

PA PAC Questionnaire for Sheriff Candidates - 2018

Please return this completed form along with your resume or a brief biographical statement describing your education, work history, community service, and prior political experience as soon as possible, but by **March 12**, 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

Please note that following the March 12 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.

When responding to this questionnaire, type your answers in italics, bold, or a different font to distinguish your answers from the questions. Please do not use colors. You may explain your answer to every question, but please be concise. If possible, limit your answer to each question to no more than 350 words. If you use words or ideas from another person, please attribute your source.

Candidate's name: Mike D. Andrews

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Why You Are Running

1. What is the single most important issue confronting the Sheriff's office. If you are elected Sheriff, what will you do to address it?

The opioid epidemic is one of the most important issues for our community and the sheriff's office. The first approach we are taking is with those suffering from addictions. Our focus is to collaborate with other community stakeholders to increase prevention, education and treatment. I will continue to work with Durham Public Schools and Wanda Boone (TRY) to promote prevention and increase education. Durham County Sheriff's Office was the first in the state to distribute Narcan to officers working the streets, in the schools and the detention facility.

The other focus area is on the drug dealers that are poisoning our community. Over the last four years our narcotics unit has recovered a street value of \$7,647,644 in controlled substances. Additionally, there were 426 guns recover, over sixty percent of which were recovered in 2017.

I will continue my efforts to divert individuals with addictions from detention to facilities where they can receive proper treatment. In doing so, this will decrease recidivism and provide them with a better opportunity to prosper in the community.

Crime Prevention and Public Safety

2. What role do you think the Sheriff's Department should play in school safety?

Along with teachers and administrators, Durham County Sheriff's Office plays a vital role in protecting our children in schools. We use the SRO Program and the GREAT Program to mentor and build relationships with students. These relationships have increased our ability to communicate with students and identify threats before they become issues. We have been asked by Durham Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Mubenga to cover five additional schools next year. I am willing to fulfill this request if given adequate funding to do so. We also have a Security Liaison Officer to assist with security planning at Durham Public Schools.

3. What role do you think the Sheriff's Department should play in gang prevention?

Gang Resistance and Education Training is taught by deputies at 13 elementary schools. We also have an ongoing relationship with Project BUILD, a multi-disciplinary gang prevention and intervention program that provides coordinated case management and services to youth and young adults between the ages of 14 and 21 who are at high risk of gang involvement. Project BUILD is a joint project of Durham County and the City of Durham. Services for Project BUILD clients are coordinated by a team of professionals representing education, social services, mental health, substance abuse, and criminal justice agencies. The CHOICES Program is a mentoring program administered by the sheriff's office which focuses on "at risk youth" providing them with life skills and their parents with parenting skills.

4. Do you support or oppose legislation which would increase control of the sale and distribution of firearms? Please explain.

I absolutely support common sense measures to protect our community

I specifically support Rep. Marcia Morey's proposal to create a statute for a gun restraining order which would permit a judge to order that a person's firearms be confiscated if there is clear and convincing evidence that the person is behaving in a threatening manner. As with Domestic Violence Protective Orders the order could be applied for ex parte, with a full hearing to occur within 10 days. Once the bill is drafted I intend to present it to the North Carolina Sheriff's Association and ask them to support it in their legislative agenda.

My office has and will continue to provide very thorough background checks on all concealed carry permit applications and all pistol permit applications.

5. What, if anything would you do to improve security at the Durham County Courthouse?

Cameras are strategically placed throughout the courthouse. We have 33 officers assigned to courtrooms and building security. The camera room is fully staffed during working hours. We have a Court Emergency Response Team CERT, with specialized training. The courthouse is also staffed with several negotiators trained in de-escalation. There is also a bomb dog and handler that is assigned to the courthouse. Regular patrols are conducted around the perimeters of the detention facility, courthouse and within the parking deck. In 2017, this division recovered 2,090 weapons, denying 2,052 individuals entry into the courthouse.

6. Do you support or oppose the expanded use of citations by law enforcement officers? Please explain.

I support the use of citations rather than arrest. Citations eliminates the potential need for offenders to post a bond. We strongly urge officers to use verbal and written warnings to avoid court costs and/or criminal records.

7. Do you support or oppose the expansion of the misdemeanor diversion program? Please explain.

I support several diversion programs to include the misdemeanor diversion program. We also participate in CHOICES, TRY, PROUD, Teen Court and the "Earn It" program through juvenile services. Our School Resource Officers play a vital role in the diversion programs. In 2017 SRO's responded to 3,567 calls for service. Of these, 695 criminal acts were committed with fewer than 9% of offenders charged. Again, verbal and written warnings are issued to avoid criminal records.

