

## DOROTHY DOUGLAS

### Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC 2010 Questionnaire for D.C. Council Candidates

#### MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

1. Will you oppose any effort to hold an initiative in the District that would take away the civil marriage rights now enjoyed by same-sex couples, and publicly campaign for marriage equality in the event such an initiative is held? **No, I will not violate anyone's rights; People have a right to chose to love anyone they wish to love.**

2. If the District's civil marriage equality is taken away either directly by an act of Congress or by a ballot measure, will you support immediate re-passage of civil marriage equality? **Yes, I will support immediate re-passage of civil marriages; People have a right and can chose to love anyone they wish to love.**

3. Do you agree that private contractors doing business with the District should be required to provide equal benefits including health insurance to same-sex partners? **Yes, I do agree that private contractors doing businesses in the District should provide health care and any other benefits accessible for partners here in the District. Also the District law already ensures that these benefits are available. Everyone has a right to health benefits and livable wages.**

4. Will you oppose legislation containing either a "conscience clause" that would allow anyone to claim a Human Rights Act exemption at will, as was proposed by Councilmember Yvette Alexander during consideration of the marriage equality bill last year; or a "business necessity" exemption that would allow taxpayer-funded charities run by religious groups to discriminate against married same-sex couples, as was proposed by the Archdiocese of Washington? **I am undecided about this question due to needing additional information concerning the "conscience clause" and the "business necessity" upon completing an inquiry concerning this matter I will be better equipped to address this question.**

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

5. Do you support sufficient funding to ensure that the drive to make HIV testing routine among District residents includes counseling and treatment referrals for those testing positive? **I do support these efforts to better equip the District residents with testing and counseling and treatment referrals. Programs are already in place to deliver these services here in the District. Also involved in this important informational networking are; Non profit organizations, Churches, Teen and Recreation Centers, Health Care Programs and other community organization are engaging the community on the importance of knowing ones HIV status by having an HIV test.**

6. Are you committed to continuing and expanding the District's condom distribution program to include water-based lubricant and tracking of their distribution to specified locations? **Yes, I am in support of this. At this time these programs and services are available in the schools, non profit organization and other organizations in our communities. The District has the health "car vans" that travel citywide to service our residents in the**

wards to meet their needs.

7. 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, All applications and guidelines should be open to all who want to apply.**

8. 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. **I feel that HAHSTA is making strides to improve HIV services to District Residents. I believe we should continue to review the Apple-seed score card and work with this administration to continue to improve on its service delivery. School screenings are taking place, new and innovative technologies are being use to reach youth and others through Text Messaging.**

**The same programs that were mentioned in the above questions would be used. To improve upon educating the community would be done by networking, education, advertising via radio and television, announcements, community papers and e-mails blast and texting to make them aware of the services that are available to assist them. Parent involvement is also a very important component as well as the wellness centers in the schools.**

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE JUDICIARY**

9. Will you support funding for mandatory lesbian, gay bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) sensitivity and diversity training for all members of the Metropolitan Police Department and the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department?

**Yes, I will support the funding for the Metropolitan Police Department and the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department should have professional development training. The MPD and FEMS already have this training process. By law they have to have this training. Because people lives are at stake and the quality of life is important of the people who they serve.**

10. Will you support a budget for the Office of Police Complaints large enough to avoid developing a backlog of cases? **Yes! We need oversight there to address the concerns of the residents because this is very important. We want the resident of the District to know that their concerns are being addressed in confidence. Weather the complaint is small or big it does not matter.**

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11. Will you support efforts to rein in police officials who respond to legitimate crime concerns with unsustainable, media-centric quick fixes that infringe constitutionally protected civil liberties? And will you do so without waiting for courts to overturn them, as the U.S. Court of Appeals did to the Neighborhood Safety Zone initiative in 2009? **The constitutions state that all people should be treated equally and have “due process” it should go through the courts. We need to respect people’s right and they need to continue with the process.**

12. Will you support maintaining the award-winning Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit with both a citywide scope and a dedicated and well-trained central core unit with a full-time sergeant? **I will support maintaining the Gay and Lesbian Unit with a full-time sergeant. The fact of the matter they have rights too.**

13. 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? **I would advise the Metropolitan Police Department of the importance of gathering and analysis of crime statistics, this data is critical in ensuring the proper handling of these types of hate crimes and be addressed in a appropriate and confidential manner.**

14. Do you support making the D.C. Attorney General an elected position? **I think the community should have a voice in selecting an elected official for this office, because as an elected official they would be not just answering to one person, they would be answering to the people.**

## **HUMAN RIGHTS**

15. Will you support a budget for the Office of Human Rights large enough to allow it to keep the backlog at below 70 aged cases; keep below 210 days the average time it takes to issue a probable cause finding; and expand education, prevention, and language access efforts? **I would support a larger budget for the Office of Human Rights, if this were to ensure that case would not be backlogged, also I would ensure that the budget would include expanding of education, prevention, and language access efforts.**

16. Will you block ceremonial resolutions and otherwise decline to honor individuals or organizations that promote any sort of bigotry? **I would respect the laws that are already in progress.**

17. Are you committed to including a transgender representative on the D.C. Commission on Human Rights? **Yes, I believe anyone should have a right to vote, to live, and to be involved in any elected official office. No positions should be discriminated against; everyone has a constitutional right to be included in all aspects of the law.**

18. 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, I think when you apply for this position you should already have had some type of training or experience for which they apply for.** Their should also be mandatory on going job development programs and training workshops made available to employees

## PUBLIC EDUCATION AND YOUTH

19. 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? **The laws are already in place that implements the statues of this ruling.**

20. Will you support improved services and treatment for gay and transgender homeless youth, including transitional housing? **This is a very critical concern that is long over due to protect our youth and making sure they have proper housing and that their rights are not being violated. I would like to see a youth advisory committee or task force in place to address this concern. Who would know better than the youth about what is happening. There need to be a network of service providers that can provide the sensitive services for their needs. I want to hear the concerns of the youth and we need to hear them and address their needs and concerns.**

21. 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, there need to be comprehensive, age appropriate and medically accurate sexual health education that discuss sexually transmitted diseases. I feel that we need to be sensitive to the views of the community be it religious or other with talking about this topic. I would also stress programs for parents and caregivers to help them explain sexuality to their children with their family values included.**

## CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES

22. 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? **As long as the business respects the community they are zoned in to conduct business and the give back to the community in various.**

23. Will you support legislation to curb abuses by NIMBYs who are now allowed to file an endless series of baseless complaints to harass or extort bars and restaurants? **They are businesses and are entitled to safety this is what the DC Metropolitan Police Department. They are to protect the safety of all of the Districts citizens no matter their race or gender.**

24. What are your thoughts regarding GLAA's proposal, explained in Agenda: 2010 to migrate the problems associated with prostitutions by legalizing and regulating it? **At this point I cannot give an educated answer without all of the information concerning this matter. But for now the law states the prostitution is against the law.**

25.

What will you do to provide alternatives to survival sex for at risk populations like homeless youths and transgendered youth ? **Create more programming and shelters like the Wanda Alston House and Sasha Bruce's Shelters and Community Connections to provide youth with a place to go.**