

**Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC
2010 Questionnaire for DC Council Candidates.**

Answers provide by:

Darryl L.C.Moch, candidate for City Council At Large, Dc Statehood Green Party.

MARRIAGE & FAMILY

1 Yes, I will oppose any effort to overturn civil marriage rights now enjoyed by same sex couples. Marriage equality is a civil and human rights issue. I will not condone tyranny of the majority oppressing the minority, which is what such an initiative, if passed, would represent. Consenting adults should be able to marry, if they desire to do so. I support the statutory right of citizens to redress issues of any law that concerns them. However, I would actively campaign against efforts, including federal attempts, to repeal the marriage equality law in the District of Columbia.

2 Absolutely yes, I would support immediate re-passage of civil marriage equality, if current law were repealed. In such an instance, I would support rewriting the law to strengthen its legal standing against future challenges. Again, it is a couple's rights to love, marry, and care for themselves and their families. This Marriage issue is a human and civil rights issue. If a religious community opposes this law, its obligations to practice, uphold, perform marriage according to the rights and practices of its belief system remains unchanged. Therefore, a religious community should not be allowed to overrule the rights of other communities or individuals who choose to participate in marriage, civil unions, or other legally sanctioned partnerships.

3 Yes, any private contractors doing business in the District, using public funds, specifically, should be required to follow the same rules and statutes that the District government has established for itself in providing for its citizens. It is my desire to see that all businesses would follow the lead of the district government and provide reasonable benefits and supports to all of its employees. I believe that the stronger DC government holds on these issues and the expectation of the public that this practice will be the standard of the day the better all of Dc will be in the end.

4 Yes, I would vigorously oppose any legislation containing a conscience clause or business necessity exemption under the DC Human Rights Act. Mechanisms already exist that allow organizations and businesses to seek appropriate exemptions. Under no circumstances as a Council Member would I support discrimination of any kind, at anytime, or by anyone. Any entity providing services to our citizens must abide by the rules, regulations, and statutes established within D.C., particularly if that entity is seeking funding, support, or contracts to operate within the boundaries of this city. I will not condone any form of legally sanctioned discrimination.

PUBLIC HEALTH

5 Yes, I support sufficient funding for standardized routine testing, counseling, and treatment referrals. HIV rates are outrageous in every ward in this city. Adequate funding is required to ensure citizens are safe, and to provide appropriate health care for quality of life. Efforts to improve this process and service provision must be maintained and enhanced in accordance with the trajectory of the pandemic.

6 Yes, I am committed to continuing and expanding condom distribution and tracking for two key reasons: First, we should follow the CDC's lead: that condom distribution alone is not sufficient to ensure consistent and effective use. I support the distribution of lubricant in tandem with

condoms, which has proven an effective strategy for increasing condom use. Second, tracking condom distribution is important for assessing program effectiveness, that is, identifying condom distribution geographically (which communities show high use) and demographically (is the program reaching its intended target population). Tracking data is crucial for program evaluation and implementing the improvements necessary to enhance education, prevention, counseling, and treatment efforts.

7 Yes, I will support legislation giving the Office of GLBT Affairs and the Office of African Affairs the authority to issue competitive grants as other minority constituent offices have. Such opportunities should be provided to all groups that demonstrate the capacity to and have a track record of serving their communities. To ensure equitable opportunities for funding, a discussion regarding the feasibility of incorporating the specifically mentioned organizations under the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs (OCAF) which oversees the operations of other minority constituent offices. More important, the two organizations mentioned should receive full funding for longevity and effectiveness in serving their constituencies.

8. Given D.C. rate of HIV/AIDS infection is three times the rate described by CDC as epidemic, and the rate of STD infection is high, both as a single diagnosis and in co-morbidity with HIV, I would propose major restructuring. To improve performance at the HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD, and TB Administration (HAHSTA), including HIV prevention, HIV/AIDS surveillance, and mental health services, separate administration managed by experts in each of these fields should be considered. While current, singular administration has streamlined processes that approach may have also resulted in diminished effectiveness. We would want to keep the coordination of efforts while maintaining specific approaches to disease prevention and management.

Step two would be to ensure our objectives in intra-agency coordination and service delivery follow standards set by the World Health Organization and the CDC. Because of the epidemic levels of these diseases among District residents, we must continually assess needs and examine ways to improve effectiveness and impact.

Step three would involve expansion of HIV prevention efforts—more community engagement, such as with faith-based and community-based organizations that are on the frontline, serving this population. We need sustained collaborative engagement, not ad hoc task forces and commissions, born out of crisis and quietly fading away once the crisis has subsided. The task forces must be made permanent and have more influence on the development and implementation of both surveillance and service provision activities.

Step four would be to improve out methods of providing comprehensive mental health services to those in need. Coordination of mental health services must be incorporated with those for the general population receiving the services and those with co-morbid health status, such as an HIV/AIDS diagnosis.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE JUDICIARY

9 Yes, I support funding mandatory LGBT sensitivity and diversity training. This training must include more than a course for which a certificate is issued; but comprehensive training must include ongoing measures of individual and agency effectiveness, which in turn, should be monitored to gauge department competencies in those areas. Ongoing monitoring ensures the establishment of mechanisms for institutionalizing skills, knowledge, and expectations. It is hopeful that the training and ongoing monitoring translates into an ethos, starting with the leadership of police, fire, and EMS Departments and throughout the ranks that demonstrates and fosters respect for the LGBT community it serves.

