Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson was sworn into office on July 1, 2015 to represent the Eighth District. Within his first 18 months as a Councilmember, he authored Proposition HHH, a $1.2 billion bond for permanent supportive housing, the largest investment towards ending homelessness in the nation. The Councilmember has authorized more affordable housing than anywhere in the city in his first two years in office. On the City Council, Harris-Dawson is a supporter for equity issues like homelessness, jobs, clean streets, and community policing. As a long-time community organizer in South LA, Harris-Dawson relies on his deep roots and relationships.

The Eighth District is home to over 248,000 people with the highest concentration of African Americans in the city located from the Crenshaw District, Hyde Park, and a section of Watts. The Eighth District also consists of Manchester Square, West Adams, Harvard Park, and Magnolia Square. District Eight is nearly 18 square miles, with a median household income of $32,000. Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson knows that South Los Angeles’ greatest resource is its people. The people of South Los Angeles deserve a leader, whose mission is to advocate on their behalf, put their concerns above his own, and instill leadership values in the community.

Councilmember Harris-Dawson grew up in South Los Angeles during the crack cocaine epidemic. As gang and police violence knocked on their front door, his parents moved him and his younger brother out of the neighborhood. Disappointed by being disconnected from “his village,” the Councilmember made it his life’s goal to ensure that no other family had to move out of South Los Angeles to keep their children safe.

Councilmember Harris-Dawson returned to South Los Angeles after graduating Morehouse College to work for the family real estate business. In 1995, he joined the Community Coalition, one of the most progressive non-profits in the city. His first campaign publicized the horrendous conditions of inner city high schools and the inequities in the distribution of public funding. It resulted in a groundbreaking $153 million for repair and modernization in South LA schools.

Starting in 2004, Councilmember Harris-Dawson served as President and CEO of Community Coalition, succeeding founder and current Congresswoman Karen Bass. His leadership led a capital campaign to acquire Community Coalition’s headquarters on Vermont Avenue, and grew the organization’s influence, size, and financial standing.

Councilmember Harris-Dawson was honored with various community commendations, recognitions, and awards such as the coveted Do Something “BRICK” Award, The Wellness Foundation Sabbatical Award, the NAACP Man of Valor Award, Durfee Foundation’s Stanton Fellowship, and Liberty Hill Foundation’s Upton Sinclair Award. He also served as a board member for the Liberty Hill Foundation. He holds a certificate in Nonprofit Management from Stanford’s Graduate School of Business and is an Aspen Institute Pahara Fellow.

Councilmember Harris-Dawson and his wife Karrie are natives of South Los Angeles. His love, compassion, and empathy for the city makes him a great advocate of the future.
COMMITTEES
1. Co-Chair, Homelessness & Poverty
2. Vice Chair, Planning and Land Use and Management
3. Member, Economic Development
4. Member, Housing
5. Member, Personnel & Animal Welfare
6. Member, Elections
7. Member, Intergovernmental Relations
8. Member, Neighborhoods

GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION

NEIGHBORHOODS:
- Baldwin Hills
- Chesterfield Square
- Crenshaw
- Leimart Park
- Jefferson Park
- West Adams
- Vermont Knolls
- King Estates
- Canterbury Knolls
- Park Mesa Heights
- Hyde Park
- Vermont Vista
- Green Meadows
- View Heights
- West Park Terrace
TOP PRIORITY ISSUES

• **Homelessness and Poverty**
  Homelessness is affecting every area of our City and as Chair of the Homelessness and Poverty Committee, Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson is focusing his efforts on serving the most vulnerable members of our community. To combat this crisis, we need to create a citywide strategic plan to ameliorate the multitude of issues affecting our Angelenos living on the streets. We need to increase financial stability and job opportunities as well as provide better integration of services throughout the City and County to ensure people have the support they need to get back onto their feet. Our housing stock needs to grow considerably in all areas especially for the low and moderate income levels.

  The County of Los Angeles includes 88 cities and unincorporated neighborhoods and provides the lion’s share of supportive services to Angelenos. We are working closely with the County of Los Angeles to coordinate services and strategies to best serve our homeless population. Most importantly, our service providers are our advocates and front-line workers and house a wealth of knowledge on the issues and obstacles homeless people struggle with on a day to day basis. By strengthening our relationship with them as well as faith-based institutions and non-profits, we will be able to ensure a smart and cohesive regional approach to combating homelessness.

• **Economic Development**
  Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson’s economic development priorities are to restore the 8th District as a hub of profitable economic opportunity that benefits local residents, business owners and entrepreneurs. We want residents employed in well-paying jobs that are easily accessible from South Los Angeles, if not located in the area; project labor agreements with local hiring goals; robust opportunities for small businesses and entrepreneurs; and access to education and workforce training for young people and adults who are transitioning into or reentering the workforce.

• **Public Safety**
  Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson’s public safety priorities are to shift the narrative of how public safety is currently defined. Councilmember Harris-Dawson is working to develop a community based model of policing wherein community residents are empowered to take part of public safety solutions, which in turn will result in an increase of quality life in the Eighth District. Councilmember Harris-Dawson aims to increase partnerships among different stakeholders in government, social service, non-profit sectors, as well as community residents.

• **Transportation**
  Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson believes that South LA deserves their fair share of transportation investments and projects that will be planned with and for the benefit of the people who live and work there. Councilmember Harris-Dawson is working to create transit-oriented communities that will revitalize our communities without displacement and replacement of residents, and that will become a model for smart, just and equitable transportation policy for the entire city. He is working to enhance key transportation corridors such as the Hyde Park transit-oriented community, Vermont Bus Rapid Transit and Slauson Rail-to-River Active Transportation
Corridor for major revitalization. He is also working to identify public and private investments for the benefit of residents and businesses within the 8th district.

- **Housing**
  Councilmember Harris-Dawson is pushing for an increase of affordable rental housing options along with opportunities for homeownership. Councilmember Harris-Dawson is pushing for housing in good proximity to commercial districts and transportation hubs with a range of housing types. He is working to understand current residents housing needs and plans to engage non-profit developers, neighborhood groups and other stakeholders to ensure that current residents are involved in planning processes and will benefit from new housing options.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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