

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: Jacqueline "Jackie" Wagstaff

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.**

The single most important issue in Durham is the inequality of opportunity. It's all connected. Access to jobs that pay a living wage, access to affordable housing, and access to safe communities must be our city's top priority. As Durham continues to experience significant growth and economic prosperity, we must be sure that our often overlooked and underserved residents and communities are able to participate and benefit from the economic prosperity that we have seen concentrated in more affluent areas 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.**

I would recommend Durham pass an ordinance that raises the minimum wage in our city. The state law on the books now (from the HB142 compromise from the original HB2) says local governments cannot "enact or amend an ordinance regulating private employment practices or regulating public

accommodations,” but that restriction expires on December 1, 2020. The expiration date is arbitrary, and everyone knows the law itself is completely arbitrary. Some of our city council has shown a proclivity to involve themselves with highly controversial topics including many issues for which they council has no direct authority, but these same councilmembers have not actively discussed challenging the HB 142 law by passing a local minimum wage ordinance and bringing some income relief to low-wage folks in our community. It is time for our city council to take the same principled stances and actions for issues of economic justice that they have taken for racial justice, immigration, LGBTQ rights and other issues that similar to income inequality may be impacted by state and federal laws.

- 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.***

The City Council must continue the improvement of public amenities across the city, but must focus especially on overlooked and underserved communities. These are our neighborhoods within the city’s poorest census tracts that often have access to least resources and amenities. The City Council should direct the Parks and Recreation, Neighborhood Improvement Services, General Services departments to develop a transparent strategic plan that prioritizes the equitable allocation of resources and amenities to overlooked and underserved communities and publish the progress on a quarterly basis.

- 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.***

My position is public incentives are valuable bargaining tools necessary to ensure equitable and sustainable communities. Any business looking to receive any kind of incentive from Durham needs to be held accountable to hire folks from Durham. The US Census Bureau’s Center for Economic Studies published a study in 2018 called “The Opportunity Atlas: Mapping Childhood Roots of Social Mobility” that showed the efforts to bring in more jobs with higher wages did **not** positively affect the ability of poor people to escape poverty. It should be no surprise that when the city gives out incentives, most of the benefit goes to the wealthy and not Durham’s overlooked and underserved populations and communities. The study instead found that broad-base employment throughout poor neighborhoods led to the highest likelihood that a child growing up in poverty could escape poverty. If Durham wants to get serious about equality and serious about giving every child a chance, we need to get serious about making sure employment is happening in our poorest neighborhoods.

- 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 barrier racism and money. 1st be fair. Reduce barriers by incentivizing programs that are specific to local businesses of color.

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.**

Define expanding housing choices for low income people? Expanding Housing Choices makes it easier for wealthy homeowners and developers to make more money. It doesn't address our need for more affordable housing and will probably increase gentrification. There is a very real homeownership and wealth gap for blacks in Durham which continues to grow and EHC does not fully address the need to create affordable housing options for Durham's poorest residents.

- 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.**

Addressing the inequality gaps facing the overlooked and underserved. Protect and preserve the current affordable housing stock as it currently exists.

- 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.**

No I do not support the Housing Bond as it is proposed. The city needs to devote more attention, energy and funding to affordable housing. Continually borrowing money on the backs of residents is not the right way. Bonds increase property taxes and inevitably fees for city services, overlooked and underserved residents like seniors, underemployed, youth, low wage workers cannot afford this. We need a more equitable solution that brings some creative thought to this issue. Other communities in the country use a tax policy called Tax Increment Financing to fund affordable housing and curb gentrification. The areas that are growing and where we want to make sure affordable housing gets built (like downtown) can borrow against future tax revenues to get projects in place today. It is like a bond but makes just one neighborhood repay the loan rather than the whole city. This is a far more equitable solution that would fit Durham. Tax increment financing is legal in North Carolina; it just takes elected leaders who are willing to push for something creative. Organizations like PA should champion efforts to reduce financial burdens on the poorest among us, that would be the true progressive way.

- 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. I would not vote to approve any residential rezoning that do not include commitments to the City's affordable housing goal.

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

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*

We are exploring all funding possibilities to fund affordable housing. Durham has access to resources that are rarely tapped to benefit all. We have to diversify our funding and establish new models that incorporate small and minority builders and neighborhood perseveration.

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*

Incorporating equity goals and monitor inclusion of overlooked and underserved communities in to the Comprehensive Plan

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 exclusive and did not receive support across ALL communities.

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.*

Redistributing wealth to distressed, overlooked and underserved communities should be a priority to progressive organizations like PA. Being an ally requires self-reflection, I would love to work with PA on self- identifying to redistribute wealth to low income communities.

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.*

There is absolutely a trust problem between the people of Durham and the police department. There are some neighborhoods and some elected officials that don’t want the police department to be funded to address the violence that occurs in some of our neighborhoods.

However just because that violence is happening in neighborhoods where powerful people don’t typically go doesn’t mean the people or the violence doesn’t exist. I lived and represented neighborhoods with histories of violence and I know the people in these neighborhoods. We have an epidemic of gun violence in this city that is disproportionately affecting our black and brown neighborhoods and children.

We must address all aspects of crime in our city, in order to develop real solutions that are not just crime but also focused on safety, equity and justice.

