

## 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?

**Yes, I will oppose any effort to repeal the civil marriage rights of same-sex couples in the District whether by initiative or by any other means, and will publicly campaign for marriage equity in the event of any effort to repeal those rights. I am proud to have led the Council in enacting this landmark civil rights legislation that serves as a model for other states. As Chairman, I ensured that the Council took an active role in providing comments and testifying before the Board of Elections and Ethics that this is not the proper subject for a voter initiative or referendum. As Mayor, I will use the full resources of the District government to fight any effort that would repeal marriage equity and authorize discrimination prohibited by the DC Human Rights Act.**

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, history is on our side. I will support the immediate re-passage of civil marriage equality if the District's civil marriage equality is taken away either directly by an act of Congress or by a ballot measure. I believe it is important to keep this issue at the forefront and not let the actions of opponents stop the momentum of this civil rights issue. I will work together with the District's marriage equity stakeholders and coalition partners to develop a strategy that will continue to fight efforts of opponents.**

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 believe that private contractors doing business with the District should not discriminate between same-sex and heterosexual couples in the provision of employment benefits and should be required to provide equal benefits including health insurance. Public funds should not go to contractors that deny equal benefits to same sex couples.**

4. Will you veto 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?

**Yes, I oppose a “conscience clause” or “business necessity” exemption to the District marriage equity statute because it would have the effect of allowing an individual or organization to discriminate against same-sex couples by exempting them from the DC Human Rights Act. The Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Equity Amendment Act already provides significant and sufficient freedom of religion protections by clearly providing that no religious organization is required to celebrate marriage for a same-sex couple where doing so violates the tenants of their religion.**

## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

**5. Will you submit budgets sufficient to ensure that the drive to make HIV testing routine among District residents includes counseling and treatment referrals for those testing positive?**

**Yes. In order for routine HIV testing to accomplish its goal of ensuring that persons know their HIV status, it must include counseling and referral to treatment for those that test positive. As a member of the Council, Executive Director of Covenant House and Director of the DC Department of Human Services (DHS), I have been an advocate of expanding HIV testing programs however, I know that these programs will only be successful if they include counseling and referral for treatment to ensure that those testing positive receive the necessary follow-up services they need. More personally, I am tested every year and will continue to promote efforts to ensure that there is no stigma in being routinely tested.**

**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, condoms are the most cost-effective method of preventing HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. I was an early advocate for condom distribution having created a condom availability program for schools and correctional facilities as Director of DHS. However, condom availability and distribution programs are only successful if the condoms are being used. Including water-based lubricant in the distribution will assist in ensuring the condoms will be used.**

**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, with appropriate capacity and oversight, I will support legislation giving the Office of GLBT Affairs and the Office of African Affairs the authority to issue competitive grants to community-based organization to provide services.**

8. Describe steps you will take to improve performance at the HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD, and TB Administration (HAHSTA), including in HIV prevention, HIV/AIDS surveillance, and mental health services.

**As Mayor, I will renew efforts to reduce the District's unacceptably high HIV/AIDS rates by working with community groups on education and prevention strategies and the development of a Five Year Strategic Plan; ensuring there is strong and effective leadership at the Department of Health and HIV/AIDS Administration to ensure its implementation; enhancing HIV/AIDS prevention, primary care, and support services to ensure a continuum of care to include substance abuse, tuberculosis, hepatitis, and mental health treatment; conducting ongoing financial and service audits of District government program spending to ensure that funds are reaching the populations it was intended to serve. In addition, there must be a regional approach and I will work with regional representatives in implementing a comprehensive regional initiative to reduce HIV/AIDS rates in the Washington Metropolitan Area.**

