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2018 GLAA Questionnaire for D.C. Council Candidates

HOUSING

1. Will you encourage the Department of Human Services to conduct monitoring of singles shelters to ensure that LGBTQ applicants are admitted to a shelter that corresponds to their gender identity and do not face discrimination while residing there, as required by law?

Yes. I strongly support this. I will also question the Department of Human Services during oversight hearings and work collaboratively with LGBTQ advocacy groups in order to get updates on the progress, I will also request the Department of Human Service allocate resources for the completion of a yearly a report on the state of homelessness in the LGBTQ community to track our progress on eliminating homelessness within the community. I would also make sure we are allocating enough resources to ensure residents know their rights and are able to report discrimination.

HEALTH

2. Will you press the Department of Health to work with a community advisory group and allocate necessary resources to ensure the annual completion and issuance of a trans-inclusive LGBT Health Report?

Yes. I will fight very hard to ensure we have the necessary resources to ensure the annual completion and issuance of a trans-inclusive LGBT Health Report, and I will also work closely with community leaders to look at other reports that are not including the trans community

As a Trans United endorsed candidate and ally, ensuring that the trans community is not left behind in our reports, budget and legislation will be a top priority of mine.

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

Yes. I strongly support this and I will work with LGBTQ community advocates to ensure we appropriate data and funding on a yearly basis.

4. Will you support legislation to boost public awareness of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post- exposure prophylaxis (PEP) as options to prevent HIV infections through the distribution of information in health settings in accordance with Department of Health guidelines?

Yes. As someone who has lost friends to HIV, this is a topic that is near and heart to my heart. I would support and/or introduce legislation my first year in office.

JUDICIARY

5. Will you support Bill 22-0515, 'Reducing Criminalization to Improve Community Safety and Health Amendment Act of 2017', to improve community safety and health by removing criminal penalties for engaging in commercial sex?

I strongly support. Throughout my campaign, I have canvassed and talked to residents to build support for the bill. I attended events to raise awareness on the bill and issues affecting sex workers.

6. What opportunities would you support through legislation to improve the lives of marginalized communities who engage in commercial sex work?

- **Safety.** I would like to introduce an amendment to the NEAR ACT (Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results Act) to direct the DC government to have violence interrupters specifically to support LGBTQ sex workers who are frequently profiled by police and experience high rates of violence by the public and by police.
- **Employment and Housing Discrimination** - The big issue is that LGBTQ sex workers, and espically transgender sex workers, face high rates of employment discrimination. 48% of DC employers prefer a less qualified cis applicant over a more qualified trans applicant. We need to fund resources to encourage all businesses to ensure that LGBTQ residents aren't experiencing employment discrimination.
- Also, during the performance oversight hearings, I will work with advocates and I will question whether our government agencies have received adequate training on preventing discrimination against sex workers.
- **Training government employees on supporting and providing services to sex workers.** All staff should be trained on anti discrimination measures and inclusive laws, and at the oversight hearings, I will work with LGBTQ community advocates on the ground, collaboratively come up with a list of policy fixes and needed resources, and then hold agency directors accountable during oversight hearings.

7. What opportunities would you support through legislation to improve the lives of marginalized citizens who resort to sex work for survival?

- **Housing.** I would ensure the some money from the housing production trust fund is used to create transitional housing opportunities for sex workers.
- **Decriminalization and funding for resource centers.** I support legislation to decriminalize sex work, as well as additional funding to LGBTQ organizations in order to expand their reach to provide support and services to LGBTQ residents.
- **Training government employees on supporting and providing services to LGBQ and particularly trans communities.** All government agencies should be trained on anti discrimination measures. I will also work collaboratively with LGBTQ community advocates and ensure adequate funding for direct services to DC's LGBTQ communities.

8. 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, if the bill is not passed this year, I will reintroduce it next year and press hard for its passage.

9. Will you support legislation to develop an avenue for sealing court-ordered name and/or gender/sex change process?

Yes, I strongly support and I would introduce legislation during my first year in office.

HUMAN RIGHTS

10. While the unemployment rate in the District is 6.6%, approximately half of transgender people in DC report being unemployed. What steps will you take to address this persisting economic disparity in a timely and sustainable manner?

