

Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC 2012 Questionnaire for D.C. Council Candidates

VINCENT ORANGE'S ANSWERS TO QUESTIONNAIRE

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

1. In the event of congressional action leading to a ballot initiative in the District that would take away the civil marriage rights now enjoyed by same-sex couples, will you oppose the initiative and will you publicly defend civil marriage equality?

Yes, I will oppose the initiative and will publicly defend civil marriage equality.

PUBLIC HEALTH

2. 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, I will 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 populations within the offices' purview.

In fact, it was legislation I introduced with Councilmember Jim Graham, which made the Office of GLBT permanent. Thus, preventing any administration from abolishing the Office. In addition, my legislation created the Office of African Affairs.

3. Will you defend the District's hard-won and life-saving medical marijuana program against attacks or further restrictions, whether from Congress, federal officials or D.C. officials?

Yes, I will defend the medical marijuana program against attacks or further restrictions whether from Congress, federal or D.C. officials.

4. 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.

First, I support the improve performance at the HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD, and TB Administration (HAHSTA) including HIV prevention, HIV/AIDS surveillance, and mental health services.

Second, I support the DC Council Committee on Health, which has oversight on these programs. I will support and work with the Chair of the Committee, David Catania, to address the improved performance through legislation, funding and advocacy.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUDICIARY

5. 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?

Yes, I will press for increased oversight of MPD's gathering and analysis of crime statistics to ensure greater comprehensiveness and objectivity including transgender-related hate crime data.

6. Will you support funding for MPD to hire or contract qualified trainers to provide LGBT-inclusive cultural competency training including the handling of intimate partner violence?

Yes, I will support funding for MPD to hire or contract qualified trainers to provide LGBT-inclusive cultural competency training including the handling of intimate partner violence.

7. Will you oppose legislation to make permanent the so-called Prostitution-Free Zones (PFZs), which facilitate anti-transgender profiling, and will you vote to repeal the current PFZ law?

Yes, I will oppose legislation to make permanent the so-called PFZs and vote to repeal the current PFZ law.

HUMAN RIGHTS

8. 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 agree that the Director of the Office of Human Rights should be required to have professional training and experience in civil rights law enforcement.

YOUTH AND SENIORS

9. 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?

No. When I was 14, I received an A Better Chance Scholarship that allowed me to attend boarding school. Without that scholarship and the education derived there from, I would not be where I am today.

10. 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 will 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.

11. Will you support legislation to ensure equal Medicaid spousal impoverishment protections for same-sex partners, including providing local funding to pay for benefits that are denied at the federal level due to the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act?

Yes, I will support legislation to ensure equal Medicaid spousal impoverishment protections for same-sex partners including local funding to pay for benefits that are denied at the federal level due to

the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act.

CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES

12. 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, without excluding any ward?

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, without excluding any ward.

13. Will you support legislation to curb abuses involving endless series of baseless complaints to harass or extort bars and restaurants?

Yes, I will support legislation to curb abuses involving endless series of baseless complaints to harass or extort bars and restaurants.

14. What will you do to provide alternatives to incarceration for marginalized and at-risk populations like homeless youth and transgender people who resort to prostitution for survival?

I will work hard to get homeless youth and transgender people trained for the jobs coming on line in the District to help prevent incarceration. I am also open to suggestions on how to address this issue.

Vincent Orange Record on LGBT Affairs

I. During my tenure, 1999 to 2007, on the DC Council and as Chairman of the Committee on Government Affairs, I championed along with DC Councilmember Jim Graham Bill 16-235, the Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs Act of 2005. This Bill was in honor of my good friend Wanda R. Alston and to permanently establish the office without fear of it being abolished by subsequent administrations.

II. Councilmember Jim Graham and I also introduced the "District of

Columbia Human Rights Act Clarification Act of 2005” to amend the District of Columbia Human Rights Act of 1977 to add “gender identity or expression” to the list of already enumerated classes protected by current District law. This Act was important because it clarified that discrimination against transgender and gender variant people is illegal in the District of Columbia.

III. During my tenure with Pepco commencing in 2007, Rick Rosendall brought to my attention during DC Council hearings that Pepco did not provide benefits to domestic partners or civil unions. I immediately had this changed and benefits were provided.

IV. The District of Columbia passed same-sex marriage legislation. As the Democratic National Committeeman, I supported this legislation and voted in favor of the resolution passed by the DC Democratic State Committee.

V. Attended the HRC affair celebrating the DC Court of Appeals upholding Marriage Equality.

VI. Attended the one-year anniversary of the DC Marriage Equality Act.

VII. Three year member of the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club.

VIII. Attended event at ReedSmith honoring those in the leadership for Marriage Equality