

PA-PAC Questionnaire 2015

Answered completely in my own words and typed into my computer by my own hand

*Michael Wm. Shiflett Campaign to Elect Mike Shiflett At-Large City Council*

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1. *Of all the issues confronting city government, which single issue is most important to you and why? What am I going to do when elected?*

The key issue is: “What is the vision for Durham in the next 20 – 30 years?” This is directly related to the large number of future residents who are projected to come to Durham and how we plan to accommodate that growth in population and fulfilling the recently adapted 5 point Strategic Plan.

It will take into account the tens of thousands of new households (single family, condo, planned community, apartments, town homes) that are being built now along with where and how a mix of options will be planned for, in the coming years. Updating our infrastructures which include streets, water supply and waste, mass transit (bus and LRT) along with decisions about where we want employment will take knowledge of where Durham was, what we’re doing now and what we want to look like in 2040. All of this should be done with intentions to take care of those of us who currently pay taxes and elect civic leaders.

Protecting and preserving what makes Durham unique for its current residents and making sure that we allocate the costs of growth to newcomers requesting additional services. From low income families to professors, senior citizens to veterans, pre-school to youth and young adults, everyone needs to be reassured that “Yes, we’ve thought of that, and it is equitable”.

As a City Council member it requires observational skills, experience and listening. At this point in time, I believe that many residents in Durham want to be reassured that our city government is planning, working and thinking of where we are headed and how we will get there. It means fulfilling each of the 5 points in the recently adopted Strategic Plan that base decisions on listening to our citizens, doing research, civil debate and finally taking action.

I want to help in that reassurance. For over 30 years, I’ve been blessed to live, be employed, raise children, attend school activities and hundreds of neighborhood, community, non-profit and civic organization meetings. I did this to become better informed and improve the city I love.

I will put that knowledge and experience to use by being part of a team of elected officials who have a goal of continuing successes through a solid, informed thought process. Everyone who lives in Durham now, is thinking of moving here or has just arrived, must understand that there is a vision for Durham and that there are “GOOD PEOPLE DOING GREAT THINGS” now and for years into our future.

The first thing I will do as a Council member is to better know the members of the team. Some of them already know me from working on various committees and taskforces. Focusing on where THEY HAVE BEEN and what their goals are is the most important goal for me as we start working together. Strong, effective teams know each other, learn to work as a unit and make decisions. This is critical for the future path Durham must take to help all of its citizens. It's about thriving as a community and providing the quality of life that each of us deserves the opportunity to enjoy.

Durham has been fortunate to have a phenomenal Mayor and City Council leading it with our City Manager implementing that vision. It is my intention to continue being a positive role model for leadership and keep those "great things" happening!

*2. What are the greatest employment needs of Durham's residents? How can city government use its authority and its resources to direct jobs to those who need them most?*

Based significantly on the fact that Durham had a railroad station, a successful tobacco industry then textile producers in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, manufacturing jobs were plentiful and relatively easily acquired for a vast number of Durham's population. With these industries now almost extinct, the unskilled have few options.

For this reason, I have and will continue to be an advocate for mass transit in each of its modes. Enhanced bus, rail in light, commuter and high speed along with circulator connections can provide equal access to jobs that everyone can reach no matter where they live in Durham. Supporting transit improvements also creates jobs at many levels in itself in maintenance, operation and promotional jobs that wouldn't exist otherwise. Along each transit station will be further opportunities for this entrepreneurial spirit to thrive through the creation of new coffee shops, lunch counters, boutiques and sole proprietorships that can give individuals that spirit of hope again across all economic and social barriers.

In this way, Durham will be less dependent on large scale employers and diversify its employment base while also providing access to those big employment centers (Duke, downtown, UNC, RTP, etc.) to those who want options to getting to work. By having both large employment and smaller entrepreneurial opportunities in place, we provide the backbone of employment opportunities coupled with potential small businesses that create jobs by connecting Durham's neighborhoods to employment. This will make it possible for less dependence on government support and more strength in residents' own abilities to face the future and be in control of their own destiny.

Education and training opportunities have to be part of this solution. That's why I support public schools, on the job training, Durham Technical College and higher degree opportunities at NCCU and Duke. We are fortunate to have them here as active participants that open the doors of hope of a better future.

