackle the root causes of so much of the current disorder. I will shift resources within the NYPD budget to increase the number of officers focused on seizing illegal weapons and preventing, investigating, and prosecuting gun crimes, integrated into broader community policing efforts in the 10 precincts suffering from the highest incidence of violent crime. I will also invest in community-based crisis management programs in these neighborhoods, and partner with local, state and federal prosecutors to crack down on the flow of illegal guns into our city. I am not for defunding the police, but I will implement new levels of accountability for both police conduct and public safety - and that will start with city hall. New Yorkers in all communities deserve policing that is respectful, accountable, and proportionate - and restoring trust in the NYPD is essential to their ability to work with communities to reduce crime.

8. The New York City government has had a tradition of supporting Holocaust survivors, from providing case management to vaccinations. As Mayor, would you commit to continuing to ensure that New York’s low-income Holocaust survivors remain cared for?

I will expand programs to protect low income Holocaust survivors and fund local nonprofits that provide them with critical social services.

9. Feeding those in need is central to many New York City human service programs – from seniors to Universal Pre-K, to school-based meals. However, specialized food supports, such as kosher and halal, are too often not incorporated in the service provision. As Mayor, would you commit to have your food insecurity policies always include kosher and halal food?

It is essential that all individuals that experience food insecurity are receiving high-quality, culturally appropriate meals. I will embed existing food distribution programs in schools, senior centers, food pantries, and home delivered meals with more nutritious and culturally sensitive food including kosher and halal requirements. I will create a “Food Access Ambassador” program that employs community members, such as NYCHA residents and members of larger congregations, to engage with neighbors in need and get them signed up to eligible programs and city services. Under my administration, the Office of Food Policy will provide public scorecards on food metrics data and reporting like cultural competency, and expand community engagement across food system

issues.

10. To gain the Democratic Socialist of America (DSA) endorsement for local office, DSA asked candidates to complete a questionnaire, including a question asking candidates to commit to not travel to Israel. Have you and/or will you reject any candidate questionnaires that ask you to commit to refusing to travel to Israel? More broadly, do you commit to opposing the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement against the state of Israel?

I absolutely condemn BDS and any other movement that seeks to exclude, delegitimize or isolate Israel. I fondly remember my first encounter with the majesty of Jerusalem. Israel is a valued and important business partner, and its advancements in technology have spurred job creation and business growth. Many Israeli startups have a big presence here in New York, which helps drive new connectivity between New York and Israeli entrepreneurs. We must continue to take advantage and build on the links we have developed with Israel.