

## Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC

### 2013 Questionnaire for D.C. Council Candidates

#### MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

1. In the event of congressional action leading to a ballot initiative in the District that would take away the civil marriage rights now enjoyed by same-sex couples, will you oppose the initiative and will you publicly defend civil marriage equality?

Yes. As you know I co-introduced and voted for the "Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Equality Amendment Act of 2009" and publicly opposed the proposed ballot initiative. While I believe that the residents of the District would overwhelmingly support marriage equality, I do not believe that granting basic civil rights to a specific population should be dependent on the will of the majority. These rights should be granted to us all. This would not have been acceptable during the civil rights movement and it should not be acceptable now.

2. YES.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

3. Will you support legislation giving the directors of the Office of GLBT Affairs and the Office of African Affairs the authority to issue competitive grants as other minority constituent offices have, that will be open to organizations serving the populations within the offices' purview?

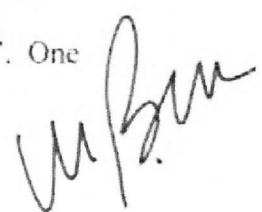
Yes. These offices should have the authority to issue competitive grants and should receive levels of funding for those grants that are similar to other minority constituent offices.

4. Will you defend the District's hard-won and life-saving medical marijuana program against attacks or further restrictions, whether from Congress, federal officials, D.C. officials, or residents?

Yes. I was proud to cosponsor and vote for the "Legalization of Marijuana for Medical Treatment Amendment Act of 2010" and will continue to publicly support and defend the implementation of this law. While I believe that it is reasonable to allow neighborhood residents to weigh in on location decisions, especially when they are being concentrated in one part of the city, I also think we need to make it clear to residents that the cultivation centers and dispensaries do not present any inherent problems to a neighborhood.

5. Describe steps you will support to improve performance at the HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD, and TB Administration (HAHSTA), including in HIV prevention, HIV/AIDS surveillance, and mental health services.

HIV/AIDS is clearly one of the biggest health concerns within the District. With the highest rate in the country and with an infection rate of 3% (3 times what the CDC defines as a generalized epidemic) it is clear that HIV needs to continue to be a priority for our local and national government. Even prior to joining the Council I was involved with the fight against this disease and I was proud to serve on the board of the Whitman Walker Clinic. Since I have joined the Council I have continued be interested in this issue and have often cited the findings and recommendations of the DC Appleseed report and the subsequent periodic "report cards". One



of the first bills that I co-introduced was the Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan Act of 2009, which called for a science based 5-year strategic plan to prevent the transmission of HIV. I have also been the only Councilmember to sit on the board of the local chapter of the Black Leadership Commission on AIDS which is an effort that brings black clergy to the table to engage in grassroots outreach through their ministry. The goal is to educate their congregations on how to prevent the transmission of HIV as well as to take on the stigma associated with HIV and get past some of the more conservative views within the church that have been damaging in the fight against HIV. I was also happy to co-sponsor and vote for the "Senior HIV/AIDS Education and Outreach Program Establishment Act of 2012" and the "HIV/AIDS Continuing Education Requirements Amendment Act of 2012". These bills will help target peer-based outreach and education to the senior population in DC which has been disproportionately impacted by HIV and will ensure that our medical professionals are getting further education on how to address the issues associated with HIV.

Moving forward, I will continue to be involved with and supportive of these efforts. I will also continue to support the recent progress the District has made regarding routinized testing, health data collection, condom distribution, needle exchange programs, and science based health education in our schools. Furthermore, I will remain committed to increasing access to mental health services for those who are grappling with issues related to infection and access to treatment and housing for those living with the disease. There has been significant research that has shown that housing and treatment is not only important to limiting the numbers who die of this disease, but it is also an important method of reducing transmission. Lastly, no matter what my role, I will always devote myself to ending the damaging and unjustified stigma associated with HIV.

While I have focused my answer on HIV, it is important to note that many of these actions will similarly have a profound impact on limiting the transmission of many other Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

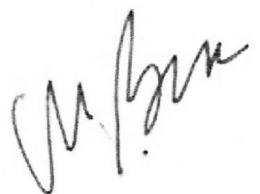
## **PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUDICIARY**

**6. a.** Will you press for increased oversight of the Metropolitan Police Department's gathering and analysis of crime statistics to ensure greater comprehensiveness and objectivity, including transgender-related hate crime data?

