

## People's Alliance Q&A due 8/20

### Government and the Public Good

1. Of all the issues confronting Durham County, which single issue is most important to you and why? What would you do about it if you were elected?

I think Durham's growth is a challenge. Maintenance of existing programs and facilities paired with exponential growth complicates every responsibility of the city government. I would critically look at the investments in which the City becomes involved, including management of the Affordable Housing Bond to ensure symbiotic applications that uplift existing communities and to direct growth wisely.

### Education

2. Do you think it's appropriate to use the city's zoning/annexation/utility extension powers to hold charter schools accountable? If so, how would you do that?

No, I don't think that is how to hold charter schools accountable. Parent choice and performance data from the schools provides measures to ascertain whether a charter school is successful. Durham should expand school choice and provide myriad schooling options rather than restricting charters.

3. How will you ensure that school facilities are incorporated into the long-range comprehensive planning process so that schools will serve as focal points for communities and neighborhoods?

I would look to incorporate and engage in long range planning in areas surrounding proposed or existing school sites. Proposed investments or incentives that enhance sustainable communities and its growth should be prioritized in areas surrounding existing and proposed school sites.

4. How should the City Council use public dollars to ensure that youth in Durham have equitable access, including transportation, to affordable extracurricular and job training opportunities?

The city needs to invest in programs to aid in apprenticeship and training programs both inside and outside of the school system. Investment in recreational and extracurricular programs should be targeted to make available myriad avenues of success and engagement to our youth.

Currently, Youth and students are able to ride the bus for free, but often bus stops are in poor condition and not dignified. Many bus stops are marked only by a mere post on the side of busy streets with overgrown grass without shelter, seating or even bus maps available. Durham can do better for its citizens regarding public transportation.

5. What ideas do you have for Parks and Recreation to improve specialized programming options for different populations? (For example, disabled or religiously adherent members of our communities.)

I would look to Racial Equity & Inclusion Division to make suggestions for Parks and Recreational programs. Listening to those who best understand integration of inclusion will aid those programs into being more effective and attainable with its programs.

### Racial Equity

6. How does race equity play into your view of governance? Will you ensure that race equity is a part of your leadership/governance? If so, how?

Consideration of how policies affect citizens is paramount. Race Equity is a subject that has been brought to the forefront of dialogues. I think Durham has done a good job putting forth efforts to understand race equity and work towards policies that work to solve racial inequities, as with having the division of Racial Equity & Inclusion and having released the 2020 Racial Equity Task Force. For me, I want to apply a critical eye towards city investments to ensure city funds used will uplift disadvantaged communities. Durham City can demonstrate respect for all its citizens in employing policies, procedures and literature that heeds the advice of inclusion and equity experts.

7. What is your position on the county/city of Durham establishing a dedicated Race Equity Fund? Please explain.

The City would need to find funding for this new program within the budgetary boundaries in which the city has already. If private citizens choose to create such a fund, I am in support of that and believe it would be a wonderful endeavor. Private charity should not be underestimated.

8. How, if at all, should Durham utilize the 2020 Durham Racial Equity Taskforce Report?

The Taskforce Report offers a lot of insight. Ideas I'm in favor of from the report include: protecting victims regardless of immigration status, expanding data collecting of Police department incidents and health related data for community health assessments; expanding Jury pools to all residents of age rather than basic DMV records; investing in community-based mental health interventions and mental wellness programs through parks and recreation; using appropriate language for marginalized populations; race equity training programs for first responders; prioritizing appropriate investment in food deserts areas; investing more to engage disconnected youth.

#### Housing and Transportation

9. How will you ensure that new housing development serves the Durham community equitably, including households with income less than \$15/hour?

New housing developments that receive city incentives or zoning changes must be thoroughly evaluated for their benefits for the existing community. Rent control or small dwelling unit requirements should be considered for new housing developments.

10. Would you support adding a city policy to the Comprehensive Plan which favors the inclusion of at least 20% small dwelling units in new residential developments? If such a policy were adopted, under what circumstances would you let it guide your vote on zoning/annexation/utility extension cases? Under what circumstances would you make an exception to such a policy?

(Note: 'Small' in this context would mean smaller than 1,200 sf in single-family units, whether attached or detached, and smaller than 1,000 sf in two bedroom apartments in multifamily buildings.)

Yes, I am in favor of cultivating mixed income housing and creating space for families in new developments.

11. How will you make the development process transparent to neighborhoods and ensure they have a seat at the table with planning staff and developers? Would you support Durham neighborhoods in creating small area plans?

If Durham neighborhoods created small area plans and submitted them for consideration of funding to the City, I think it would be a tremendous help. Organized efforts like this do not happen without considerable manpower from stakeholders. I would endeavor to incorporate their visions into goals for the area to further aid in discernments of development or investment.

12. How will you expand bus service, so riders can connect across Durham? What transportation infrastructure is most pressing to fund and expand?

The poor condition of bus stops must be improved to where there is seating and shelter provided along with bus route maps, at each location. Currently, the bus stop markers on the side of many busy streets without seating and shelter are not dignified. Durham needs to improve public transportation infrastructure so that bus riding is safe and therein viable.

