Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC 2016

Questionnaire for D.C. Council Candidates <u>Calvin H. Gurley – Ward 4 Candidate</u>

HOME RULE

1. Will you oppose congressionally imposed school vouchers, which have been shown not to improve students' academic achievement, and which often go to schools that operate outside the nondiscrimination provisions of the D.C. Human Rights Act?

I do oppose many of the mandates that our U.S. Congress have imposed upon the citizens of the District of Columbia of the United States of America. But, what can you do?

To address improvement to students' academic achievements I would do the following:

- a. Have the School Chancellor create and maintain one academic program with a 5 year improvement plan to measure our students' achievement.
- b. Find the funding to incorporate Arts, the Performing Arts, Instrumental Music classes and Sciences into the public school curriculum. Note: many of you may not know; Mayor A. Williams and the "then" Council reneged on a promise to the District citizens to pay a percentage of D.C. Lottery revenues to D.C. Public Schools if the citizenry would allow lottery games into the District.

I will fight to have the Mayor and the City Council honor their promised to our children and their schools – to donate a percentage of D.C. Lottery Sale Revenues to D.C. public school as many other states (in America) provide lottery sale revenues to their public schools.

HEALTH

2. Will you press the Department of Health to complete and issue the long-delayed LGBT Health Report, which is supposed to be issued annually?

Yes, I will assist in having the D.C. Department of Health issue the long-delayed LGBT Health Report – I too would like to know its findings.

Why haven't the GLAA made this an issue and expose this feet-dragging to the local press? If it wasn't for the GLAA Questionnaire I would not have known of this important issue which mimics the D.C. MPD denying Gay Police Officer Justin Makiewicz's rights to information through the Freedom of Information Act.

I do know that the District of Columbia is, at least, number "2" on the list of the highest known Aids/HIV cases in the states. And, the newest case of HIV infected population is age 50 and up.

3. Will you support budgets that target funds to address LGBT health disparities, including in mental health and substance abuse treatment, and mandate data collection on this population across all programs?

Short answer, yes I will support targeted funds to address LGBT health disparities, mental health and substance abuse treatment. However, if the LGBT community is being neglected that also states that all residents are being deprived of these needed funds in the health areas.

4. Will you support separating Emergency Medical Services from the Fire Department?

I have a Brother who once served on the D.C. Fire Department as an Inspector. I know the transformation of the EMS into the Fire Department during Fire Chief Dennis Rubin term. It was revealed that the Chief used much of the EMS annual funding to pay additional overtime pay to his fire officials and others; even though the Fire Department get an additional appropriation to fund the budget line item "overtime pay". As of result of this misallocation of funds, the EMS financially suffered. At that time, I was in favor of separating the EMS from the Fire Department and each has a separate budget managed by a separate Chief.

However, I will have to research this question when I sit on the Council to get an update.

JUDICIARY

5. Will you support and press for passage of Bill 21-38, the Death with Dignity Act?

Yes, a person in full mental capacity should have the right to choose on how they would like to live as well in choosing how they would like to leave this Earth.

6. Will you press for the District to provide "Jobs Not Jails" by developing alternatives to incarceration for marginalized citizens who resort to sex work for survival?

Yes, I will adopt this into my policy for all marginalized citizens in the sex work for survival as well as the unemployed who are struggling to remain away from sex work for survival.

7. Will you support and press for passage of a reintroduced Bill 20-63, the Police Monitoring Enhancement Amendment Act, to give the Office of Police Complaints unfettered access to information and supporting documentation of the covered law enforcement agencies?

Yes, I definitely agree to the change in language to "unfettered" and I support the reintroduction of the Bill. Here, we are again fighting to gain access to public information that should be available by mere public request.

Another, MPD Officer Justin Mickiewicz challenge in which individuals do not have the funds to hire lawyers to get the agencies, MPD and the Mayor to follow the FOIA and other accesses granted to the public. This is where our Council member should be responsible to stand up for the public and require the D.C. Government to abide to its laws and policies...not abandon citizens who do not have the funds to hire a lawyer to do the job of the Council.

YOUTH AND SENIORS

8. Will you support improved services and treatment for LGBT homeless youth and seniors, including transitional housing? CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES

Yes, of course I will. I have adopted Mayor Marion Barry's pledge – "to take care of our seniors and children..." I will even press to have the GLAA sit on the board of the D.C. Office of Aging to make sure that LGBT seniors' rights and needs are not ignored.

9. Will you defend 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?

Yes, adults do have the rights to choose adult-oriented entertainment and I do support this. The right to have the entertainment licensed and zoned rest with the Council and Mayor. I will support the Council to appropriately license and zone business to provide adult-oriented entertainment.

VOTE for.... Calvin H. Gurley – Ward 4 City Council

Let's "All" live well and enjoy our City - together.

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. Your answers should be typed in a separate document 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 Friday, April 29 to GLAA, P.O. Box 75265, Washington, D.C. 20013; or email it as an attach

Calvin H. Gurley Ward 4 Candidate

List any actions that you have taken that may help illustrate your record on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

1. My wife and I have attended the past several Gay Pride Day Parades.

2. My wife sits on her company's Diversity Group which includes LGBTs as an inclusive group among minorities and other ethnic groups.

3. As a former Shop Steward (for the American Federation of Government Employees, Local 6040 –Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)) I did successfully represent a LGBT FEMA employee in a grievance case.