Chief Davis should be given the tools she needs to hire and train officers that can work with community organizations and residents to address crime and violence in our communities. No one wants racist police officers or violence by police officers themselves and that's why the city must provide Chief Davis with the resources, monetary and technical, to improve how the police department serves our city.

If elected, I would ask for a semi-annual report from the police department that addresses use of force, racial profiling, deployment of personnel, searches, and communication with the public. This report will also address strategies deployed by the department to reduce incidences of racial profiling and discrimination, and how the police department is working with other city and county departments and community-based organizations to address safety and justice in a comprehensive and wholistic manner.

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 city (police department) should unequivocally deny any requests from the U.S Department of Homeland Security to cooperate with Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) investigations or any other federal agency or policy that is rooted in racism and targets specific groups solely on the basis of race. The Durham City Council should direct the Durham Police Department to terminate any access ICE has to the department's immigration databases, if they exist. Until the current administration has demonstrated through policy and practice that it is committed to treating any immigrant with dignity and not separating children from their families, we must not cooperate with ICE or house any ICE detainees in Durham jails.

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.

As Durham faces an increase in violent crimes, the city needs to focus on allocating money to strategies that address equity, safety and justice for overlooked and underserved communities. From increasing funding for summer youth employment to supporting community-based organizations that want to pilot programs/tactics that do not involve our police department, we must have a multi faceted approach to addressing the challenges our city faces. These strategies will likely focus on eliminating the inequalities that exist in our community that contribute to crime such as the lack of access to sustainable jobs and livable wages, lack of affordable housing, and the inability to access to physical and mental health services.

While I absolutely support dedicating funding to community-based organizations to address issues related to safety and justice in our city, I also know that our approach should not rule out the possibility that we may need more officers into neighborhoods that are plagued with gun violence and other violent crimes. As I travel across the city talking to residents, especially those in communities hit hardest by gun violence in particular, they have expressed that they want more

than lofty words and rhetoric.

I am running for city council because I want to bring together those affected by crime, including victims and survivors, those that commit crimes, and anyone dedicated to rethinking the way we address crime.

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.***

Housing inequality and wealth gap in Durham.

Equity goals and monitoring inclusion need to be added to every department and major work being done in the City of Durham.

- 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.***

Any ordinance concerning the rights of members of the LGBTQ community should contain provisions that prevent housing discrimination. While the Fair Housing Act protects people from discrimination when they are renting or buying a home, seeking housing assistance, or engaging in other housing-related activities, it does not directly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. And as the cost of housing rises and access to affordable housing becomes increasingly scarce in Durham, we must ensure that housing-insecure residents and those most likely to experience homelessness, which disproportionately impact LGBTQ people of color and LGBTQ youth, are protected from housing discrimination and have access to affordable housing.

Additionally, any ordinance concerning the civil rights of members of the LGBTQ community should also ban local businesses from discriminating against customers and employees based on their gender identity and sexual orientation. These are moral issues, but also economic issues for our community. When we affirm our commitment to protecting the civil rights of all residents, including those that protect housing and employment discrimination, we are also committing ourselves to making Durham a more economically just city as well.

If elected, I would commit to engaging with the LGBTQ Center of Durham, members of the LGBTQ community and any other resident or organization committed to protecting the civil rights of our LGBTQ community in order to draft an ordinance that adequately addresses the concerns of our LGBTQ community in Durham. Ultimately I will apply this to every protected class that is overlooked and underserved.

- 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.***

The City, County and Durham Public Schools should create a joint returning citizens commission that would be comprised with a majority of previously incarcerated/justice-involved residents. This commission would also have representatives from community-based organizations, government and private sector/business community. This commission would provide recommendations for the commitment of financial and technical resources to facilitate the reintegration of justice-involved individuals into our community.

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.

As an organization that advocates for progressive policies and has expressed support for “Ban the Box” legislation, it is disappointing to see this question included in your questionnaire for mayor and city council candidates. More than 1.6 million North Carolinians have criminal records and many state and federal laws deny North Carolinians a wide range of privileges and rights based on a criminal record, according to the NC Second Chance Alliance. Instead of encouraging candidates from all walks of life, including those who may have been convicted of a criminal offense, questions such as this often discourage those who likely have ideas to solve some of our community’s greatest challenges (especially related to criminal justice reform) from participating in the process.

The Durham People’s Alliance counts many lawyers and judges among its membership. If you are interested in the records of any candidate, you are more than welcome to review any publicly available criminal records.

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

Biographical Statement

Jacqueline (Jackie) Wagstaff has more than 20 years of experience organizing and engaging communities in Durham. She has worked on the grassroots and executive levels, advocating with and for residents around issues such as affordable housing, safety, jobs, environmental justice, education, criminal justice reform and more.

Jackie previously served on the Durham City Council and Durham Public Schools Board of Education where she was a fierce advocate for often overlooked and underserved constituencies. In addition to her years of elected service, Ms. Wagstaff has served in various roles within numerous civic and political organizations, including the Democratic Party, Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People (DCABP), and Durham County Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board, where she has collaborated with residents, advocates, business leaders, elected officials and other stakeholders to improve the lives and conditions of poor and working families and communities throughout Durham. The most important role I have played in my community is being the mother to three sons and the “Glam “mother to seven grandchildren.

