AT-LARGE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE: Catherine Vitale

1. What letter grade would you give Mayor Wu at this point in her tenure? F. Mayor Wu failed us from the start when she announced her plan to enforce strict vaccine mandates on all city employees. She helped crush small businesses all over the city with her vaccine verification program. She refused to speak with concerned residents who opposed her policies and she continues to ignore any and all dissent from the people of Boston. She and the City Council passed an unconstitutional city ordinance to ban protests in front of her house, and when protestors disobeyed the ordinance, instead of the civil infraction resulting in a fine, as written in the ordinance, she had the protestors arrested for peacefully protesting her. When North End Restaurant owners opposed the $7500 fee she was imposing on them to participate in outdoor dining, she ignored them, too, and locked them out of private meetings and press conferences that she held with only those who supported her policy. She has consistently ignored South End residents' pleas for action to be taken to end the disaster at Mass & Cass, and continues to let crime run rampant on the streets of Roxbury. Boston Schools are failing, and she refuses to give us an elected school committee that we voted in favor of in 2021. Wu has harshly abused her mayoral power by having city workers who speak out against her policies reprimanded or fired from their jobs, and by sending an "enemies list" of 15 of her most vocal critics to the Boston Police.

2. What's the best thing the council did this term, and what's the biggest mistake it made? I don't really think there was a best thing. They didn't do anything praise worthy. They let mass & Cass grow and spiral into a crisis and that was against humanity and a testament to dysfunction. That hearing highlighted how the city council used to be an exceptional legislative body where urban issues were debated and thoroughly exposed to sunlight. We need more sunlight on more issues.

3. What's the first piece of legislation you'd file next term? **End sanctuary city law, Boston Trust Act.** The open border is a cancer upon Americas great cities. With 250,000 recent border crossers choosing the Boston asylum court as their legal venue, we now have another quarter million people adding to Boston's affordable housing crisis, transportation gridlock, and drug problems.

4. Do you support building a new recovery campus at the edge of Franklin Park? No. It is a failure of a plan for many reasons. It will relocate Mass & Cass population to Franklin Park. They plan to house recovering addicts and treat people in active addiction there - people cannot recover when they are in the same environment as people who are actively using substances. They plan to have 850 beds – hospitals and clinics across the city and state are severely understaffed - it will be IMPOSSIBLE to have adequate and effective staffing. The
first rule of recovery is you have to change your playmates and your playground. This move will only attract the dealers that are working mass & Cass to an intersection of neighborhoods, Roslindale, dorchester/mattapan, Jamaica plain, spreading chaos.

5. Is there anything the city should be doing differently to address the intersecting crises at Mass and Cass?
Yes. The city should convert the nearly empty Carney Hospital to a Holistic Natural Healing Center. We should contract with a housing facility outside of Boston to grant housing to people in recovery - get them away from the area so they can have a fresh start in a new location, and offer them city jobs and an incentive program to obtain and maintain their housing subsidies. Round the clock drug courts & liberally use section 35. Sending people to hospitals far away from these environments. The drugs these addicts are using (fentanyl, methamphetamines) are of such a grade of synthetic potency that this is an addiction crisis coupled with a mental health crisis like we’ve never seen before. These are human beings that need love and sometimes real love and sometimes that means hard choices.

6. Do you support plans to move the John D. O’Bryant to West Roxbury?
No. The residents have spoken, loud and clear, and they do not want this change. The West Roxbury campus needs renovations. Instead of expanding Madison Park, we should be developing vocational tech programs for every middle and high school in the city.

7. Was the council's approval of $3.4 million in grant funding for the Boston Regional Intelligence Center the right move?
No. Although I do support the police, the BRIC has been abusing its power for many years. Until we can guarantee that they are not surveilling and targeting noncriminals, we should halt the operations. The BRIC has done exceptional work documenting the organized Dominican crime families that control the fentanyl and methamphetamine trade in MA in cooperation with Mexican drug cartels. The organized-crime-sponsored drug crisis must be addressed by BRIC and their findings made public more frequently.

8. The council has become increasingly acrimonious in the last two years. Who or what is responsible?
The media has failed. We are 6 days away from the election, and you, Adam Reilly, are just getting around to talking to a candidate that went from on the enemies list to 3 on the ballot. That is an incredible news story of a motivated citizen upset with local government transforming themselves into a successful candidate. The same way you have ignored our candidacies, the media ignores Boston city council. Say what you want about Dapper O’Neil, but he got people to pay attention the the issues affecting the people of the capital city of MA.
Making the Boston city council relevant again means making debate important again and getting the Boston media to pay attention to the city council.

9. What else should voters know about you?
I’m a fighter. I am a homeschooling, single mom of 2. I am on welfare and Section 8, and I have been homeless 3 times in the past 10 years. My life experiences give me a unique perspective on how to assess the problems affecting the quality of life of the people of Boston. I was a restaurant manager for 14 years, so I know how to manage a budget, and I know how to work with all types of people, how to be a leader, and set my team up for success, regardless of their skills or willingness to get along with me. I am beholden to no establishment or union, and accountable only to the people of Boston – not the mayor. Constituent services is the most important part of this job for me. Residents of Boston know that if they come to me with a problem, I will stop at nothing to find a resolution. I will bring common sense back to city hall, and make Boston proud to have me as their representation.