13. Black communities in Durham are being threatened by displacement due to private investment. What resources and support can the City and County deploy to help longtime residents resist the negative impact of these developments and facilitate self-determined visions for the future of each community?

One specific way the city can continue to minimize threats of displacement to Black communities is through its The Longtime Homeowner Grant program which helps subsidize individual residents' property taxes. Also, smart zoning and investment decisions in all communities must not be underestimated. Approving investments only to those parties who pledge to pay living wages or show other tangible benefits to the existing communities are one prudent step to making sure Durham investments benefit its communities.

14. Energy affordability is an underappreciated aspect of housing affordability. What steps can the City take to ensure high electricity bills do not force residents out of their homes?

There exist myriad programs in Durham to aid in energy affordability. Durham County's Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) provides one-time grants and emergency cash payments to assist in paying their families' heating bills. There is also the North Carolina Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) which assists in weatherizing homes and repairing or replacing heating and air units in homes which aids in reducing the consumption of energy.

15. How would you act to ensure that development in Durham is done in an equitable way that benefits long-time residents as well as new arrivals?

Each investment from the city or zoning change must be thoroughly vetted for appropriateness: who are the stakeholders and how will they be affected, benefited or harmed. Key outcomes must be defined so that those developments may be held accountable to measurable goals.

## Environment and Climate

16. What do you see as the most critical environmental and climate justice issues facing Durham, and what do you believe the city should do about them? Specifically, what opportunities do you see at the intersection of climate action, environmental justice, and Durham's economic development strategy?

There are many vacant buildings throughout Durham. Durham should incentivize revitalizing existing structures or repurposing existing lots so that these decayed areas can be utilized. To me, transforming unused spaces into community assets is recycling at its core and essential to community growth dovetailing with sustainable development.

17. American city government officials have the unique power of regulating real estate through zoning. Will you accept donations to your campaign from major real estate interests? Please explain your position.

No, I wouldn't. I don't need any more funds for my campaign; I'm not running a moneyed campaign nor will I pander or pay-to-play with special interest groups.

#### City Finances, Incentive, and Services

18. What is the most important thing that is not currently being funded by the City? Would you be willing to raise taxes to fund this item?

Durham City charges more in taxes than neighboring counties already. Durham City Council must budget in ways that are effective and sustainable and improve its residents' quality of life. Crime must be reduced. Greater funding needs to go towards the Police Department so that they can implement a multi-pronged approach to policing, including featuring a team of supplemental services to help diffuse situations, such as the new Department of Community Safety and Wellness.

19. What is your position on providing public incentives to private firms to promote economic development in Durham?

All incentives offered must be thoroughly vetted for appropriateness. Where are they being applied and to what measurable end? Key outcomes must be defined before any incentives are offered so that said firms may be held accountable to measurable goals.

#### Justice and Law Enforcement

20. The newly elected Council will have to decide whether to transfer fifteen frozen positions by the current Council from the Durham Police Department to the newly created Community Safety Department. What is your position regarding the new Department, and would you support the transfer? If the Department's pilot programs are successful, what other resources would you be willing to commit to it, and where would they come from?

I am very much in favor of the department. However, in a city with high crime we cannot dismantle the police to achieve better safety. I am in support of funding both the police department and likewise fund an additional Community Safety Department to help first responders best approach situations.

21. Are you satisfied with the Durham Police Department, including its administrative, law enforcement, and security functions? Should City government increase or decrease resources allocated to the Police Department? Please explain your answer.

No, I am not satisfied. However, it is hard to be satisfied when the requests of the police department have been ignored for years. The departure of CJ Davis demonstrates to me how with little support, little can thrive. Durham Police Department needs help and more funds. Police are chronically overstaffed and have terrible morale in Durham. The city wastes money training new officers just to have them leave to work in neighboring counties because of lack of support the City Council gives the police department.

I am not in support of reducing Police Department funding. If anything, greater funding needs to occur to implement a multi pronged approach to policing, including featuring a team of supplemental services to help diffuse situations such as the new Department of Community Safety and Wellness.

## Political

22. For whom did you vote for in the 2016 and 2020 presidential and gubernatorial elections? For whom did you vote in the 2020 U. S. Senate election? Please limit your answer to the names of your selections.

Clinton; Biden; Cooper both times and Cunningham

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

Please do not forget to provide us with your resume or biographical statement.

## Biographical Statement

I grew up in Cary, NC through 1998 and moved to Fuquay-Varina, NC until I went to Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. One set of my grandparents were in Wilmington and the others in Charlotte. When I married Fred (Northern High alumni!), we moved to Durham in 2009 and have lived here since.

I have a background in non-profit administration and finance. I previously worked at The Lerner Jewish Community Day School and then Westminster Presbyterian Church, both doing business management and administration. I am a member of my church's finance committee and active in the local mom's nonprofit, the Durham Mother's Club.

I believe we all have a right to choose our own paths and live our own individual lives as we choose, with limited government interference. We can all contribute meaningfully to society. My identity is tied to my children and community and the hope for a better future for them.