The City is also working to accomplish this by working with residents, non-profits, neighborhood and faith based groups in planning for more affordable housing, improving infrastructure and updating its strategic plan to prepare for integrated economic development opportunities. Durham and the Triangle have been blessed by a number of quality and inclusive developments (and developers) that have added a large variety of job for its residents. A lot has already been achieved, but even more needs to be decided. It will continue to require public and private partnerships. I believe with the background and experience I've been able to participate in we can work together to make opportunities for economic growth something every resident of Durham can share in.

3. How can the City Council act to lift the wages of the lowest paid workers in Durham and reduce growing income inequity in our economy?

Focusing on the training and educational skills we need to instill in our children/young adults to increase the potential they have to get better paying employment is another top priority for me. They are the path to resolve employment inequity.

Providing a system that can be a step ladder which brings the lowest paid workers into higher pay ranges by employers who offer on-the-job skill building and employment advancement is the goal. This benefits both the employer and the employee. City Council and the Department of Economic Development can encourage this by publicly supporting the City Manager's role with the Department of Economic Development in creating programs, in-line service training and personal counseling for civil servants to find advancement both in responsibilities and in monetary compensation. Over the years, Mayor Bell has also provided summer jobs for our youth that build skills and provide additional skills that I support emphatically.

Several years ago, the sitting council voted for its employees a Living Wage for its employees which has created one of the highest starting rates in North Carolina. On City Council, I will support the City Managers budget requests for all city employees for cost of living and merit pay increases in each of his annual budget requests. I work hard to educate myself and listen to our citizens to find opportunities for good paying challenging jobs. This includes struggling students, high school graduates and beyond to become a productive part of our society. I will continue to listen and learn from their experiences.

The Chamber of Commerce plays a huge role with private employers looking to come to Durham each with the potential to have good jobs with good wages and benefits that go with them. As a member I have worked to make it happen!

4. Describe your interest in and commitment to public amenities such as playing fields, open space, walking and biking trails. Am I willing to raise property taxes to provide for and maintain these amenities?

As a committee member of Open Space at DOST, a board member of ECWA and community representative on more than just a few strategic plans over the years I am a committed and frequent advocate for Parks and Recreation, trail planning and building. Plans that include the West Ellerbe Creek Extension from Guess Road to Broad Street, the Rocky Creek Trail from 55

to the Kelly Bryant pedestrian Bridge and the Duke Belt line being just three of the trails that I actively support.

With the recent creation of a Parks and Recreation non-profit I can see the possibilities of grant money and donations from private individuals supplementing efforts by the City/County to improve and better maintain these and others currently in our inventory.

To do this, I support Steve Schewel's initiative of Healthy Durham and City Council's support in an effort to commit not only to specific projects (see CIP question below) but also a dedicated ballot referendum to pay for them. It is my desire to see this planned and implemented for ASAP and I will actively support its passing.

Further, I have conducted, led, supervised and participated in hundreds of workdays, clean-ups, Big and Little Sweep events and volunteered for dozens of Keep Durham Beautiful zero waste and food truck rodeo days. I have also spent hours at Central Park 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday's, ECWA's stewardship days in each of their preserves, several cemetery clean ups, Earth Days, Creek Weeks and Eno Festivals volunteering hours of time that demonstrate that enthusiasm. I am very proud of what we (I mean each organization, non-profit and neighborhood group) have accomplished together.

Seeing the collaboration and team work that's existed for decades between Parks and Recreation, community and neighborhood associations with non-profits is something I can attest to and it is another intention of mine to be an on-going voice of support whenever it comes up in private discussions or in a public venue. With additional creative collaborations, property tax increases could be avoided.

5. What does gentrification mean to me? Where is it happening? What can be done?

My personal experience with gentrification goes back to when I first became aware that my parents had to pay a mortgage for the home we lived in. For years as a kid, I just assumed that my neighborhood would always stay the same and that it didn't matter who lived next door, where they came from or what color of skin they had. We walked to school, did homework and watched black and white TV cartoons on Saturday mornings together. During the summer we played ball during the day then hide and seek long after dark.

All that changed when I left home bought our first home in North Carolina. I discovered that WE were the new family on the block. Although it took a while for us to get acclimated to this new environment, what we did was 'change' the neighborhood. We replaced someone else who had lived there and all the connections that they had made while they had lived in that house.

We also paid more for their home than what they had when they had bought it just a few years earlier. We were part of a number of 'new' families that were moving into Watts Hospital Hillandale and that this was happening all over Durham. Later, in Trinity Park, Old North Durham, Forest Hills and then Walltown, Cleveland Holloway, West End and many others.

