

## **PA-PAC Questionnaire for Candidates for City Council Appointment** **2018**

*When answering this questionnaire, please repeat the questions in your response document with each question numbered and organized as it appears here. Type your responses in italics, bold, or a different font to distinguish your responses from the questions. Please do not use colors. Please try to confine your responses to the word limits set for each question. They should be generous. Do not feel obliged to exhaust the limit for each question.*

**Please return the completed form with your resume or personal history describing your education, work history, community service, and prior political experience as soon as possible, but by December 22, 2017, at the latest.**

**You may e-mail your responses to Tom Miller at tom-miller1@nc.rr.com or you may send a printed copy of your responses to Durham PA-PAC c/o Tom Miller 1110 Virginia Avenue, Durham, NC 27705-3262**

**Please note that following the December 22 deadline, the Durham People's Alliance PAC may publish your responses to this questionnaire and your resume.**

**Thank you for completing this questionnaire and your willingness to serve the people of Durham.**

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### ***Government and the Public Good***

1. Of all the issues confronting city government, which single issue is most important to you and why? What would you do about it if elected? *Please limit your answer to 300 words.*

**Answer: The City of Durham is in dire need of more collaborations of departments which are primarily established to support its citizenry. To give oversight of this issue I would ask for a detail summary of what and how departments function.**

2. What can the city do to lift the wages of the lowest paid workers in Durham and reduce growing income inequality in our community? Where in our community do you see opportunities for city government to address the racial wealth gap? *Please limit your answer to 400 words.*

**The City of Durham already has a supportive means of lifting the wages of employees by continue to support equal pay for equal work and impressing upon corporations that receive incentives to help recruit citizens of this area to enhance their economic standards.**

3. How should the city measure the benefits and costs of incentives to promote development especially as those benefits and costs affect low-income residents of Durham? How would you use these measurements when deciding to vote for or against a proposed incentive? *Please limit your answer to 400 words.*

**The City of Durham should develop best practices that are usually helping other municipalities grow. The incentives to promote development should be to enhance and empower all sectors of our City. Again, our practices of incentive grants should be for the good of the entire community and corporations alike.**

4. What actions should the city take to expand job creation and job quality? In your answer, please comment on the city's potential involvement in entrepreneurship, worker-owned cooperatives, and union organizing. *Please limit your answer to 400 words.*

**The City of Durham cannot survive without a strong, sustainable workforce development program and an entrepreneurial partnership that gathers private sector, governmental entities and Non-Profit and For-Profit Organizations. We must not continue City sponsored initiatives just for the HAVES when the HAVE-NOTS are suffering the most.**

#### ***Housing, City Planning and Neighborhoods***

5. What does "gentrification" mean to you? What, if anything, should be done about it? How, if at all, is the issue of gentrification implicated in the Planning Department's current review of zoning in East Durham, the proposed creation of an Alston Avenue Design District, and the redevelopment of the former Fayette Place property? *Please limit your answer to 400 words.*

**My view of Gentrification is probably not scientific or public policy defineable, however I believe Gentrification is where those with means can buy up and push out citizens due to recertification of Property Tax Assessment. The areas of East Durham, don't forget the SouthWest Central Durham (West End), Alston Avenue design district are in need of revitalization but as we see it not at the cost of Long Term rental.**

6. What should the city seek to accomplish through its power to stimulate and regulate growth? What principles and considerations will guide your decisions in zoning cases and other development issues? Illustrate your answer with a recent controversial zoning case. Did the city decide the case correctly? *Please limit your answer to 500 words.*

**Once the guiding principles of Zoning have been established by our Unified Department of Planning & Zoning, and along with the Board of Adjustment human factors should be understood before accepting committee or even designated.**

7. Under what circumstances would you vote to approve a rezoning that does not include commitments to meet the city's affordable housing goal? If you answered yes, how would you ensure that the city meet its goal? Please illustrate your answer with a recent case. *Please limit your answer to 500 words.*

**The are no circumstances would I vote to approve a rezoning that does not meet city's goals unless it involves a rare case of possibilities. City policies must be carried out at all times. I am still baffled how corporations like Family Fare can have so many stores less than 3 miles away from each other and some circumstances stacked on top each other.**

***City Finances, Capital Improvements, Transportation, and City Services***

8. If the city needs more revenue for a basic public service, do you, in general, favor a new or increased user fee or a property tax increase? Residential trash pickup is an example of a basic service. *Please limit your answer to 250 words.*

**After appropriate review by City Administration I would venture to support their direction unless it will become a burden on majority of citizens it will cover.**

9. Do you support or oppose Durham's plans for rail-based transit? If federal funding for the project is denied, what must Durham do about transportation, urban planning, housing, taxes, and infrastructure? *Please limit your answer to 400 words.*