Yes. I believe that it is imperative that we accurately gather and analyze crime statistics. Without access to this type of information in an accurate and timely manner, we will not be able to make fully informed decisions regarding our policing strategies.

**7. a.** Will you support funding for MPD to hire or contract qualified trainers to provide LGBT-inclusive cultural competency training including the handling of intimate partner violence?

Yes, if we do not have the expertise internal to the Department (such as the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit) than I would support funding for such an initiative.



8. Will you oppose legislation to make permanent the so-called Prostitution-Free Zones (PFZs), which facilitate anti-transgender profiling, and will you vote to repeal the current PFZ law?

- Yes. Despite the fact that 8 of my colleagues supported the "Prostitution Free Zone Amendment Act of 2011" when it was introduced, I opposed the bill and made my opposition known to the Chair of the Judiciary Committee who, after a public hearing, rightfully refused to move the bill.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

9. Do you agree that the Director of the Office of Human Rights should be required to have professional training and experience in civil rights law enforcement?

- Yes. It seems reasonable to expect the Director of the Office of Human Rights to have the relevant training and experience necessary to effectively fulfill his duties.

10. YES, I BEGAN WORKING WITH ANOY BOWEN LAST YEAR ON THIS.  
YOUTH AND SENIORS

11. Will you oppose both federal and local voucher programs that fund students in religious schools that are beyond the protections of the D.C. Human Rights Act?

Yes. I have opposed the expansion of the voucher program in DC and have, on numerous occasions, signed letters to Congress and the Mayor expressing my opposition to this program. Federal Education funding should not be seen as a way of compelling our government to relinquish our commitment to the DC Human Rights Act. Furthermore, diverting funding from our public school system, which is in the midst of major reforms, to test an ideological policy that is not supported by the residents of DC (or academic research), is not something that I support.

~~10. Will you oppose the use of either federal or District taxpayer funds to promote "abstinence only until marriage" sex education that undermines safer sex programs by excluding more comprehensive information?~~

~~Yes. The research is clear that abstinence only sex education doesn't work and with DC's STD rates that is simply not an option for our youth. I will continue to proactively support evidence based, comprehensive, and developmentally appropriate sex education in all our schools including our charter schools who have been hesitant to adopt across the board standards.~~

12. Will you support legislation to ensure equal Medicaid spousal impoverishment protections for same-sex partners, including providing local funding to pay for benefits that are denied at the federal level due to the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act?

Yes. While I wasn't aware of this issue until reading the GLAA 2012 agenda, I am committed to not only supporting this legislation and related funding, but I will explore introducing the bill myself.

## CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES

*M. Bowen*

13. Do you support the right of adults in the District to choose adult-oriented entertainment for themselves, and the right of appropriately licensed and zoned businesses to provide it, without excluding any ward?

Yes, however I also do believe it is important that neighborhoods get a say in the type of businesses that are in their communities. Therefore, while I wouldn't interfere with the process I do believe that the process should continue to provide for the input of neighborhood residents and if a majority of residents who are in a close proximity to the establishment are opposed that should be factored in to the decision.

14. Will you support legislation to curb abuses involving endless series of baseless complaints to harass or extort bars and restaurants?

Yes, however this legislation would have to be carefully crafted to ensure it does not result in the loss of one's ability to file legitimate complaints against a business.

15. What will you do to provide alternatives to incarceration for marginalized and at-risk populations like homeless youth and transgender people who resort to prostitution for survival?

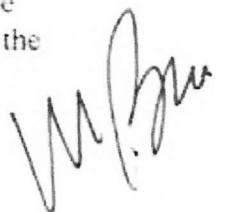
I will continue to champion the need for more proactive programs that give marginalized populations real opportunities to succeed in today's society. Since joining the Council I have been the biggest advocate on the Council to protect and increase funding for job training programs, homeless services, and affordable housing, all of which are needed to help stabilize the lives of many who are economically marginalized. I have also passed legislation that would require detailed outcome measures for this funding so we can be sure we are funding the most effective programs and providers.

As the former chair of the Committee on Housing and Workforce Development I also worked with the Mayor and the Department of Employment Services to launch a targeted Project Empowerment pilot program, which provided job training to transgender people. I also authored and introduced the "Homeless Services Reform Amendment Act of 2009" which, among other things, mandated that a homeless youth provider be represented on the Interagency Council for the Homeless (ICH) and that the strategic Homeless No More plan include a section on addressing issues of homeless youth. I also was the only Councilmember to advocate that an additional \$1.7million be placed on the FY13 Budget Priority list specifically to increase the capacity of homeless youth providers.