The trend was accelerating. WE and an ever increasing number of new folks had become what I later learned was called “GENTRIFICATION”. By referencing ‘we’, I am relating with those who are new to a neighborhood or community. We were replacing what was there with our own hopes and dreams but still wanting to be part of our new home by ‘connecting’ with others who were like us. The difficult thing was that we were more likely to identify with people who were like us (newbies) rather than get to know the older residents.

However we were fortunate to have neighbors that wanted to get to know us. We shared house keys when we left on vacation, babysat for each other on occasion and were a crucial helping hand in emergencies. We were able to integrate ourselves into their lives, and theirs into ours. They celebrated with us when we had another baby. We had picnics together got to know their hopes and dreams. We also went to funerals together. We (and they) became the part of an extended family. So this experience wasn’t as bad as others have experienced or even feared.

Then I went back home to Akron where my parents still lived. The home didn’t look as big as it did when I was young. It had seen better days. There weren’t any kids playing in the street or across from home in the vacant lot playing baseball. No one ventured out of their home and it seemed that my mother didn’t sit on the porch as much as she used to. No one seemed to like sitting outside during thunderstorms or enjoy ‘sun tea’ during hot summer days.

Something happened in both towns. We had a good experience, my parents just the opposite. Life had drained one neighborhood while another was coming alive. My father unfortunately passed last September and my mom wants to move away from the home she’s lived in for close to 60 years. So while my brothers and I would love to preserve our homestead, it just doesn’t make sense financially to do so. It’s just not worth as much as it would be to hold onto it.

The flip side is the home that we bought in 1984 is now worth ten times that amount. The neighborhood is full of life and vigor. It’s preserved some of the character it had just a few generations before. But there are folks that don’t live there anymore. Even some of the friends we made when we first moved there have moved away. What’s happened in my life has, is and will happen here in Durham with variations on that theme.

Kids grow up, parents lose jobs or grow old. Homes deteriorate if not maintained and there are winners and losers in the real estate market. In the end, it’s the individuals who either suffer or benefit from it.

Either way, it would be my hope that as an elected official I understand and remember the feelings and emotions of what a neighborhood is. What makes it (or not) a community of people who care for one another and are sensitive to where they are in their lives plays a huge role in that outcome. I’d also wish that in meeting with residents who are dealing with an issue like their own home, the home of their parents or as a renter that I would have the empathy to relate to those feelings and make a decision that would benefit them in the end. Finally, I know that long term renters are always the ones that suffer the most.

Having been here in Durham to see the revitalization of Barnes Ave into Eastway Village, the Hope VI projects of Few Gardens and on Main Street near Golden Belt, West End and many others I know that it can work. As a member of City Council I have the privilege of having seen successes that can take place when they are well planned out and implemented.

6. In 2012, the city completed a project to convert Ninth Street Compact Neighborhood Tier into a design district. Do I support this concept? Is it a good or bad thing? What can be done to fix the bad?

The committee that spent hundreds of hours that lead from days into nights of negotiation, cajoling, wordsmithing and a debate for/against each and every sentence that ended up in the final draft is who I want to hear from. I submit to their intelligence and advice on what worked and what didn't as this new way to plan and rebuild a Compact Neighborhood into a Design District.

The whole 9<sup>th</sup> Street area has made a complete change over from what was there when I first arrived in Durham. At that time, the old Burlington warehouse complex was abandoned and in a state of neglect. It broke my heart when they tore most of the old brick buildings down. I'd often wondered how it might or could have been creatively reused. The fortunate thing however was that at least a wing of its former magnificence was preserved and turned into office space. I've missed the old 9<sup>th</sup> Street Bakery and McDonalds' milkshakes too. But I can still hear David McKnight on some occasions playing his violin just outside where they used to be located.