**Our City is getting to become a very large municipality and with or without federal funding our city must use all means possible to handle the infrastructure, transportation, urban planning, housing and taxes.**

10. Does the city's investment in bus transportation reach the population that needs it most? What else can be done to improve bus transportation access and affordability? *Please limit your answer to 400 words.*

**I am sure with the means that we have to provide bus transportation we should further our approach to widen our service. Especially, in wider areas where many Durham Housing communities exist.**

11. Would you support a property tax relief program, for example, a circuit breaker, to reduce the tax burden on homeowners with limited resources and help them stay in their homes? If your answer is yes, please describe the program or programs you would support. If your answer is no, please explain. *Please limit your answer to 300 words.*

**Yes any type of Property Tax relief program is beneficial to the citizenry of Durham, especially if it is supportive of the least, the lost and the left out.**

12. What is the city's most pressing capital improvement priority? *Please limit your answer to 300 words.*

**Capital Improvement should be done to all Inner City Park area, which should include accessibility to public at all times. Among that area there should be a priority on condition of roads in Durham.**

13. What would you push for in the city's upcoming budget? *Please limit your answer to 300 words.*

**Our city Budget should be in alignment with human resource needs first the protection of its people and first foremost providing livable wages for its people/personnel.**

#### ***Policing and Public Safety***

14. Is there a trust problem between the people of Durham and the police department? Are you satisfied with the department's responses to issues of use of force, racial profiling, deployment of personnel, searches, and communication with the public? *Please limit your answer to 400 words.*

**Among the people that interacts with Law Enforcement yes there is a trust. I believe since the departure of Chief Lopez more attention is being given back to Community Policing. I believe if we return back to our past attack squads like CAT-TEAM, our community will especially those in Inner City Neighborhood, The PAC concepts were very effective in the early-mid 90's in their patrolling it was obvious that certain contacts were not happening. According to a recent crime report "Violent Crime ", January – September 2017), Homicide which most of it has been black on black crime or retaliating from previous violent encounters I believe property crime increase is due to unemployment and negligence of Law Enforcement due to changed policies.**

15. To what degree, if any, should the city cooperate with U.S. Department of Immigration & Customs Enforcement? Should the city become a sanctuary city? If your answer is yes, for whom should the city provide sanctuary and by what means should sanctuary be provided? If your answer is no, please explain your reasons. In either case, please be specific. *Please limit your answer to 400 words.*

**If through normal procedures of policing, if it's discovered then City Government should abide by the laws of US Department of ICE. I believe individual cases should be reviewed and case by case should be evaluated especially families with Children and those who have not committed in crimes.**

16. Should the city allocate more, less, or about the same money to policing? Please explain your answer. If your answer is less, would you allocate more money to other services to improve public safety? Again, please explain. *Please limit your answer to 400 words.*

**Expenditures for any department should be evaluated base on the reality of needs.**

#### ***Civil Rights***

17. Name one issue in Durham that directly impacts, or is directly impacted by, race inequity and how can the city incorporate a race equity framework in addressing this issue? *Please limit your answer to 400 words.*

**An issue in Durham that directly impacts is our understanding of “Civil Rights and what is Equity”. I cannot confirm but we are not hiring qualified individuals who live in Durham or from Durham to City Administrative position. Several Departments can be first to be reviewed such as Parks and Recreation and Planning Department.**

18. If the city could adopt an ordinance concerning the civil rights of members of the LGBTQ community, what provisions should that ordinance contain? *Please limit your answer to 400 words.*

**City of Durham is a diverse population and Individuals of Alternative Lifestyles should be evaluated and offered provisions as other Individual Lifestyles in Durham, North Carolina.**

***Personal and Political***

19. What would you bring to the city council that is not already represented by the members who are currently serving? You may wish to consider your background, education, experience, and set of skills when responding to this question. *Please limit your answer to 400 words.*

**A Social Consciousness of African American Traditional Values. I also believe that my experience on Durham Public School Board for eight years taught me about Governance of Oversight verses Micro-Managing.**

20. Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offence other than a minor traffic offense? If your answer to this question is yes, please describe the charge or charges, the circumstances, and the outcome. *Please limit your answer to 250 words.*

**I have not ever been convicted of a criminal offence.**

21. For whom did you vote in the 2012 and 2016 presidential and gubernatorial elections? For whom did you vote in the 2014 U. S. Senate election? *Please limit your answer to 75 words.*

**I voted as my right to vote in secrecy and who I voted for in 2012, 2014 or 2016 has no reflection on my desire to be a Durham City Council. The city of Durham Council seat is Non-Partisan. With that being said, I voted as a Registered Democrat.**

**Please don't forget to provide us with a resume or personal history.**