I will continue to fight for these and other necessary programs that provide opportunity to our marginalized populations.

**Your record is part of your rating. Please list any actions that you have taken that may help illustrate your record on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.**

In addition to the many items I listed in the above answers I also would like to note that I have been a vocal supporter of MPD's Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit (GLLU) and have supported the

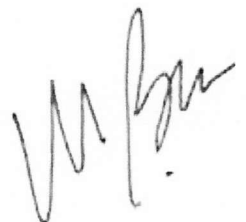


goal of maintaining this award winning community policing unit with a fully staffed core unit as well as the growing affiliate officer program. I have also spoken out against hate crimes and stressed the importance of better tracking and enforcement of our hate crimes statute. Furthermore, I was the original author of the "Bullying Prevention Act of 2010" which was recently passed by the Council, which included strong protections of one's sexual identity.

*Your answers should be typed on separate paper rather than on this form. You must sign your name on each answer sheet to indicate your personal commitment to your answers.*

Please return your signed questionnaire responses by ~~Wednesday, December 2~~ to GLAA, P.O. Box 75265, Washington, D.C. 20013. **MARCH 7**

In addition to sending your signed hard copy, please email a copy (in any major word processor or text format) for loading on GLAA's website ([www.glaa.org](http://www.glaa.org)) to [equal@glaa.org](mailto:equal@glaa.org). Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Brown' or similar, located in the bottom right corner of the page.

**Subject:** Re: GLAA Questionnaire, Michael Brown 2013

**Date:** Tuesday, March 12, 2013 10:03:14 AM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** Michael Brown

**To:** Richard Rosendall

We are very sorry we missed Question 14. Please see our answer below. Thank you!

As community input is paramount in a democracy, our citizens should use the mechanisms and vehicles that are already in place. When small groups of citizens form to oppose/support a particular measure, it damages the foundation of the ANC process.

On Mon, Mar 11, 2013 at 3:53 PM, Richard Rosendall <[rrosendall@starpower.net](mailto:rrosendall@starpower.net)> wrote:

Thanks.

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**From:** Michael Brown <[michaelbrowndc2013@gmail.com](mailto:michaelbrowndc2013@gmail.com)>

**Date:** Monday, March 11, 2013 3:22 PM

**To:** Richard Rosendall <[rrosendall@starpower.net](mailto:rrosendall@starpower.net)>

**Cc:** LB Michael Arrington Brown 27 <[mbrown20015@aol.com](mailto:mbrown20015@aol.com)>

**Subject:** GLAA Questionnaire, Michael Brown 2013

Rick,

Attached is the completed questionnaire and front/back of my walk card. Thanks!