What I do understand and heard from some members of that committee is that we can't take what was done at 9<sup>th</sup> Street and completely lay it over other compact Neighborhood Tiers near transit stations with the same Design District. Each location along the corridor has to take into consideration unique characteristics of that area, the neighborhoods surrounding it, the layout of streets along with a mix of uses and design elements that will enhance the uniqueness of that location. It cannot be a cookie-cutter process and it is imperative that it involves residents in those areas that are aware of what they are about to do.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Street Design District lacked specific wording or definitions regarding affordable housing that lead some apartments (and privately owned homes) to be demolished thus replacing what used to be a small community. This must be avoided. Crest Street neighborhood along with several others are at risk. Intense and individual public education and decision making MUST involve the local residents at each station. I've participated with the Coalition for Affordable Housing and Transit over the past three years and will continue to advocate for an update that is inclusive in its process and rewriting of its wording to make it part of each subsequent Design District. (See next question)

7. In 2014, the city council adopted a resolution calling for affordable housing near planned transit stations. Do you support the resolution? Would I change it? Should the city grant developer requests for re-zonings near transit stations without AH? Explain

Yes, as a member of the Coalition for Affordable Housing and Transit I can say that since its inception we have been working to bring individuals, non-profits, volunteer organization and the faith community together to address this. Since that resolution, we have been working with TTA (now Go Triangle) to implement those recommendations. Although the City Council adopted the resolution setting those bullet points as goals, we see them as achievable results that will take time and collaboration to complete.

I know that in Charlotte creating AH has been difficult and in some places along the first phase of the Blue Line is almost non-existent. However, I'm encouraged by both the Rolling Hills and South Side projects getting completed before some of the transit stops come. The State also has limitations on what a local government can require a developer to do.

However, I believe that there are ways that City Council can achieve the goals in the resolution.

Recently a developer promised to give a donation of \$40,000 to Habitat instead of including AH in their project to an individual non-profit. While it's a very small step, from my viewpoint it's much too little. I would have also liked to have seen an affordable housing trust fund that monies like this could be directed to specifically to purchase land and/or develop AH on its own or in collaboration with a developer who is interested and has experience with building AH.

As a City Council member I would also support the recent review of other incentives to increase the likelihood of building AH in and around the proposed transit stations (bus and light rail). These include increasing a density bonus, looking at minimum parking requirements with particular attention to public/private partnerships, setbacks and traffic studies. I would be willing to work on an adopted ordinance that sets out these incentives so that developers, City Council, the Planning Department and citizens know what's possible and predictable should (and it will) come up in the future.

Finally, the penny for housing passed two years ago is generating over \$2 million dollars/year was a good step. As the projects mentioned earlier reach completion, it will be my promise to work on future Consolidated Plans, Community Block grant projects with the department of Housing and Community Development on where our next focus can be.

8. What geographic areas in Durham need special attention from city government? What are the problems and what action should the city take?

While I could start off with wetlands and examples of Jordan and Falls Lake as requiring special attention. The environmental sensitivity along with their financial consequences, if not paid attention to by Durham with respect to the demands of our other Triangle neighbors, is something that pose a significant risk, if ignored (i.e. water quality rules).

If you look at a map of Durham, there are persistent challenges from just about every point on the compass starting in the center with downtown, all need infrastructure improvements. In

center city we're currently working on storm water and sewer pipes, reconfiguring the loop, transecting it with a LRT project with the potential of adding commuter and high speed rail over the next several decades. Couple that with the risks and benefits of existing rail freight coming through the center of town, is a huge geographic special attention area as it sits on the ridge line between the Cape Fear and Neuse River watersheds.

Heading out of town to the east along 98, we're seeing it under construction with the East End (Triangle) Connector that will help alleviate (hopefully) speed and volume of traffic on some of the thoroughfares thru many neighborhoods. With more and more growth east of Durham this is welcomed investment by NCDOT. How that is planned and the zoning that currently exists is going to be constantly challenged as more and more residents find it a place to locate.

To the north I'd like to see the future development of the old Teer quarry as a backup water supply to our ever growing population. New developments along the length of North Roxboro and closer to town across from Argonne Hills are areas that are expected to have plans submitted (if they haven't already) for consideration.

To the south and the phenomenal growth in residential, retail and commercial development requires us to look at what capacity in municipal services (water/sewer/police/roads etc.) that portion of our city needs and if/when those areas are added into the city limits

To the west along both 15/501 and 85 growth pressures have precipitated clear cutting, small forests have disappeared sometimes within weeks. Although these have been mostly in the county, concern with the impacts of removing their filtering abilities is something that sometimes flows downstream into the city with consequences that cost us.

Back in the late 90's as a member of the Coalition for Decent Housing we worked in the Barnes Ave and surrounding neighborhoods (public housing) with the federal Hope VI grant revitalization project. It's taking over a dozen years and still on-going for this area of Durham to see the effects of those efforts.

