

John "Giovanni" Tarantino Candidate for Durham City Council
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Bio Born raised in Pittsburgh area 24 years
US Infantry 8 years moved to Durham
NC National Guard retired
NC public school teacher - retired
Durham Political Bard & Musical Satirist – Avocation

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.

Maintaining Street Surfaces & Sidewalks. Campus Walk is tore up from the floor up creating a driving hazard also making it dangerous for pedestrians.

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.

By raising wages across the board, the unintended consequences would result in the reduction of hours, which in turn would hurt the employees whose hours were cut. May also cause resentment of more qualified workers.

Solution: have entry level wage separate to sort out skill sets of new applicants.

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.

Strive to be more efficient before discussing another prop tax increase.
Focus on regions of low wealth.

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.

Learn how to build Affordable Housing. Hab for Humanity was and is big enough to pressure architectural designers. I am told council is restricting housing codes of builders like Habitat to build multi-family duplexes.

Multi family units a big concern. Garage apartments might help but coding has to allow it. Coding must allow builders the ability to create Afford H. Ie Lego housing, modular homes etc built more quickly and cheaper.

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.

What is DTCC doing to encourage entrepreneurship? Are non-white not attaining the same economic development? We need to become color indifferent (in a perfect world).

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.

Philadelphia - City County similar boundaries yet separate city police chief and sheriff. The late Howard Clement supported combining the two.

a) Subsidize certain areas where city needs lower income folks to live.

b) Afford H. We need to clearly define it. Can we afford it? Live where we can afford to do so. Kind of simple, don't you think?

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.

Elevated housing should be considered. Do we need to look at new flood plane maps. Perhaps that would be a good idea.

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.

I don't believe we know enough to say.

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

I am for residential zoning but 5 McMansions next to a laundry mat of a mobile home seems wrong to me.

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

Two occupants per room

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

Talk to Durham Community Land Trust W. Chapel Hill Blvd.

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

No comment

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.

It was uneconomical. A financial disaster. The plan sucked.

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.

No comment

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.

No comment

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.

No comment

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.

No comment

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.

We need to learn to become race equity indifferent. As long as folks are dependent on their race we will never grow to reach equality based upon merit.

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.

Our entire city should avoid promoting indecent behavior (out of cultural norms) but have a safe city for all no matter what.

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.

Ex convicts - subsidize entry level employment for 6 to 12 months.

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.

I have never been convicted of a serious criminal offense. I assume by the question you are addressing felonious issues. I have never been charged with a felon, Period. The brunt of my history is driving related - exceeding the speed limit. I did a lot of driving across the state back in my wandering musician days. LOL!