



## 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 recognize that there are severe challenges and disparities in access to housing in general for members of the LGBTQ community. Immediate and unrestricted access to temporary housing is especially critical, given the dire circumstances which often precipitate this need —e.g., economic instability, violence, and health crises. It is essential that access to singles shelters be available on a non-discriminatory basis and that providers are culturally competent so that dignity and respect are afforded to all LGBTQ applicants in their placement and term of residence.

### 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 believe that beyond the current levels of reporting by the Department of Health, additional focus must be placed on interventions and policy development to further address the health and wellness of this population. Community input and the allocation of needed resources are critical to ensuring that this can be accomplished. I will urge the Department of Health to work towards this end and will work to ensure their continued engagement in the process.

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.**

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.** In reading *Building on Victory* I have become aware that while there has been progress on the Mayoral Initiative to end the HIV epidemic in our city by 2020, there are still gaps. Most notably regarding the “knowledge and uptake of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)”. While knowledge and uptake continues

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to increase in some segments of the population, it is still lower among other groups—black women, black MSM and transgender women. This must be addressed. I will support legislation and aggressive outreach campaigns to boost public awareness both with respect to PrEP and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). However, I would also like increased emphasis placed on prevention.

## 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?

**Likely Yes.** Our current practice victimizes individuals for poverty and their circumstances. There must be an acceptable alternative. I would like to work with stakeholders to review and discuss any proposed legislation.

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

Like so many other marginalized communities in our city, I will work to identify opportunities to gainfully employ this population. As a nonprofit leader, I have substantial experience in this area and will focus on developing workforce systems providing jobs from the outset-- augmented by training that will offer clear pathways to careers. I will also advocate for mental health and other supports to ensure that the transition to employment and beyond is seamless.

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

One of my key platform initiatives is the return of traditional building trades and vocational education, including information technology to our high schools to provide students with career options (whether or not college is in their future.) I will support similar legislation that would target this type of training and supports (workforce housing, health services, career coaching) for this population. I would like to see significant emphasis placed on opportunities in the field of information technology—AP Certification, Data Coding, etc. where there is a need for talent, and the opportunity for competitive pay that will help lift individuals from poverty to self-sufficiency. I will also work with any current or new businesses to promote a “DC residents first” policy.

*Shonne Bussey Reeder*

*9/25/18*

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Signature Dionne Reeder

Date

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.** Effective Civilian oversight of police is a cornerstone of building community confidence in the work of law enforcement. Citizens must have confidence that their oversight representatives have full and complete information on which to base findings and decisions relative to police conduct.

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

**YES.**

#### **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?

**Please see my previous responses #s 6 and 7.**

#### **YOUTH**

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

**Yes.** As Principal Deputy of the Far Southeast Strengthening Collaborative, I hired a group of LGBTQ young people who out of necessity had resorted to criminal activities for survival. I employed these young people in the area civic engagement— working in the very communities from many of them had come. It was a life-altering experience. They began to think of life in terms of opportunity and possibility. I further supported them by providing seed grant funding and mentorship

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in opening their own entrepreneurial enterprise (Check It!)-- the first LGBTQ clothing line brand in DC. This exposure opened doors for other businesses to hire them as employees and suppliers.

Recognizing the importance of holistic solutions, I emphasized education (many of whom acquired high school diplomas through the program) and worked to secure stable housing. I also worked in partnership with the faith-based community and other resource groups on life skills development and mental health support.

### **SENIORS**

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

**YES.** Another key tenet of my platform is that **seniors** are a valued part of our community. They should be treated with dignity and respect, and if they so desire, to be able to age in place. Seniors must be afforded access to and enjoy the fruits of the City's prosperity. This includes: housing, tax relief, economic security, access to quality and consistent healthcare, access to healthfully food options; and access to and the ability to take advantage of city amenities (such as recreation and entertainment.) This is a core belief. I will work to ensure that the interests and needs of all seniors (inclusive of our LGBTQ community) are among the city's highest priorities.

13. LGBTQ seniors are more likely to age alone, and face higher levels of economic insecurity and discrimination than non-LGBTQ seniors. Will you support funding for congregate meals and other services that specifically aim to keep LGBTQ seniors engaged in the community?

**Please see above response (#12).**

### **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.**

*Sharon Bursay Reeder*

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*9/25/18*



*Dionne Bussey Reeder*      *9/25/18*  
Signature Dionne Reeder      Date

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

I believe it is critically important to ensure that a level playing field exists in the DC procurement process. For far too long contracting and procurement with City government has operated under complaints of preferential treatment and lack of access to information. The following are some of the tools that I would use to improve transparency and equity in the bidding and award of city contracts:

- Ensure that the broadest and timeliest dissemination of open solicitations routinely occurs to all parties at the same time.
- Ensure access to opportunities by the local, small and disadvantaged business community through additional supports in the application/certification process and the further simplification of steps.
- Additional focused informational and training sessions for contractors who may not be equipped to comply with the administrative requirements of bid preparation and submissions.
- Effective monitoring of complaints filed through the OCP Ombudsman to identify issues filed contractors and subcontractors. (While this is a post-award measure, it may also point to deficiencies in the initial representations made in announcement phase regarding services to be provided.)
- Effective monitoring of reports coming from the Procurement Accountability and Review Board whose responsibility is to address systemic, long term, and pervasive problems in the contracting process.

**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.**

I am an open lesbian candidate. I have been married to my wife, Stephanie for 6 years after a 19 year sustained relationship. I AM a proud part of the LGBTQ community and understand the daily challenges and issues confronted on a very real and personal level.

My conviction and support for equality for our community has played out in many ways. I have advocated and supported LGBTQ homeless issues for teens through funding and advocacy for the Future Foundation, which is an LGBTQ advocacy support group as the Principal Deputy of the Far Southeast Strengthening Collaborative. The death of Wanda Alston, a colleague in the Williams Administration, touched me very deeply. I routinely donate to the Wanda Alston Foundation in her

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honor.

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I have run an inclusive campaign with LGBTQ participation to help inform policy and platform decisions and community engagement. Team Dionne for DC proudly participated in the 2018 Gay Pride Parade and featured a transgendered dance ensemble to lead our team. I have attended openings and events, such as the XXPlus Crosstino Grand Opening (a LGBTQ Lounge) which have underscored my support of the LGBTQ community being a vital part of the fabric of our city. Most recently, I was honored to receive the endorsement of the Victory Fund.

*Dionne Bussey Reeder*

*9/25/18*

Signature Dionne Reeder

Date

**Please return your signed questionnaire responses by Friday, September 21, 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](mailto:equal@glaa.org). Thank you.**

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