

HUBBARD 1

GLAA of Washington, DC  
P.O. Box 75265  
Washington, DC 20013

Re: Ward 5 Council Candidate Questionnaire

I am pleased to respond GLAA, 2012 candidate's questionnaire. As a first time candidate and long advocate for equality, I look forward to working with GLAA to ensure a high quality of life for the LGBT community here in the District of Columbia.

Drew Hubbard

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?

I am in full support of marriage equality and I will fight any attempt to take away the rights of same-sex couples to marry. I will publically and actively oppose any attempt by Congress for an initiative to undo this important right. The Board of Elections and Ethics was directly on point in its ruling rejecting the attempt to place marriage equality on the ballot. No initiative or referendum offered with a discriminatory intent should ever be allowed on the ballot. I believe that the GLBT community's struggles for equal rights are the modern day civil rights cause that all those who believe in democracy should support and take up.

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, in all areas related to programs and initiatives for minority constituent populations, resources and funding for non-profits and groups that provide supportive services are critical. I will support legislation giving directors authority to issue competitive grants. Given the direct focus and mission of both offices they are in the best position to assess needs and tailor funding opportunities to address them. As we have seen in other areas, properly administered competitive grant making authority is a much more nimble and effective mechanism for smaller awards to the non-profit sector, than making these entities wade through the District's contracting bureaucracy.

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?

*Drew Hubbard*

Yes, the implementation of the District's medical marijuana program has been held hostage for far too many years by congressional meddling in the form of budget riders. The current debate of placement of facilities has been marred by misinformation and some residents have reacted negatively because they don't have all the facts. I am sensitive to resident's concerns here in Ward 5 that not all the facilities be concentrated in one area. I do seek to point out to residents that placement of cultivation centers and dispensaries should not be lumped together. Many residents have not gotten a thorough explanation and equate the placement of a cultivation center to opening a methadone clinic on their block. I have also heard residents voice concerns about security, loitering and resale of marijuana in the areas around cultivations centers. In the face of these comments I seek to provide facts and indicate the cultivations centers will be more akin to pharmaceutical production facilities and there is little of no need for the public to interact or take notice of these sites. It is in the best interest of the owners to have superior security resources, which undoubtedly will have a positive residual benefit to the surrounding community.

Dispensaries will logically and more naturally be geographically dispersed throughout the District. I will continue to seek to provide factual information to residents and oppose any further restrictions or delays in implementation.

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.

As the nation's capital we have a wealth of healthcare policy related institutions, universities and medical service providers that the District should further engage to help institute best practices in this area. With NIH and HHS a few short miles from the HAHSTA offices we should be pushing for more technical support and funding from our federal partners. We also have local entities that have conducted research and published recommendations on how to effectively provide wrap around services, increase educational/awareness campaigns and reach low and moderate income residents specifically in the LGBT community. In this instance we have a good handle on what the problems are; it is up to the Council and other elected officials to prioritize LGBT health initiatives. Instead of the few Councilmembers who take up this charge alone, this should be added to the Council's overall action plan as a priority for the coming Council Period.

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, while attending meetings where MPD personnel present information, I get the sense that addressing the increase in transgendered hate crimes is a current priority. As with any types of crime it is important to collect and make available good data. It is important to keep pushing for this data collection so the public can make informed decisions on the adequacy of MPD's efforts.

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?

*Drew Hubbard*

Yes, cultural competency issues are always key in addressing the particular needs of specific minority populations. Training of MPD to recognize and be mindful of how to successfully interact with members of the GLBT community will go a long way with maintaining and increasing trust between the GLBT community and MPD. I think in the past MPD took a more deliberate approach towards unique, targeted specialized units for particular populations. I believe we can do more to increase the effectiveness of this approach and expand how the SLU delivers service to specific populations.

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 have followed this issue and I share concerns that this policy raises constitutional issues. Making these zones permanent is not policy I would support and I would argue that the passage of the emergency legislation amounted to little more than an attempt to appear to be taking a tough stance on this issue. I would work to push the Council to work on the enforcement of our existing criminal statutes with a specific charge to put safeguards in place with a goal of stamping out profiling of any kind.

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?

*Tracy Hubbard*

Yes, the District has one the most expansive and inclusive human rights laws in the country. In order to effectively administer the law on behalf of the various protected classes, it is imperative that the Director of the OHR have specialized training and experience in civil rights law enforcement. Having dealt with discrimination cases brought under the DC Human Rights Act and EEO complaints, I know how complicated and difficult enforcement related to this area can be.

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?

Yes, I oppose all voucher programs that fund students in religious schools beyond the DC Human Rights Act.

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, it is irresponsible in this day and age to teach a sex education curriculum that does not include safer sex programs. Well-tailored, age appropriate sex education is key to making strides towards less negative trends in youth sexual health and the promotion of healthy attitudes towards relationships.

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. In general I feel that all rights guaranteed to hetero married couples should also be enjoyed by same-sex couples. As a jurisdiction, our embrace of marriage equality must extend to addressing financial situations where the federal government has not had the foresight to guarantee the equal treatment of individuals and couples regardless sexual or gender identity orientation.

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, adults have the right to patronize appropriately licensed and zoned businesses. It is in the best interest of residents to ensure that no one ward is over saturated with adult-oriented establishments.

Van Hubbard

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

Yes, using a regulatory scheme to harass bars and restaurants due to their clientele is just as wrong as outright discrimination and bigotry. On a more general note, I am aware of several situations where liquor license establishments with no record of complaints, have been coerced into signing very restrictive voluntary agreements when seeking to renew their license. The ABC Board must do a better job create more uniform standards in this area and take a faster and more active role in mediating these types of disputes.

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?

As a component of diversion options, the District needs to partner with the courts to provide a meaningful path to job training/job readiness programs as well as other needed wrap around services. The Department of Employment Services would be a logical agency to take up this activity as they are charged with administering our adult employment related supports as well as our programs for youth and disconnected youth.

Your record is part of your rating. Please list any actions that you have taken that may help illustrate your record on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

- Attended meetings and rallies hosted by Councilmember Graham during the consideration of marriage equality legislation;
- Worked on legislation mandating the District adopt a comprehensive housing strategy, to include how the District best uses its HOPWA funding;
- Participation in community activities such as the Pride Parade.

*David Hubbard*