The Rolling Hills and Southside neighborhood revitalization projects in central Durham are also seeing vast changes that are just now getting completed. More needs to happen in years to come.

So while these areas deserved to have the special attention and focus of intensity of redevelopment, it would be my hope that other areas (and neighborhoods) across Durham also be looked at for smaller but still strategically considered scrutiny.

As an elected official it would be my duty to make sure that in each case, tax dollars are spent wisely and judiciously. Each must bring the best outcomes from those investments that in their completion, the lasting affect is a positive one that endures decades of review.

At this point in time and without any additional information on exactly why a particular piece of property would go through a downzoning, the only circumstance that I would vote to downzone a piece of property without specifics (each case desires that scrutiny) would be if that property owner requested it.

I am also aware that there have been a number of down zonings for previously zoned industrial and commercial areas. While each case was reviewed, studied and recommended, there is a case for having enough potential sites for future industrial and commercial areas that can provide good paying jobs and economic benefits to residents of Durham. If this trend continues, it would be a concern of mine that additional consideration of such action might be needed so as NOT to limit the possibility of a medium to large company locating to Durham by being frustrated by the lack of a location that would fit their needs.

10. City Manager gave council a list of potential CAP to prioritize. Which four are MY top priorities for expenditures? Is there another project that I would insert that wasn't the original list? Would I be willing to raise property taxes to accomplish these priorities?

The 2016-2021 CIP contains general fund money for sidewalks, fire protection, parks and fiber optic installation. The City Councils' decisions were not made quickly or without thought or deliberation. Given that they along with the City Manager had opportunities to review, discuss and debate each one on their merits and fiscal needs, I am confident that those decisions were the best for our City and that I support that decision along with which ones and how much funding was allocated to each..

As I've heard many elected officials before me state "There's more needs than revenues". This has been true for each and every election (local, state or federal) since I've become a voter. Our job as elected officials is to look at the health and safety of our citizens first, serve those needs and add amenities that enhance their lives when funding is available.

I also support the on-going effort to eventually construct the Duke Belt Line trail. This is a high priority for me along with creating a connected series of trails with green spaces across Durham much like the Emerald Necklace in Boston. I believe that the recent TIGER grant to develop a feasibility master plan is a great step in making this happen.

Progressing to a redesign/rerouting of the Downtown Loop is another area deserving consideration. Connecting our thriving downtown with surrounding neighborhoods like Cleveland Holloway, Eastway, Golden Belt, Morehead Hill and West End creates access to jobs. This will facilitate making those neighborhoods (and others) finally getting reconnected to our urban hub and bring benefits that I believe are worth funding.

Durham is experiencing phenomenal growth in apartments, condos and hotels with some neighborhood revitalizations that have and will increase the tax base. It would be my desire that these new projects provide the funding for both the services the City provides and opportunities to catch up with needs that remain unfunded.

I applaud the City Council and the Manager for not raising property taxes this year. This might be possible every election cycle.

However, I am not in favor of reducing services and it would be my hope that the higher collections from the above mentioned projects will provide the revenues to accommodate them .

11. Council recently voted for \$11.25 million in public financial support for 2 private development projects in downtown. Was this the correct decision? Are other projects equally deserving? What is my philosophy?

The City Manager, Planning staff and City Council had hours and hours to hear, understand, debate and then decide on these projects (Chesterfield and Innovation District) along with determining how much each one benefited the City. This is something that is their responsibility and duty to perform. It is not in my nature to think that I have more information or am smarter than the collective minds of these civil servants or say that there are other projects that are worthy of consideration that would change that decision. I have not been privy to enough information to make that judgement.

My philosophy regarding incentives is one that each project be evaluated on its own merits. That there is a need within the City that is predetermined and set out in advance of any discussions regarding incentives. I would support and want to be a part of the discussion to implement a Development Incentive Ordinance that would set our preconditions, options and processes for projects that request incentive packages from the city.

Durham is very fortunate to be experiencing a healthy and vibrant growth spurt after the recession of the past number of years. In most cases, developers are looking to maximize profits by asking for incentives. If the project that they are proposing doesn't benefit a pre-set, public good that provides something that the City can't provide for in the near future and it's in an area that brings opportunities for its neighbors, then and only then would I consider supporting an incentive to assist that project. These might be parking, set back requirements, higher density bonuses and building height adjustments.

12. What circumstances would cause me to vote for bus fare increases? Is city's public transportation system effectively managed? Is it serving those in most need? What is my philosophy?

