

PA PAC Questionnaire for Mayor and City Council Candidates – 2019

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 within the word limits set for each question. Do not feel obliged to exhaust the limit for each question. If you use words or ideas from another person, please attribute your source.

Please return the completed form along with your resume describing education, work history, community service, and prior political experience as soon as possible, but by August 5, 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 August 5 deadline, the 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.

Candidate's name: Ricardo Correa

Office for which you have filed for election (circle one): Mayor / **City Council**

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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 200 words.*

Of all the issues confronting city government the single issue that is most important to me is crime. Crime in our city is rising and our city council has decided to deny the request from Chief Davis (Durham Police Department) and the city manager. It is no longer safe for a family to be celebrating a birthday party at the entrance of their apartment and being robbed and shoot at on a Saturday night. With the population of our city increasing day by day, our safety should be increased as well with more police efforts available in every corner of our city.

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? *Please limit your answer to 400 words.*

What the city can do to lift the wages of the lowest-paid workers in Durham and reduce the growing income inequality in our community is for the city to give incentives to employers that increase their wages to their employees. If the city can provide several and appealing incentives to the backbone of our economy in our city, we can start closing the gap of income inequality in our community.

3. Describe your interest in and commitment to public amenities such as playing fields, open space, street trees, traffic calming, and walking and biking facilities. Are you willing to raise property taxes to provide for and maintain these amenities? Are public amenities allocated to neighborhoods equitably? Please explain and cite examples. *Please limit your answer to 400 words.*

My interest in and commitment to public amenities as the ones suggested are my most desire for a flourishing community. What makes this city beautiful is our playing fields, open spaces, street trees, etc. Although raising taxes might be the most obvious way to maintain these amenities, I would first search for all the possible alternatives before going into the pockets of our community members and lay another possible burden for families that might be already struggling with their financial condition. In regards to public amenities being allocated to neighborhoods equitably, I personally believe that some neighborhoods aren't getting the "perks" that some other neighborhoods are getting. For example Holloway Street (heading towards Hwy 98) doesn't have any at all or that many public amenities that beautify their neighborhoods.

4. What is your position on providing public incentives to private firms to promote economic development in Durham? How can city government use development incentives to promote more widely shared prosperity, including better jobs and higher wages for Durham residents? *Please limit your answer to 400 words.*

In regards of my position on providing public incentives to private firms to promote economic development in Durham is not a supportive one. I believe that the city has what it takes for bringing the attention of private firms and invest out of their pockets for their financial interest. Look around downtown, our DPAC, our Durham Bulls Baseball park or even the Tobacco Complex...these are things that are ALREADY calling the attention of private firms and are already investing their capital in our city. No need to give incentives to them to promote what we already know...that we can be an awesome place to live.

5. What are the biggest barriers to increasing business ownership by local people of color, and what is the city's role in reducing those barriers? How could the city's supplier diversity or other practices foster more business growth opportunities? *Please limit your answer to 400 words.*

The biggest barriers to increase business ownership by local people of color is the lack of knowledge of resources that the city provides for minorities. If the community would know the commitment that it takes to start a business, they would be more incline to start it. Ignorance is the biggest fear when it comes to starting a business. The role the city could take in reducing those barriers is to host a minority business expo where interested individuals can come and see all the resources that the city or state government provides.

Housing, City Planning, and Neighborhoods

6. Do you think Expanding Housing Choices (EHC) will increase or decrease gentrification and displacement of lower-income residents? How can the city ensure equity in the use of EHC by people of color and other homeowners who have not had equal access to financing? *Please limit your answer to 400 words.*

In regards to the Expanding Housing Choices (EHC) to whether will increase or decrease gentrification and displacement of lower-income residents, I concur with the EHC committee and believe that some residents are rightfully right exposing the possibility of unintended consequences of gentrification and displacement of low income families.

7. 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? *Please limit your answer to 400 words.*

Currently I believe the city shouldn't seek to accomplish through its power to stimulate growth as it is currently welcoming 20 families per day to live in our beloved city. The growth is already taken place. What the city should be focusing in on affordable housing and discrimination within housing.

8. Do you support the \$95 Million Housing Bond and the city's Five-Year Affordable Housing Plan? Why or why not? *Please limit your answer to 400 words.*

With the \$95 Million Housing Bond, I must say that I don't completely support the bond. The reason why I don't completely support the bond is that more than 60% of the bond goes to the Durham Housing Authority (DHA) and if you look at the track of the agency, it has been one that unfortunately doesn't show good stewardship of its fundings. I believe that there must be another way in helping our families in the city that are currently struggling with affordable housing, yet the \$60 millions designated to DHA makes it difficult to approve. In regards to the steps to take for more affordable and fair housing in Durham, I would suggest to look into other programs that other cities have done and offer home ownership instead of living in units. The morale of a community does change once you become a home owner.

9. Would you vote to approve a rezoning that does not include commitments to meet the City's affordable housing goal? If yes, how would you ensure that the city meets its goal? *Please limit your answer to 400 words*

No.

