

Thank you for taking the time to complete our questionnaire! Your answers will be shared with our members and posted on our website for public review. When answering each question, please describe specific proposals and/or policies that you will seek to implement if elected/re-elected. To read our 10K Strong campaign manifesto, from which these questions are informed, visit: www.durhamforall.org/10kstrong.

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| Candidate Name: | Sylvester Williams |
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1. Durham For All believes that everyone has the right to live in a safe and affordable home. Because of years of inadequate investment, many of our city’s public housing units are slated for demolition and/or redevelopment. What steps can the city and the community take to ensure the best outcomes for current and future residents in this redevelopment process?

I have files a Title VI Complaint with the Federal Government addressing this problem.

Secondly, I am encouraging developers, general contractors and renters to seek out assistance through Target Housing. This is supportive housing program for people who are very low income and disabled in need of affordable housing. Part of this resulted as part of a settlement with the Department of Justice in 2012. Partnership between North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA) and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) in collaboration with owners, property management, and service provider agencies are sources for money set aside by North Carolina to address affordable housing and homelessness. Each year 10% of all the rental apartments that are developed using the federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) are reserved (targeted) to allow people with disabilities to apply to live in them • Properties may opt to increase their participation up to 20%.

With reserves at 25% of the city's budget, more than the $2.7 million increase should be aside for affordable housing.

Tax credits should be given to residents should be given to residents that have lived in a community for ten years or longer to help preserve the identity of the community.

2. Durham For All believes that all people have the right to a high-quality public education that fully develops their potential. What do you believe are the barriers to achieving this in Durham? What is the role of charter schools and voucher programs in enabling or limiting this right? What role should the city government play in providing educational opportunities to residents, and what types of city programs could help our public school system develop the potential of all Durham’s youth?

Charter schools were started to help minorities bridge the education gap. Other groups have seen the success of charter schools and have jumped into the mix. We should encourage more charter schools for minorities. Also, the return of vocational classes to high schools will help our youth. I have talked with general contractors and there is a lack of skilled tradesman in the area for very good paying jobs.

3. Durham For All believes that everyone has the right to the resources they need to sustain themselves and their families and to live on a healthy planet. What is your economic development philosophy? If elected, what will you do to help transform Durham’s economy into one that promotes cooperation and community investment to meet the needs of working people?

My background as a financial analyst allowed me to analyze companies and their potential to make profits. Companies are reluctant to move into areas whereby wages are artificially inflated. Grants and tax credits need to be given to the more economically depressed areas of Durham for people to start businesses, that have minority ownership and employees in keeping with the surrounding community. Durham once had a thriving entrepreneurial African American community when given an opportunity and the same thing can happen again, once institutional racism is confronted..

4. Durham For All believes that everyone deserves to feel safe and secure in their bodies, homes, and communities. Federal guidelines around immigration and refugee resettlement, as well as a growing national awareness of the police violence experienced by communities of color, have many people in Durham feeling deeply concerned. What should the role of local law enforcement be in Durham, and how should officers interact with and remain accountable to residents? How should the city of Durham interact with federal agencies such as ICE? In what ways do current city policies reflect your standard of transparency and accountability for law enforcement and belonging for refugees and immigrants in Durham, and in what ways are they lacking?

I have talked a former SBI agent that was educated in the FBI school. His opinion is that 65% of all police officers are either corrupt or incompetent. My first 100 days in office I will have a conference with the chief of police to either validate or deny such assertions within the police department. It has been proven that police that come from the community are more likely to be sympathetic to the plight of those living in the community. I would recommend that incentives be given to hire more policemen from Durham.

5. Durham For All believes that Durham belongs to all who live here and that we need all residents' voices at the table to create a Durham that works for everyone. If elected, what will you do to expand democratic participation in the City’s electoral process? What will you do to create more mechanisms for democratic engagement in how the city is run on a day-to-day basis?

Policies are being enacted without input from the citizens of Durham. I talked to the city manager about tax subsidies for downtown development. He was unable to give me an answer of how much money has been given away. Once again, my first 100 days in office, the city will know how much money has been given away and how effective these subsidies have been. I was chair for economic development for both Durham Committee On the Affairs of Black People and the Durham Business And Professional Chain. These positions allowed me interact with CEOs of companies and the homeless. I have visited the most impoverished areas of Durham and talked with residents and I will continue to make myself available to all citizens.

Please email your responses to [info@durhamforall.org](mailto:info@durhamforall.org) or mail to Durham For All, 1803 Chapel Hill Rd., Suite C. Durham, NC 27707. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at 919-727-9428. We look forward to hearing from you!