To answer this question, I took the time to ride our bus system recently. I discovered that it only costs a \$1 per trip or \$2/day. However, I was slightly disappointed to see that while our Transportation Hub had electronic updates for arrival and departure times, the promise made several years ago to update the many bus stops (at least some that I observed) this electronic on-time signage was not available. I also was a little surprised to see a number of bus stops without shelters to protect riders from the weather.

Since the passing of the ½ cent sales tax referendum DATA (then TTA and now GO Durham) has taken on a system wide review of ridership and routes for Durham. A number of changes specifically focused on efficiency and riders needs have been implemented. This has involved individuals I have come to trust and believe have the best interests of the public. After hundreds of hours of research, public input and leaning over maps of Durham along with connecting to surrounding counties, it is my understanding from talking with other passengers that the system of buses and ridership has improved. I'm encouraged to know that this is being studied in-depth from a study that was presented last Thursday at the City Council work session involving ridership makeup and service coverage

More needs to be done. Capital improvements along these lines ought to be paid for by the sales tax voted in for these purposes. Operational expenses should be covered by current funding.

At this time, I would NOT favor a bus fare increase.

However, I still look forward to a complete installation of electronic (digital?) signage at each stop for accurate and timely ARRIVAL and DEPARTURE times that match those currently at the Transportation Hub in downtown.

It would be my philosophy (and it has been) that the STAC recommendations continue to be implemented that specifically identified enhanced bus service coupled with local connector routes to an eventual Light Rail infrastructure that will provide both riders of need and riders of choice to a more efficient and accessible mass transit system.

I further look forward and will support (as I have for the past 15 years) the planning, public input and eventual construction of commuter rail to our neighboring communities (Greensboro/Wilson Mills) that NCRRC has studied and the regional high speed rail from DC to Charlotte (and/or Atlanta) that the Obama administration has proposed for the next generation of North Carolinians. These connections will provide access for both those who have limited resources to get from their homes to jobs, recreation, shopping and vacations as alternatives to motor vehicle transportation.

13. Council recently approved a road diet for a section of D-CH Blvd near Fosters/Refractory Café. Was it a wise decision? Do I support or oppose this concept and its affects?

Durham is number one in pedestrian crashes per capita in North Carolina and there's been a 58% increase in pedestrian crashes over the past 5 years. This study also found that 60% of these pedestrian crashes involve African-Americans! This is simply unacceptable. Our roads should not just serve those that drive a vehicle but cyclists and pedestrians that use those streets to get around Durham.

Regarding this particular location, from what I understand, it is NCDOT who initiated this since it's a designated a state thorough fare due for repaving. Further, they are willing to consider

'restriping't to accommodate designated parking, bike paths and pedestrian crossings from Hardies to the Thai restaurant. I also seem to recall having heard that it wouldn't cost the city anything and that if we decided to change it back, that cost would be at our expense.

Therefore, I support improving transportation corridors to accommodate what I've come to hear called Complete Streets that accommodate pedestrian convenience, bike lane access and vehicular speed reduction in the mix. I've also seen this incorporate streetscaping with designated parking which can enhance its functionality and beauty

I am also aware of some vocal business and community concerns regarding this offer and I will continue to listen to those concerns to see where concessions can be made and the viability of the business and safety of all commuters assured.

Finally, the option of reverting it to its previous configuration would be possible with an expense/benefit comparison that proved that it needed to be re-evaluated. Time will tell if it can be repeated elsewhere or not

14. Do I support public funding of city programs and services through property taxes or user fees by explaining why.

It is and should continue to be a mixture of both.

While I've heard some say Durham's property tax rate is higher than other comparable municipalities, it's my belief that our population mix different with services provided can't be easily compared with other cities. Durham is also unusual in that it has only one large city within its boundaries.

That being said, I'm looking forward to the intense growth within those boundaries with new construction, re-use of older buildings, revitalization of downtown, increased number of hotels, apartments, condos along with renewed home construction and remodeling with our City seeing a proportionally appropriate increase in our tax base.

This eases the need for constant or frequent increases in the city's property tax rate.

Fees for use of public facilities can and should be minimal and justified by those departments that have or will institute them. This includes Parks and Recreation where a fee that's paid carries a responsibility by that group or individual that they will take care of that facility and return it in the same condition it was provided in.