10. How should Durham's Unified Development Ordinance define a "single-family dwelling?" *Please limit your answer to 200 words*

The definition that Durham's Unified Development Ordinance should define a "single-family dwelling" should be adjusting the "three person rule" to a "four person rule". I would suggest maintain the essence of the definition as it is, just adjust the number of individuals from 3 to 4 four persons.

11. What non-traditional funding schemes (such as public banking, community investment trusts, community development venture capital) have you been exploring for the City of Durham to implement that can bolster our fight against economic inequality in our community? *Please limit your answer to 400 words*

At the moment, I haven't explore any non-traditional funding schemes to implement that can bolster our fight against economic inequality. Yet, I look forward to meet experts and community members in which they can suggest ideas that can be workable for the wellbeing of our community.

12. What planning policy goals and priorities do you wish to see from the upcoming review and revision of Durham's Comprehensive Plan? *Please limit your answer to 400 words*

The planning policy goals and priorities that I wish to see from the upcoming review and revision of Durham's Comprehensive Plan is the Plan Evaluation objective. Periodically evaluating and implementing the elements is crucial as it is when the theories interact with reality and there can't be any important detail overlooked 'cause of the big picture.

13. Why do you believe that the recent light rail project failed in Durham? Where do we go from here? *Please limit your answer to 400 words.*

The reason why I believe that the recent light rail project failed in Durham, because of the city council's stubbornness to proceed with a project in which not all the "partners" were completely committed to the rail. Too much money went into the survey and planning, but not enough time to get a definite commitment from our community partner Duke.

14. What if anything, should the city do to distribute the property tax burden with greater equity and fairness? *Please limit your answer to 400 words.*

In regards if the city should do something to distribute the property tax burden with greater equity and fairness to the community members, I would like to study more profound this matter once in the office. Currently I don't want to commit to a statement without the full knowledge of the solutions that can be applied.

Policing

15. Is there a trust problem between the people of Durham and the police department? Are you satisfied with the department's leadership and 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.*

I personally believe that the trust problem between the people of Durham and the police department was more under the leadership of Chief Lopez. I believe that Chief Davis is doing everything that she can to provide a more community orientated police department. The establishment of the many police liaison that are currently working with the community should be a sign that the police department has worked for the better.

16. To what degree, if any, should the city cooperate with U.S. Department of Homeland Security: Immigration & Customs Enforcement and Homeland Security Investigations? What should the relationship be between local government and federal agencies such as ICE, DEA, and the US Marshals? *Please limit your answer to 400 words.*

The degree that the city should cooperate with U.S. Department of Homeland Security: Immigration & Customs Enforcement should be as minimal as it was once with the Durham Police Department. Many years ago the DPD has a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in which the DPD had only ONE police officer that was working with the Special Victims Units. During the collaboration that DPD had with ICE, many individuals that committed sexual predatory crimes against children, young girls or women were apprehended and proceeded to deportation. There are many cases of young girls in middle school that are forced to join sex rings which are led by individuals that their immigrant status is questionable.

Yet, at the same time I believe that the role that ICE has taken under this current administration is a despicable one. Therefore, any collaboration that allows their sole presence in our community should be avoided until they change their ways on how to proceed in our community.

17. 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.*

I believe the city should allocate more money to policing in the next couple of years. Our city is grown astronomical and with that growth needs to come more safety resources to our residents.

Civil Rights

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

The one issue in Durham that directly impacts or is directly impacted by race inequity is the cultural awareness that the city provides for other cultures to be aware of the Latino Culture input to the city. For the fact that the best that the city can do to provide an equity stage of cultural awareness and celebration of the Latino Heritage is being place in a location like the Rock Quarry Park (Latino Festival) which is not the same as in our City Square for all the residents of the city to come and share an experience that can be access with ease. Events for other ethnicities in the city are place front and center in Downtown, but for the Latino Festival to be placed in a park that not everyone attends is shameful. It feels that for being Latino, the city just gives us a park to be complicit with letting the Latino Community have a festival. Move the Latino Festival to downtown and let they culture share experience have the same exposure as other festivals do in our diverse city.

19. 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.*

If the city could adopt an ordinance concerning the civil rights of members of the LGBTQ community, it would include the provision that the city of Durham does stand against any workplace related discrimination towards any member of the LGBTQ community.

20. What can the city do to enhance its capacity to facilitate the reintegration of justice-involved individuals into our community, including removing barriers and providing economic opportunities for justice-involved individuals? *Please limit your answer to 400 words.*

What the city can do to enhance its capacity to facilitate the reintegration of justice-involved individuals into our community would be work with the local entrepreneurs and come up with incentives beneficial to them, so they can be part of the reintegration of justice-involved individuals in our community. Incentives that produce benefits for the employer as well the employees that are part of the program.

Personal

21. Have you ever been convicted of a criminal 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 200 words.*

No.

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Please do not forget to send us your resume or a brief biographical statement.