While working at a restaurant worker center, I held an job fair for residents who identify as transgender, and a forum on preventing discrimination in the workplace against transgender residents.

During oversight hearings, I would also request data on discrimination and will question the administration on the progress we are making to prevent discrimination in the workplace against the transgender community. I will also work to allocate resources to LGBTQ community groups to train businesses on preventing harassment and discrimination in the workplace.

I would also work with advocates on finding funding for job training programs specifically for transgender residents.

As a council member, I will hold a yearly job fair for transgender community, I would partner with the Mayor's administration, business leaders, and community advocates to ensure we not only provide job opportunities but also use it has opportunity to talk about developing policies that prevent discrimination in the workplace against for transgender

YOUTH

11. Will you support improved services and treatment for homeless LGBTQ youth, including transitional housing?

My mother is formerly homeless, so addressing homelessness is very important to me. So I strongly support improved services and treatment for homeless LGBTQ youth, including transitional housing. I would also work on an educational campaign and invest in programs to address familial rejection of LGBTQ youth, which is a leading cause of homelessness for this community.

The DC government also as a plan to end or greatly limit homelessness in DC, the "Homeward DC" plan by 2020. I will ask that the plan be revised and updated to include a strong empahsis on ending homelnesss within our LGBTQ popluation.

I would work with government officials and advocates to introduce legislation or fight for budget items to make sure we are meeting our 2020 goals. During oversight hearings, I will make sure these goals come up and will question government officials on the progress and what's needed to ensure we are on the right track.

SENIORS

12. Will you support improved services and treatment for LGBTQ seniors, including affirming senior housing?

When I worked for the Congressional Hunger Center, I worked on a senior housing repair, and during that time I held meetings with community advocates to identify ways reach LGBTQ seniors.

When elected, I will support and make it a top priority to improve services and treatment for LGBTQ seniors, including affirming senior housing. I also introduce a bill to direct the DC government to come up with a report on the state of housing for LGBTQ seniors and what policies and funds will be needed to ensure that the growing LGBTQ senior population is able to stay and live here.

13. LGBT seniors are more likely to age alone, and face higher levels of economic insecurity and discrimination than non-LGBT seniors. Will you support funding for

congregate meals and other services that specifically aim to keep LGBT seniors engaged in the community?

Yes, I strongly support this. As a former fellow at AARP-DC, I worked with their LGBTQ Pride division on policies to support LGBTQ seniors. I would like to continue my work with them and other senior and LGBTQ community advocates to support funding for congregate meals and other services that specifically aim to keep LGBT seniors engaged in the community

CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES

14. To fight the District's notorious 'pay-to-play' reputation, will you support enacting legislation that combines the best elements of Bills 22-8, 22-47, and 22-51?

Yes. As a former employee at Common Cause, I have written and drafted legislation to strengthen campaign finance laws and end pay-to-play. I support enacting legislation that combines the best elements of Bills 22-8, 22-47, and 22-51 and I will make it a top priority during my first term in office.

Also, I am the only candidate in my race who has not accepted donations from corporations. Because of this commitment, I will be able to legislate with fairness and independence.

15. What steps will you take to ensure a transparent and equitable bidding process for city contracts?

I would love to see more transparency in the TIF process. I am supportive of measures like the "Tax Increment Financing Transparency Amendment Act of 2017.

Your record is part of your rating. Please list any actions that you have taken that may help illustrate your record on behalf of LGBTQ people.

For the LGBTQ community I have hosted job fairs, anti-discrimination events, and through AARP I worked on policies to support LGBTQ seniors.

I have canvassed and talked to residents to support decriminalization of sex work, while educating residents about the harsh realities faced by sex workers in the community.

Because of my history of working with the LGBTQ community, I was endorsed by Trans United.

I plan to be a very strong ally on the Council, and will prioritize issues affecting the community on day one.

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, May 4, to GLAA, P.O. Box

75265, Washington, D.C. 20013; or email it as an attachment in PDF format (for loading on GLAA's website) to equal@glaa.org. Thank you.