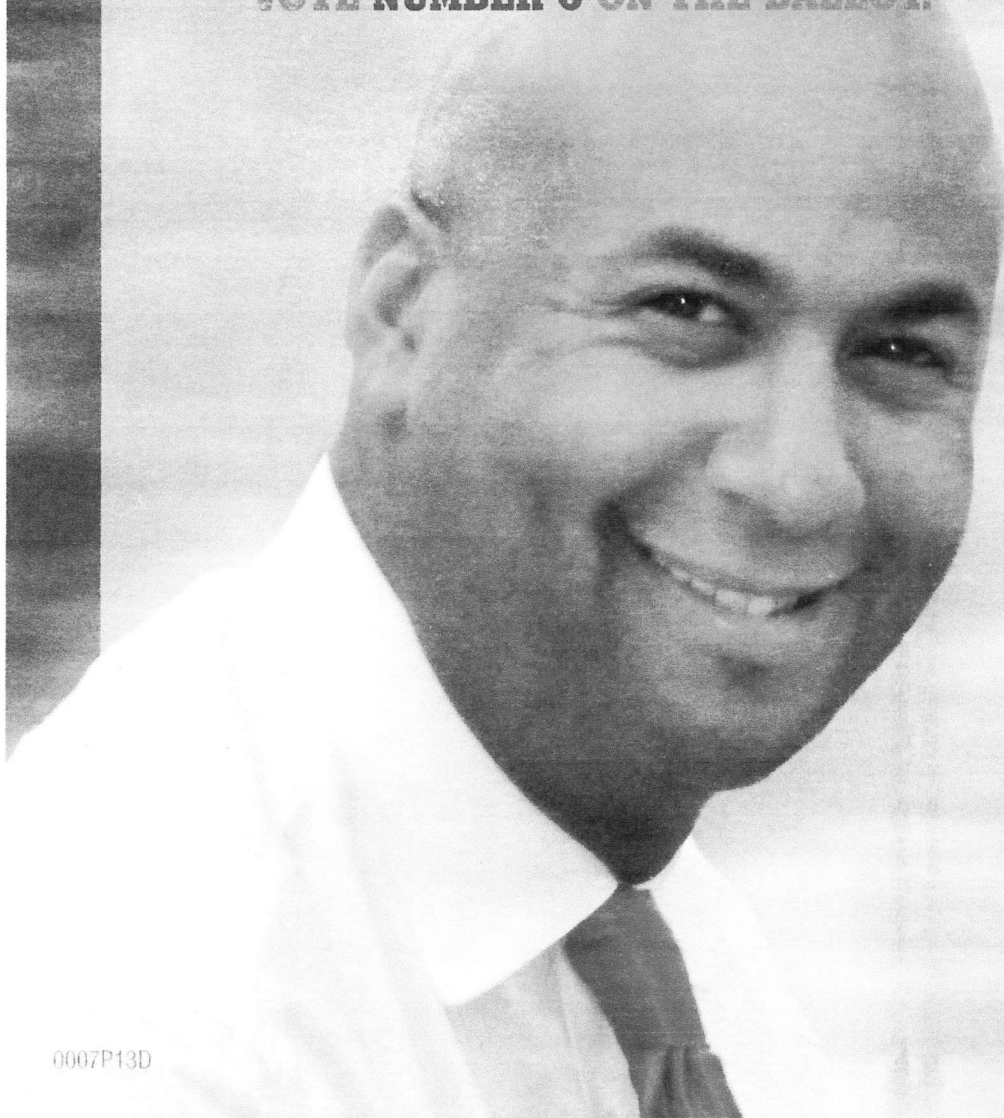


**No-nonsense leadership  
for DC's families and seniors.**

**DEMOCRAT MICHAEL A.  
BROWN**

**DC COUNCIL AT-LARGE**

**IN THE APRIL 23RD SPECIAL ELECTION,  
VOTE NUMBER 6 ON THE BALLOT.**



0007P13D



### A SPECIAL NOTE FROM MICHAEL BROWN

"I'm pleased that the DC Office of Campaign Finance has determined from their investigation that I had nothing to do with funds stolen from my campaign last year. I can finally put this issue behind me. For additional info, please review articles from the *Washington Examiner*, *Washington Post*, *Washington Informer* and *Afro American*."

The **AFRO**  
American Newspapers

MARCH 6, 2013

Wesley W. Williams, a spokesman for the campaign finance office, confirmed there was never any evidence that suggested Brown was involved in any impropriety.

## Nobody's worked harder for our communities.

### A RECORD OF RESULTS

As a Member of the DC Council, Michael Brown built a reputation for getting things done. His achievements include:

- **Leading** the largest reform in the history of DC's food stamp program.
- **Increasing** access to unemployment insurance benefits.
- **Creating** jobs and affordable housing including extending rent control for 10 years.
- **Expanding** tax incentives for DC businesses that promote employee health and wellness along with tuition reimbursement for students.
- **Providing** jobs skills training and adult basic education opportunities for our most vulnerable families.
- **Helping** returning citizens rebuild their lives with job and housing opportunities.
- **Supporting** strong ethics and campaign finance reform to ensure politicians are properly penalized for breaking the law.
- **Protecting** equal rights for the LGBTQ community.

### STRONG DC AND DEMOCRATIC ROOTS

A third generation Washingtonian and a graduate of DC Public Schools, Michael Brown learned the importance of providing for DC's families from his parents, Alma and the late Ron Brown, who served as Secretary of Commerce under President Bill Clinton and Chair of the Democratic National Committee. On the DC Council, Michael Brown will continue to fight for DC residents!

**IN THE APRIL 23RD SPECIAL ELECTION,  
VOTE NUMBER 6 ON THE BALLOT.**

DEMOCRAT **MICHAEL A.  
BROWN**

DC COUNCIL AT-LARGE

[www.michaelbrown2013.com](http://www.michaelbrown2013.com)

Paid for by Michael A. Brown 2013 | Michael A. Brown, Treasurer

