10K Strong Logo 730x756px.png

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.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Candidate Name: | DeDreana Freeman |
| Office Sought | City Council- Ward 1 |
| Address: | PO Box 222, Durham, NC 27702 |
| Phone: | 919-886-5448 |
| Email: | info@dedreanafreeman.com |
| Website: | dedreanafreeman.com |
| Facebook: | https://www.facebook.com/Freeman4Durham/ |
| Twitter: | @Freeman4Durham |

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?

***There are several models of how the city can address the housing needs of our residents. Policylink has equity models that I would incorporate into collaborative conversations that include tools to create subsidies, incentives, and bonds that promote growth and development, especially as those benefits and costs affect low-income residents of Durham. The Piedmont Triad Region has taken the lead in North Carolina in developing an Equitable Growth Profile for ensuring diverse residents can participate in the regional economy and contribute to stronger job growth and broadly shared prosperity. This profile focuses on a new approach to building equity and inclusion with coordinated transportation, housing, and economic development investments critical to more equitable development patterns. I believe that we should adopt a similar equitable growth profile in Durham since all of these components are critical to a Durham that is fair and inclusive and works for all. Out of the work I have started with Durham Equitable Economic Partnerships (DEEP), I have been focused on partnering to develop training initiatives and additional job prospects in creating permanently affordable housing. As a city if we broaden the collaboration to develop an Equitable Durham there are endless possibilities in building equity.***

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?

***The city does not have a direct role in public education. However, the Workforce and Economic Development department does implement programs to support youth, young adults and people seeking employment. We should convene all service providers, businesses and service users to develop a plan to expand and improve efficiency in connecting demand and human capital. That being said, we must also address factors such as the safety, health and general well-being of all Durham citizens. In particular, we can expand free or reduced cost recreational opportunities for our youth to provide constructive activities in a safe environment. The Council can identify funding for youth and child programs from birth to college or career, supporting local organizations focused on out of school services.***

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?

***There is an opportunity to build in growth with equity in the investment of Durham human capital. These efforts need to begin with community input and develop solutions based on the root causes for the lack of resources and sustainability. We must use an equitable lens to address the inequities holistically. Knowing that each of our concerns around financial and physical health are tied into each other, we have to find ways to increase health. This can be accomplished by addressing economic growth, sustainable housing, transportation and environmental health in a holistic effort through Equity building. For example, preventing unjust decisions to use toxic cancerous tire mulch. Each city department could coordinate across the board to address equitable economic development to provide livable wage jobs, business incubation, sustainable energy efficient housing, and transportation with a focus on health and safety that eliminates environmental hazards. It is important to align our city’s hard services around infrastructure with our priorities including, but not limited to, maintenance, repairs, programs, services, training, and development that is equitable and serves the needs of our city. If elected, I would encourage and expand initiatives like Durham Equitable Economic Partnerships (DEEP) that seek to provide permanently affordable and sustainable housing for historically marginalized communities.***

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 am an avid proponent of community policing, because I understand that the criminal justice system as a whole is broken. It is important that Durham Police seek to be Anti-Racist and Anti-Discriminant in their duties to protect and serve the community. The city’s policies do not reflect my standard of transparency and accountability.***

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?

***It is important that all residents understand the significance of their vote. We must place intentional focus on historically marginalized populations. All of our involvement is important to preventing environmental injustices, such as carcinogenic mulch in the East Durham Park, which represents an environmental hazard for our children. We have to re-engage residents in conversation by going directly to neighborhoods and supporting folks in sharing their voice in the electoral process. This can happen with roundtable discussions lead by community voices and supported by city staff. I would seek to form a Fair Shake Commission to address inequities in our decision making, policies, budgeting, contracting and in the community around human rights.***

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!