**Under my leadership, the Council has also made concerted efforts to assist the city in combating the scourge of HIV/AIDS. In addition to vigorous oversight of responsible agencies, the Council has acted to pass relevant legislation, most notably the Effi Barry HIV/AIDS Initiative, formerly the East of the River HIV/AIDS Initiative. The original impetus for the Effi Barry HIV/AIDS Initiative was to initiate expansion of HIV prevention and education services East of the Anacostia River and to provide training and resources to Wards 7 & 8 community service providers in order to increase access to quality supported services for those residents with HIV/AIDS.**

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

9. Will you submit budgets that include 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 am fully committed to the implementation and full funding of mandatory lesbian, gay bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) sensitivity and diversity training for all members of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department (Fire/EMS). Similar to my experience**

**as Director of DHS, I understand the importance of making public employees both sensitive and competent in delivering services to all persons without exception.**

10. Will you include representatives of the LGBT community in the search process when you appoint a new Police Chief and a new Fire/EMS Chief?

**Yes, I understand the history and concerns of the LGBT community in regard to its relationship with MPD and Fire/EMS and will include their input in my appointment of the leadership for these agencies.**

11. Will you submit budgets for the Office of Police Complaints large enough to avoid developing a backlog of cases?

**Yes, I fully support the important role of the Office of Police Complaints in ensuring that MPD is more accountable to the persons they are sworn to serve. As stated in the legal maxim "justice delayed is justice denied," it is not acceptable for citizens to have to wait for a prolonged period of time to have their cases heard and decided.**

12. Will you 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?

**Yes, when addressing public safety measures I am committed to preserving the civil and human rights of all District residents. I have publicly opposed the policies of the Fenty Administration which infringe on civil liberties, including: police checkpoints; civil injunctions based on mere association; and implementation of the Secured Communities Program that would have led to MPD involvement with immigration enforcement. In addition, I supported enactment of legislation to protect the homeless from bias-related crimes through data collection and enhanced criminal penalties.**

13. Are you committed to 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?

**Yes, I am committed to maintaining and increasing the resources of the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit (GLLU) to address the public safety concerns of the LGBT community. While I support the continued centralization of the GLLU, this does not preclude integration of resources throughout MPD.**

14. Will you insist on greater comprehensiveness and objectivity in the Metropolitan Police Department's gathering and analysis of crime statistics, including transgender-related hate crime data?

**Yes. The increase in hate crimes is just one area in which the needs of persons who are transgender have been ignored by the Executive Branch. In 2008 in response to the lack of attention from the Executive Branch to the increasing incidents of hate crimes against the LGBT community, I introduced legislation which renewed efforts to end hate crimes. As Mayor, I will lead efforts to reduce hate crimes and ensure that the District's hate crime laws are aggressively enforced. This begins by educating our youth to respect diversity and stopping bullying in schools and in the community; creating year-round community programs which address issues of diversity; encouraging residents to speak out and report incidents of discrimination and violence; ensuring that reports of hate crimes are investigated and the data collected is fully reported and analyzed; and arresting and prosecuting those who commit crimes of hate to the full extent of the law.**

15. Do you support making the D.C. Attorney General an elected position?

**Yes. I supported and led the Council in enacting legislation to clarify the independence of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia and the obligation of that position to represent the public interest, and to provide for a referendum to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to establish the Attorney General for the District of Columbia as an elected position. I will appoint an Attorney General that understands the role and respects the independence of the office. The Fenty administration has blurred the legally defined boundaries of the roles of the Mayor's General Counsel and the Attorney General for the District of Columbia. Until the Attorney General position is an elected position, I am committed to appointing an Attorney General that understands the role and respects the independence of the office.**

## **HUMAN RIGHTS**

16. Will you submit budgets 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?

**Yes. As stated before, "justice delayed is justice denied." It is not acceptable for citizens to have to wait for a prolonged period of time to have their discrimination cases heard and decided. As a member of the Council, I have**

**supported increases to the budget of the Office of Human Rights to address the backlog issue and commit to sufficient budget and staffing levels to address length of time to have cases heard and decided.**

17. Will you refuse to issue proclamations and otherwise decline to honor individuals or organizations that promote any sort of bigotry? How will you ensure that such honors are not mistakenly issued through administrative error?