However, I am deeply concerned about the WAY a recent fee was introduced to the public for Yard Waste containers. It was badly proposed, sorely planned and an absolute disaster in the way it was presented to households that had paid for their containers. It seemed to me that while there might have been a different method in handling replacement and maintenance costs for them, asking participants who'd ELECTED to participate in the program are now being asked to pay an ADDITIONAL fee on top of their annual assessment for doing something that reduces solid waste being picked up, driven to the transfer station then added to the weight of solid waste driven out of town by a private contractor. For many, it appeared that it was a thinly veiled way to find a revenue source.

City Council should have shared in this misstep and accepting responsibility for its public relations debacle. For me personally, I have participated in the Yard Waste program for as long as it's been available. We recycle, compost and judiciously dispose of all of our waste in a responsible and environmental manner. It would be my hope that as a member of City Council I will continue to be an involved and educated citizen and will do everything within the abilities of that position to make sure other citizens feel that they see value and understanding for the fees and taxes that are levied by the City.

15. Is there a trust problem between the people of Durham and DPD. Am I satisfied with their responses to issues of force, racial profiling, searches and communication with the public?

I attended the PAC 4 meeting Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup> led by Harold Chestnut that specifically addressed these issues. Over 80 residents were in attendance and two hours of presentations, honest discussions and a variety of opinions were expressed. On Monday July 20<sup>th</sup> another public conversation took place at Holton School and Resource Center led by Councilman Eddie Davis. While a larger venue many more people attended, law enforcement, community advocates and social change activists spoke their minds.

Many pointed out that like several incidents across the nation recently in the media, Durham has its share of citizens who've been victimized physically and emotionally by individual members of law enforcement. Law enforcement (Sheriff and DPD) admitted that while these do happen, they are working to gather statistics, train officers, sensitize trainers and trainees to prevent additional incidents from happening again.

I support the DPD. Durham Sheriff's Department, Duke and NCCU police in their on-going efforts to be more connected to their community and the concept of community policing that builds relationships with a one on one focus. But of course, there's always more that can be improved upon.

One solution for law enforcement is better psychological screening of new recruits with periodic evaluation of our current officers skill sets to serve with a consistent pattern of positive interactions with citizens who are not a threat to other citizens or the peace officer. Durham's citizens need to rebuild a stronger working relationship based on trust, mutual respect and an expectation of being treated fairly. The reverse must also be a part of that goal. An integral part of the current situations is a preconceived mistrust of law enforcement that has led to some encounters that have escalated to tragic outcomes for each of individuals involved.

Calls for more police patrols, less enforcement, fewer arrests for minor violations, mutual respect for each other and the underlying need of better communications are goals that might be reached for but not attained until everyone has a chance to be heard and understood. Anger expressed during both meetings indicated to me the frustration of not being heard and understood along with a lack of being acknowledged for the pain being felt among the victims is at the root of this problem.

Moments when an abuse of authority, mistrust, disrespect, anger, fear or lack of clear communication can escalate an everyday encounter into a disastrous ending. Recent events and history bears this out. Some media outlets have fueled raw and sensitive emotions to a point where there can be no positive outcome. We must recognize that uncontrolled emotions have difficult dynamic effects on its participants. A solution to the problem will not be fast or easily attained. But as someone who's been involved in the community as a leader and a participant in community policing over several Police Chief and Sheriffs, I dedicate myself to finding safe and productive ways to resolve these differences and will continue to support efforts like Councilman David and Mr. Chestnut (PAC 4) to hold frank and productive public meetings.

16. Is the Civilian Police Review Board an effective tool for police oversight? What would I do to respond to perceived (or real) problems with DPD oversight?

As a member and a past chair of Partners Against Crime District 2, a volunteer with the Citizens Observer Patrol, a graduate of the Citizens Police Academy, participant of DBAC for close to 16 years (7 as chair) along with having encounter hundreds of patrol police officers and supervisory staff I do have an opinion based on those experiences.

It is one based on what I've seen and heard as we've shared honest and frank conversations under the shared concept of 'community policing' over these many years in both private and public conversations.

I have also attended several CPRB board meetings and heard the complaints and antidotal experiences residents had with unfavorable circumstances that left them feeling violated and/or disrespected. It was a difficult thing to watch, but not as difficult as it must have been for those who spoke and go through those experiences. One gentleman had several instances to recount and his recommendations for more oversight included giving more power to investigate them and identify (and discipline officers in one testimony) to this board.