8. What is your position on cash bail?

*While I have no authority on how bail is determined by magistrates, my office is working as hard as we can on this issue. The bail and bond system has to depend on the seriousness of the offense. To improve this system I am working with CJRC about monitoring devices for low level non-violent crimes. In 2016, I pushed to adopt the amnesty program for individuals with OFA for traffic offenses and non-violent misdemeanor crimes so they wouldn't be arrested, but allow them to appear in court for their offenses. I support getting individuals out of jail that have low bonds as long as the risks to the public are considered. *Please see response to question below.*

9. Are you concerned about the criminalization of poverty and, if so, what policies will you put in place to avoid fees and costs for poor people arrested, deferred into a program, or detained in the Durham County jail?

I have concerns regarding many of the low bond issues that have been addressed by various community groups. To this end, I have directed my jail administrator to engage a working group regarding people who have been in jail on nonviolent crimes, with low bonds, for a long period of time. Beginning this year, we have created a working group consisting of the District

Attorney's Office, Public Defender, CJRC, Pre-trial and Jail Administration. This group is meeting every Friday to review a list gathered by jail staff.

The review of bonds at or lower than \$5,000 to determine if a bond could be lowered or have the bond set as unsecured has been discussed. The week of February 28th jail staff identified 15 detainees that resulted in 4 being released. While this has worked as an administrative process, some judges have been unwilling to lower or unsecure bonds that were set by another judge. We will continue to improve this process in an effort to get these detainees out of the detention facility.

While I do not have authority to address fees, I don't oppose the courts waiving jail fees. My office does not set or collect any of these fees. This goes back to the previous question discussing the amnesty program and electronic monitoring. I have emphasized the use of diversion programs and warning tickets to prevent people from incurring criminal charges and court fines.

10. If you are elected Sheriff, what will be your policy concerning checkpoints?

We will continue to administer checkpoints concerning speeding complaints from the public, DWI, missing persons and locations of frequent traffic accidents. These actions are driven by citizen complaints and data collected.

The Sheriff's Department

11. Should state and local government law enforcement agencies have the discretion to decide to what extent they cooperate with U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainers and programs such as Secure Communities and the 287(g) program?

This agency does not, has not and will not participate in the 287(g) Program. The Secure Communities Program started after 9/11. When someone is arrested their fingerprints are sent to the SBI to check for other offenses. The SBI then sends the fingerprints to national databases. We cannot control or restrict the SBI in how they forward those prints.

12. What additional resources does the Sheriff's Department need that it does not currently have?

The Sheriff's Office is requesting additional personnel to staff the Domestic Violence Unit, Female Mental Health POD, Animal Services Unit and School Resource Officers.

13. As Sheriff, what measures would you support and/or take to make Sheriff's Office and jail more accessible to non-English-speaking defendants and their families?

In the past we have accepted forms of Identification from the Matrícula Consular and worked through El Centro to promote use of the Faith ID Program. In November of 2016 I reallocated department staffing resources and identified an officer that is bi-lingual to work with members of the Latino community regarding these issues. We are looking to implement English for

Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) inside the Detention Facility through the Durham Literacy Center in July of this year.

Beginning last year between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. we have put an officer in the lobby of the jail who is fluent in Spanish. Currently, we have six people attending a 9 month Spanish Language Course. Our plan is to send six officers a year to this course as staffing allows. One Spanish speaking person has been assigned to each squad with plans to increase this to 3-4 officers per squad to improve communications with non-English speakers.

Additionally, I have requested incentive pay for the past two years to recruit a more diverse workforce that have foreign language skills.

14. Is there a trust problem between the people of Durham and the Sheriff's Department? Are the department's responses to issues of use of force, racial profiling, deployment of personnel, searches, and communication with the public satisfactory?

I am aware that there are some in the community that don't trust law enforcement. We have continued to increase communication with the community through certain programs such as; National Night Out, Sheriff's Citizens/Community Academy, School Resource Officers, Touch-a-Truck, IDEA Program, PAC Meetings, Community Watch Program and Faith ID Program. We work closely with the Durham Rescue Mission that provides safe shelter, addiction recovery programs and meals to those in need

We haven't been able to identify any complaints regarding use of force or racial profiling. Our calls regarding use of force has decreased by 33% from last year. In 2017, out of 48,000 calls, force was only used 55 times. This equates to .11% of the calls officers responded to was there a use of force incident. That is 1 in every 872 calls. Crisis Intervention Training has assisted us in dealing with these types of calls.

We have also fostered relationships with the community using multiple social media platforms by our public information officer. Our community outreach officer has created various opportunities to communicate with people from all backgrounds.

Annually, we look at incidents involving use of force and racial profiling. Over the last five years we have participated in the following classes; strategies to improve law enforcement interactions and relationships with minority youth, juvenile minority sensitivity training, safeguarding children of arrested parents, equality in policing, bias-based profiling training, leadership through community partnerships, and crisis intervention training.

The Jail

15. Do you support or oppose the recommendations contained in the Durham Human Relation Commission's 2017 report on the jail, (including a community-based survey of inmates and staff, a

civilian oversight board, ending the use of lockbacks, expanding the STARR program, and the removal of financial barriers to pretrial release). Please explain.