**Yes, I will absolutely refuse to issue proclamations and otherwise decline to honor individuals or organizations that promote any sort of bigotry. I will ensure that there is appropriate review and oversight of all official commendations by a supervisor, and that there is a mechanism to formally rebuke official commendations, so that a no such honor as given to PFOX, is able to be dismissed as “staff error.”**

18. Are you committed to including a transgender representative on the D.C. Commission on Human Rights?

**Yes, I am fully committed to appointing a transgender representative on the D.C. Commission on Human Rights to bring a unique perspective to the Commission. For far too long, the many talent and qualified members of our transgender community have not had a seat at the table in the operation and administration of the District government.**

19. Will you include representatives of the LGBT community in the search process when you appoint a new Director of the Office of Human Rights?

**Yes, I am aware of the history of discrimination faced by the LGBT community and will include their input in my appointment of a new Director of the Office of Human Rights.**

20. Will you appoint a Director of the Office of Human Rights with professional training and experience in civil rights law enforcement?

**Yes. Recent history with the administration of the Office of Human Rights demonstrates the need for a Director with professional training and experience in civil rights law enforcement to ensure the judicial administration functions of that Office are carried out in a fair and efficient manner.**

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION AND YOUTH**

21. 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?

**Yes, I oppose local funds being used for a voucher program to subsidize parochial and other private schools, and support the President's and Congress' plan to phase out the current federally funded District school voucher program. I do not believe that District tax dollars should benefit any institution that does not have to abide by the provisions of the DC Human Rights Act.**

22. Will you support improved services and treatment for gay and transgender homeless youth, including transitional housing?

**Yes. As the former Executive Director and founder of DC Covenant House Washington, I am well aware of the need to improve services and treatment for gay and transgender homeless youth, including transitional housing, education and job training, substance abuse and health services. As a member of the Council, I am proud to have supported government funding to open the Wanda Alston House for homeless LGBT youth. I have also instituted monthly youth hearings at the Council, where we have heard from LGTB youth about their concerns and have linked those youth to government and community services to address their needs. As Mayor, I will ensure that more government resources are allocated to address the needs of homeless youth, and targeted service for LGBT youth.**

23. 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, I oppose the use of either federal or District funds to promote "abstinence only until marriage" sex education. Abstinence only sex education programs do not work and contribute to risky sexual behavior of youth. I support a comprehensive sexual health education program for youth that includes abstinence but also age appropriate health and wellness information, including sexual orientation and identity, birth and disease prevention, and safer-sex practices.**

## **CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES**

24. 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?

**Yes, I 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 a member of the Council, I supported legislation that permitted the transfer to licenses of businesses, that permitted nude dancing, that were displaced by the baseball stadium.**

25. 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?

**Yes. While recognizing the rights of neighborhood residents to have input with regard to noise, trash and other adverse impacts of businesses not living up to their responsibilities, I would support legislation to curb abuses by individuals whose intent is to harass or extort businesses. I believe we need a more business friendly environment where rules and regulations are understood and the process for licensing is fair and efficient.**

26. What are your thoughts regarding GLAA's proposal, explained in Agenda: 2010, to mitigate the problems associated with prostitution by legalizing and regulating it? What will you do to provide alternatives to survival sex for at-risk populations like homeless youth and transgenders?

**I can agree with GLAA's analysis that we need to do more to address the causes and conditions that lead many to prostitution and abuse and exploitation they face. The focus of prostitution enforcement must be rehabilitation and not punishment for the sex worker. Punishment should be limited to those who exploit and abuse the sex worker for their financial benefit. I support mandatory diversion programs for the sex worker that links the person with appropriate social services, including transitional housing, education and job training, substance abuse, physical and mental health services, as well as counseling. As Mayor, I will ensure there are specifically targeted programs for youth, persons who are transgender and other at risk populations.**