

GLAA QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

KATHY HENDERSON

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

1. Any initiative to oppose the right of an individual to enter into a legally binding marriage conflicts with District of Columbia human rights provisions. I cannot support any initiative that conflicts with the law.
2. I support complete autonomy for the District of Columbia and will oppose any effort by Congress to repeal any law in the District of Columbia. A ballot measure on marriage equality conflicts with the law and thus may not be taken. Civil rights are for everyone and no one may vote on whether to confer civil rights to any individual or group.
3. I will insist that any business entity conducting their business in the District of Columbia confer health insurance and similar benefits to all legally recognized married partners without regard to sexual orientation.
4. I believe that no charity, particularly taxpayer funded charities should be allowed to discriminate against any person in the District of Columbia. I will not support any legal provisions that permit discrimination.

PUBLIC HEALTH

5. I believe HIV testing should be widely available to all District of Columbia residents and must include counseling and treatment referrals for any resident that tests positive. It is unconscionable that D.C. is the center of our nation and leads the nation in HIV/AIDS infection rates.
6. Condoms are a viable prophylactic for all sexually active residents of the District of Columbia and should be made available with water-based lubricant to all segments of our city. I am aware that Howard University Hospital provides condoms and water-based lubricant to anyone that wants them and I believe this is an appropriate practice. The DC Department of Health should widely disseminate condoms and lubricant and keep records of distribution within the District.
7. I believe all District of Columbia agencies and offices should enjoy the same privileges to issue competitive grants to organizations that serve populations under their purview.
8. The DC Department of Health (DOH) must do a better job of addressing the HIV/AIDS crisis in the District of Columbia. I would support the use of legislative remedies to sustain an effective task force to implement recognized

best practices to manage a comprehensive HIV/AIDS program. The task force should regularly interface with National Institute of Health and the Centers for Disease Control representatives to develop and maintain protocols that actually work. The task force should be required to report to the Council during regularly scheduled intervals. The report should assess the effectiveness of protocols to manage prevention/education, HIV/AIDS monitoring and treatment, including mental health counseling. The HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, Sexually Transmitted Disease and Tuberculosis Administration (HAHSTA) may need to be divided into smaller programs to increase efficacy. Finally, the DOH director must be held accountable for the efficacy of the programs.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE JUDICIARY

9. The DC Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and the Fire and Emergency Medical Services (FEMS) Department have taken positive steps to provide sensitivity and diversity training for personnel. I support continued funding for mandatory sensitivity and diversity training for MPD and EMS personnel. Bias has no place in the delivery of police and emergency services or any DC Government service delivery to the public.
10. I believe the Office of Police Complaints should be appropriately funded and case backlogs should not be tolerated.
11. I support the MPD taking crime concerns seriously and acting in good faith to protect the residents of the District of Columbia. Chief Lanier mobilized the police under her command to take immediate corrective action to prevent further homicides in the Trinidad community. The Neighborhood Safety Zone initiative worked to prevent additional homicides in this community and was initially upheld by the Court. The initiative was overturned on appeal, underscoring a process within our judicial system. I believe the initiative was intended as it was used to protect DC residents, underscoring a noble undertaking and not simply a media stunt. I do not support stunts and do not believe this was the goal of the MPD.
12. I believe there is value in maintaining the GLLU to better serve the public safety needs of the LGBT community.
13. I support the Council conducting appropriate oversight for every DC agency, including the MPD. I support MPD utilizing a comprehensive method of gathering and analyzing LGBT-related hate crime data and reporting findings to the public.
14. I believe the citizens of the District of Columbia should have the opportunity to elect the Attorney General for the city.

HUMAN RIGHTS

15. I believe the Office of Human Rights should be appropriately funded and staffed, minimizing the occurrence of case backlogs. An average time of 210 days to issue a probable cause finding hinders the investigative process and burdens complainants.
16. Individuals and or organizations that promote bigotry should not be recognized with ceremonial resolutions issued by the Executive office of the Mayor or the City Council. I will not support such resolutions.
17. I support including a transgender representative on the DC Commission on Human Rights.
18. I believe the Director of the Office of Human Rights should have professional training and experience in civil rights law enforcement.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND YOUTH

19. Vouchers are funded by taxpayer dollars and accordingly should be administered in DC in a manner that is consistent with Federal and District laws.
20. I support improved service delivery for LGBT youth in our schools, including providing access to transitional housing.
21. I support a comprehensive sex education program for all children, including teaching the benefits of abstinence and all forms of birth control. I believe that children, regardless of their sexual orientation, should not engage in sexual activity. Only adults are able to fully assess the risks associated with engaging in sexual activity.

CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES

22. I support the right of adults to choose whatever legal entertainment they wish to undertake. I do not support sexually oriented businesses of any kind because they lower adjacent property values, increase the risk of crime and disorder and in many instances drain police resources. I believe the need for increased public safety outweighs the value of any adult-oriented entertainment.
23. I believe that restaurants and bars have a legitimate place in urban environments such as the District of Columbia. I support a balanced approach to locating such establishments, minimizing the negative impact on neighborhoods. According to the National Institute for Drug Abuse, communities that have a proliferation of bars and liquor stores and outlets that sell alcohol are at greater risk for public safety erosion. Our current provisions for liquor licensees actually favor applicants and liquor license holders.

24. I do not support prostitution regardless of the sexual orientation of the individual engaging in prostitution. The majority of individuals that choose to engage in prostitution do so to support drug addictions and suffer from low self-esteem. Prostitutes are at a greater risk for being victims of violent crime. Engaging in prostitution for survival is not a legitimate argument, just as having to sell drugs for survival is not a legitimate argument.

I appreciate GLAA's wish to discuss this issue and I encourage continued public discussions regarding this matter. I do not believe the public benefits from reflexively dismissed issues. There is always value in open and honest dialogue.

Finally, I helped to organize the District's first ever LGBT Citizen Summit during Mayor Anthony A. Williams' administration. Initially, I was responsible for developing all communications, including talking points for Mayor Williams, City Administrator Robert Bobb and public service announcements for the event. After the tragic death of LGBT Director Wanda Alston the summit was in jeopardy of not happening. I advocated for going forward with the summit to honor Wanda's memory and the rights of LGBT citizens. I assumed a larger role in organizing the summit after the decision was made to go forward with the event. I created the brochure for the event, which was mailed to District residents and organized the summit logistics and managed the media and interviews the day of the event. The summit was a resounding success and served to help empower the LGBT community while honoring the memory of my friend Wanda Alston. I was glad to be a part of this historic undertaking.