10 Yes, I support full a budget for the Office of Police Complaints because as noted in the GLBT 2010 agenda, the number of backlog cases is unacceptable. That office must be fully funded to address complaints quickly and effectively if is to build confidence with the GLBT community.

11 Yes, I will support any efforts that reigns in police officials who seek to circumvent human rights through the use of ill-informed, misguided police tactics that enrage and oppress citizens Civil or human rights. I am unequivocally opposed to any form of discrimination and dehumanizing acts again people of DC and our visitors. Members of the LGBTQ community should be commended for participating in anti-discrimination efforts throughout the city, especially when those issues may not have directly affected them but are part of the human experience showing that discriminatory actions by municipal employees and departments will not be tolerated.

12 Yes, I support maintaining the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit and hiring a full-time police sergeant for the unit. It is critical that the police department and government prove its ongoing commitment to our community by ensuring this unit has the power and support to be fully engaged in enforcement.

13 Yes, it is critical that we protect all citizens to the best of our ability; the police must fully analyze and utilize objectively gathered information. It is their responsibility and the Council's right to ensure that happens. The police department must analyze all information necessary to help it manage its force and prevent crime as well as apprehend for prosecution acts against any of our citizens.

14 Yes, AG should become an elected position, like many other municipalities. This would ensure that the AG becomes accountable to the citizens rather than the person making the appointment. While this may not solve the problem of dishonesty and lack of integrity it would allow the citizens to recall or vote out office a person who does not work on behalf of the citizens.

15 Yes. We must face the facts that funding these offices can be directly equated with our resolve to be fully supportive of the initiatives and statues enacted by law as well as the diversity of our community. Anything less suggests mere lip service to the issues with no commitment or resources to back up those statements or provisions.

16 Yes I will oppose ceremonial resolutions and honoring of individuals, that have through her/his body of work, positions, or practices initiated, supported, or condoned any form of discrimination. I am absolutely against any type of discrimination—overt or covert. I will not honor or give ceremonial support to any organization that practices any form of discrimination.

17 Yes, I am committed to transgendered representation on DC Commission on Human Rights. In my opinion there should be at least two seats one for F2M and one for M2F.

18 Yes. The director of the office of Human Rights should have professional training and experience in civil rights law and its implementation. She /he should have a working knowledge and understanding of those laws, and thorough working experience in applying standards and addressing issues particularly in relationship to the specific dynamics of D.C. and its residents.

19 Yes, I will oppose any discriminatory practice and use of monies designed to benefit DC residents, either federal funded or raised or paid by taxpayers in D.C. to promote or circumvent DC law and good practice of providing excellent services without discrimination. In this

instance—schools must provide a standard of education and care for community that is unhindered by prejudice and avarice. Any entity operating in and/or providing services must render services according to D.C. statutes, including non-discriminatory practices.

20 Yes, absolutely. We must establish and become a leader in service delivery to gay, transgendered homeless youth. We must absolutely avail ourselves of and replicate best practices, like the program in Portland, Oregon—Outside In. Comprehensive, fully funded programs including those that would provide transitional housing, counseling, health care, job training, and educational services (to name a few) to gay and transgendered homeless youth is vital to ensuring that our youth are not abused, taken advantage of, or otherwise mistreated and to ensure that these youth are welcomed and engaged to become active in civil and civic life in DC.

21 Yes I will vigorously oppose any use of funding whether federal or taxpayer to promote any discriminatory practices. Many schools of thought need to be taught, embraced, so students & family can make informed decisions that result in best practices for them. No entity will be supported by DC funding that exclusively discriminates or promotes to the exclusion any other point of view. Funding may be provide to a variety of groups to ensure that many points of view are represented but none will be supported over another in any way that sets up real or perceived discrimination.

22 Yes, in so much as the D.C. allows licenses and zoning without discriminating based on the proprietor; and that zoning is applied equitably throughout the district. Adults must be able to choose their desired entertainment; however, these businesses and services must ensure that services/products designated for adults can be accessed only by them; conversely, youth and children must be protected and not allowed to gain access by which exposure influences them to make unhealthy or ill informed choices without supervision or guidance in accordance with acceptable familial and community norms.

23 Yes, I will support legislation clarifies existing laws or statutes which result in confusion and endless conflict. No business, group, or individual should be subjected to frivolous lawsuit and harassment which amount to extortion or pressure by unreasonable forces in the community. Again this is part of the no tolerance for discrimination in any form.

24 How we solve the many issues associate with prostitution will require more discussion and analysis to which I'm fully vested. Regarding legalizing prostitution, I do not have enough history with the issue or the ramifications to make a decision without more study. I want more discussion throughout DC to find the will of the people and what's in the best interests of those persons involved in or impacted by prostitution. The main point, from my perspective is that we must ensure people aren't forced into prostitution by abuse. We must create and provide for the protections of those who are most vulnerable. We need protective legislation, safe havens, and adequate resources for care for individuals and families.

In that vein; Yes, we must fully fund comprehensive services for homeless and transgendered youth, which would negate the need for survival sex ensuring that basic needs can be met and that fully funded wrap around services and linkages with community and nonprofit organizations are maintained and sanctioned to provide resources and supports for these youth.

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