We receive valuable feedback from the senior administration of the Detention Facility. I will continue to support detainees and various community groups by receiving recommendations so long as it doesn't interfere with the security of the facility or violate the specified rights of the detainees. I continue to advocate for the expansion of programs such as STARR and the mental health PODs.

I have been pursuing new standards of operations by seeking accreditation of the detention facility through American Correctional Association. I am willing to update policies and procedures based on recommendations as long as I am sufficiently funded to do so and truthful needs are identified.

Lockbacks are not and will not be utilized for jail-wide punishment.

I fully support the expansion of efforts to increase alternatives to pre-trial confinement, if the risk of release does not compromise public safety. To this end, I have collaborated with CJRC on the expansion of remote monitoring of individuals. I have also proposed an amnesty week to the chief district court judge, DA, clerk of court, among others to provide individuals with another means of disposing of criminal charges without confinement.

16. What changes, if any, should be made to the physical plant of the jail and its operation and administration?

I have added suicide prevention measures to all windows. I have requested more staffing to increase inmate programs. If I had additional classrooms and staffing I could provide additional programs to detainees. As mentioned above, we are in the process of adding ACA measures throughout the facilities.

I have discussed with the BOCC Chair the idea of building a new modern facility, with enhanced programmatic function including more classroom space, which could include outdoor recreation areas.

Our ability to improve services is limited by a lack of funding that has been provided by the County. Over the past five years, the percentage of investment in the Sheriff's Office compared to the rest of County Government has decreased. County government has put money in concrete and steel, but we have not invested in people to provide services. It will continue to be my goal as Sheriff to change this tide.

17. How will you protect the rights of LGBTQ individuals incarcerated in the jail?

It is my goal to equally protect and preserve the rights of all people housed within the Durham County Detention Center. If there is a need that we can't fulfill for an individual we will seek accommodations elsewhere.

18. What is your position on inmate visitation in the jail?

As demonstrated in the prior two years, I fully support the expansion of jail visitation. This has been accomplished by adding a third visitation per week through the implementation of video visitation. The agency is continually evaluating other ways that we can increase these services to include off-site visitation for those unable physically or medically to visit the facility. We will not reduce or eliminate face to face visitation.

The expansion of services is dependent upon additional funding from the BOCC. While I'm Sheriff I will continue to pursue this endeavor.

19. Are you satisfied with the current private contracts that govern access to phone calls, visitation, meals and commissary, etc. for inmates?

Through contract monitoring and review of inmate grievances we constantly strive to improve services provided by vendors. I have directed my staff to renegotiate several contracts over the past few years. I have denied commissary price increases on several occasions. In the prior year, we have solicited bids for meals, which have increased costs, but provided better services and a better quality meal. We're providing three hot meals a day, up from two previously. Phones services were also rebid in December of 2013 to lower costs.

We continually look for vendors that provide reasonable services at reasonable prices to detainees. I fully understand that we are housing individuals without significant monetary means, and do not want to place an undue burden on people housed in the detention facility or their families.

Concerning You

20. Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense other than a minor traffic offense (such as speeding)? If the answer is yes, please describe the circumstances and the outcome.

No.

21. For whom did you vote in the 2012 and 2016 presidential general elections?

Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton respectively. I was also a staunch supporter of Governor Cooper in the prior gubernatorial election.



Michael D. Andrews
Sheriff

Sheriff Mike Andrews has 38 years of experience with the Durham County Sheriff's Office. He has served in the Investigations, Training, and Patrol Divisions. Additional duties during his tenure with Sheriff's Office include the Emergency Response Team and the Search and Recovery Team. He has served as a General Instructor and Specialized Instructor for in-service training and new recruits in Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET).

Sheriff Andrews has received leadership and supervision training through the Law Enforcement Executive Program offered by North Carolina State University and the Institute of Government. He is also a graduate of Carolina Command College, hosted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Sheriff Andrews is a graduate of the 208th session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. In 2016, Sheriff Andrews completed the Sheriffs' Leadership Institute, which was provided by the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association. In addition, Sheriff Andrews has an Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate from the State of North Carolina. Sheriff Andrews was awarded the 2015 Outstanding Law Enforcement Executive of the Year Award by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) for being a law enforcement leader who has advanced and supported Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training within the agency and our state. In 2016 Sheriff Andrews successfully completed the Sheriff's Leadership Institute conducted by the North Carolina Sheriff's Association. He is also a member of the Sheriff's Association Training Committee and In-Service Committee for all law enforcement personnel in the state.

Sheriff Andrews is a lifelong residence of Durham County and is married to Pamela Andrews, a retired Durham Public Schools Teacher of 30 years. He is a father and grandfather that believes in every child's future as well as the safety of every man and woman who serves their community.



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