However, I also learned that it isn't currently within the statutory power now given to Citizen Review Boards to act in this quasi-judicial manner. For this reason its role in being such limits their power to be such.

For me, that final review and in-depth investigation is within the power of both the Police Chief and above him the City Manager. Unless that changes, the 'advisory role' of this board will need to remain as such with the limited role of sometimes a cursory review that is then submitted to these two.

From my perspective and what I've learned, there have been perceived and real instances of behavior, responses and actions of individual law enforcement officers here in Durham as well as across the county. Whether perceived or real, it is the honest and passionate feelings of enough citizens that demand a change in policies and procedures, hiring practices and oversight of on-current law enforcement.

I support these as I've heard that the City Manager and Police Chief have.

But I also feel that a vast majority of officers and command staff are dedicated and sensitive civil servants of the public and have not, do not and will not tolerate widespread racial profiling, excessive force (unless called for) or at a minimum not following established policies and procedures in fulfilling the roles and duties of a sworn officer of law enforcement.

It will continue to be my focus that the DPD, as directed by the Police Chief and managed by our City Manager, continue to grow and build on lessons learned whether they're within city limits or across the nation. As an elected official I would continue to work with law enforcement AND be a voice for citizens who want to improve it.

17. Should the enforcement of laws criminalizing marijuana use be among the DPD's lowest priorities?

This is a complex question to answer since there are a number of laws that pertain to the purchase, holding, sale of, use of and driving under the influence of Marijuana. Officers encountering it during the performance of their sworn duties turns enforcing those laws differently creates numerous scenarios that might cause even more problems that just saying they should make it a low priority.

For instance, if an officer smells it on a driver or in the car he's just pulled over for a violation, how would you want him to respond? One option would for the officer to cite the offender with whatever violation that caused the stop and let them go on their way. Do you see a potential problem with that? How would that compare to someone he just had pulled over that either had an open container of alcohol or the driver smelled of it? Can we consider the consequences of allowing the operation of a motor vehicle by a possibly impaired driver? Would you want to be on the road afterwards?

In the same context, if an officer investigates the suspicion that there is a violation should it be discretionary for them to determine just how much is citation worth or deemed arrestable? Then If it's a minimum amount (subjective?) should the officer let the offense off and in his discretion dispose of what they found in the gutter like might happen if the driver wasn't using but others in the vehicle were (like juvenile alcohol use)? What's discretionary and what isn't.

If the officer, in their judgement or in fulfilling the lowest priority advice, decides to confiscate the illegal items but let the driver (and passengers) go, just what is the officer supposed to do with it? Take it to headquarters? Dump it in the gutter? How do you keep this situation from becoming a source of suspicion and/or corruption?

Is someone going to keep track of those encounters? When can an officer use discretion or enforce the law by arresting violators?

I don't know the answers to these questions. But I do believe that once an individual has a record or even just a citation, it's a difficult road to reverse the after effects of that encounter that might correct that negative behavior or overcome the consequences of poor judgement and/or unwise decisions.

Finally, yes I would like to see laws that might lead to less criminalization of minor violations. But protecting both the public and the law enforcement officers who might be faced with consequences resulting in either another poor choice or unwise decision is just as concerning to me. Having protections and safety for us is just as important for me as it would be for empathy for someone who is in the public domain while under the influence of any illegal substance or over use of it.

As a side note, I support Judge Craig Brown's efforts for expungement for a minor violation that happened under circumstances like this that gives individuals the opportunity to get their lives straightened out and their records cleared after a period of time of no violations.

18. Would I support legislation to protect GLBT from discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodation and access to government benefits and services?

**ABSOLUTELY YES**

19. Have I ever been convicted of criminal offense, charged with a felony?

**NO**

20. Do I have a judgement of debt outstanding against me?

**NO**

21. How am I currently registered to vote? Did I ever change it?

I have been registered Unaffiliated for as long as I can remember. but honestly can't remember if it was possible to do so back in February of 1973 when I turned 18.

22. For whom did you vote for in the 2008 and 2012 presidential and gubernatorial elections?

I only discuss with whom I'm considering voting for with my family. I've always considered it a confidence that should be respected. My history of community involvement, active participation in neighborhood and civic organizations along with several regional, then national work should give you a better perspective of who I am and how I'd vote in a variety of situations, not just state or federal elections I hope that you understand and respect this.

22. For whom did you vote in the 2014 U.S. Senate election?

See above.