

**GAY AND LESBIAN ACTIVISTS ALLIANCE OF WASHINGTON, DC
2012 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR WARD 5 D.C. COUNCIL CANDIDATES**

DELANO HUNTER (D)

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. The District of Columbia fought in 1979 to pass legislation that barred discriminatory ballot measures. Seeking to overturn the Marriage Equality Act of 2009 would further reverse the District's effort in achieving local autonomy and self-governance. Additionally, I respect the Marriage Equality Act. The well-fought enactment of this civil rights law has proven its success despite court challenges. Justice has spoken; therefore, I would not seek to have the civil marriage right taken away from same-sex couples and would not support any ballot initiative that infringes on the civil liberties of District residents.

PUBLIC HEALTH

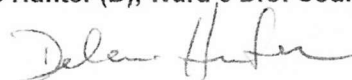
2. Will you support legislation giving the directors of the Office of GLBT Affairs and the Office of African Affairs the authority to issue competitive grants as other minority constituent offices have, that will be open to organizations serving the populations within the offices' purview?

Yes. The Office of GLBT Affairs and the Office of African Affairs deserve the same right as other minority constituent offices to improve and address the special needs of its constituents. According to the Department of Health, the number of newly diagnosed AIDS cases decreased from 653 in 2005 to 420 at the end of 2009. There is no doubt that government leadership and community planning groups have been pivotal in improving these numbers. It is detrimental that all minority constituent offices are extended the equal right to continue the improvement of their community. I will support such legislation and recommend all minority constituency agencies issue competitive grants to organizations that focus on HIV/AIDS & other STD awareness/prevention, youth outreach, educational materials, sensitivity training, and health data collection.

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, D.C. officials, or residents?

Yes. As the next Ward 5 Councilmember, it will be my obligation to ensure the Legalization of Marijuana for Medical Treatment Initiative Amendment Act of 2010 is properly implemented. It is unquestionable that patients will benefit from the medicinal use of marijuana to ease pain and long suffering. However, I would want the D.C.

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Council and the D.C. Department of Health to examine the feasibility of co-locating cultivation centers. The goal of implementing the Medical Treatment Initiative Amendment Act should be to lessen the impact on our communities by reducing the number of facilities. If applicants are willing to co-locate facilities in a larger space, then that option should also be considered. With that being said, I will defend the life-saving act in a manner that balances proper regulatory control and patient accessibility.

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.

HAHSTA has made significant strides since the DC Appleseed Center reported in 2005 on many issues within the sole government agency designed to prevent HIV/AIDS, STDs, Tuberculosis and Hepatitis; reduce the disease transmission; and provide care and treatment to persons affected by these diseases.

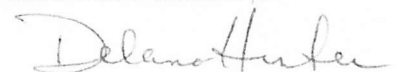
I would encourage the Mayor and Council to continue keeping HIV/AIDS prevention a priority in a city that has one of the highest HIV/AIDS rates in the nation. Various inter-agency youth initiatives outside the DCPS environment have already proven to be successful. It will be important to expand these HIV/AIDS prevention initiatives within DCPS and DC Chartered Schools. I would encourage OSSE to routinely take serious assessments of health education and take steps to stay aligned with the Healthy Schools Act and Healthy Learning Standards.

In terms of HIV/AIDS surveillance, I would encourage HAHSTA to continue, expand, and improve its measures in collecting, analyzing and reporting data. The District has received pertinent information regarding HIV/AIDS demographics and behavioral patterns. Now, HAHSTA needs to find a way to take the incidence data and create initiatives that target and prioritize various demographic groups throughout the city. I would also encourage HAHSTA to build partnerships with entities that can help the District measure the success of our prevention efforts. Correlating the data with success measures will help HAHSTA improve surveillance initiatives and HIV/AIDS prevention campaigns.

Lack of mental health services has been a consistent challenge among all city agencies designed to provide social service assistance. I would encourage HAHSTA to utilize its HIV/AIDS surveillance data so the agency can take a more strategic approach in requesting funding, building community partnerships, and developing a detailed mental health plan for HIV/AIDS patients (new cases and current).

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



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comprehensiveness and objectivity, including transgender-related hate crime data?

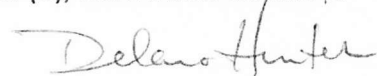
Yes. Recently, there have been a surge of violent crimes that appear to have targeted members of the District's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. I would encourage MPD to continue working with GLAA's allies—Gays and Lesbians Opposing Violence (GLOV), DC Trans Coalition (DCTC), and Rainbow Response Coalition. It is also equally important that MPD seeks to collaborate more with its Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit (GLLU) and the Office of GLBT Affairs to create a reporting system that will provide a detailed and objective analysis of crime statistics within the LGBT community. All incidents of suspected hate crimes that appear to target people because of their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, faith, or any other societal identifiers should not be dismissed due to the unwillingness of MPD to tighten its efforts to provide accurate 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. It was a significant gain for the LGBT community when Police Chief Cathy Lanier issued a General Order—"Handling Interactions with Transgender Individuals"—to MPD officers to ensure appropriate conduct between the MPD and transgender people. Chief Lanier now may need to revisit MPD's efforts and be trained to properly implement this order and any other order that is designed to handle certain types of groups. Community diversity and sensitivity training should remain at the forefront of MPD's training of its officers at all levels (new hires, transfers, veteran officers, leadership, and other MPD personnel). It is also important for first-responders to receive specialized diversity and sensitivity training to understand how to uniquely handle cases within the LGBT community and the importance of consistently collecting and reporting data.

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

As of now, the current legislation to increase Prostitution Free Zones has been established to bring attention to an evidently persistent problem. It will be important to re-examine this law before it is made permanent. Any law that promotes profiling based on race, sexual orientation, religion, or any other societal identifier needs to undergo analysis and re-written in a manner that will be applied equally to all D.C. residents. Additionally, while an increase of prostitution has affected various areas throughout the city, it is important to work with job placement organizations and agencies that will work with LGBT and other affected communities. Struggling communities need to be equipped with the necessary tools that will allow them to receive meaningful, non-discriminatory employment.



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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. The D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977 prohibits discrimination on an extensive list of categories; therefore, the Director of the Office of Human Rights for the District of Columbia should have a strong professional background in civil rights and human rights law, advocacy, and recorded levels of success. This person should have a great understanding of the D.C. Human Rights Act and ensure that all aspects of the law are being defended and enforced.

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?

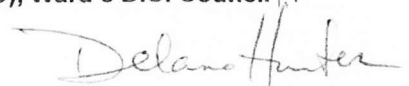
No. All parents and students should be presented with options that present them with the tools to receive a high-quality education. The Armstrong Amendment explicitly gives the right of a religious organization—or closely associated organization—to “deny, restrict, abridge, or condition” based on sexual orientation. While this amendment was imposed by Congress, it is equally important to ensure religious school leaders are aware of the D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977. Until new legislation is presented, educational leaders, parents, gay-straight alliances and other pivotal community activists, should work together to strike a balance between quality education and human rights protections for students of these academic institutions.

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 important that OSSE continues its efforts to implement and coordinate a thorough health education curriculum for DCPS and D.C. Chartered Schools. Abstinence should be presented as a form of protection from diseases such as HIV/AIDS and other STDs, but it should not be the core of safe-sex and disease prevention. The District should not want to undermine or encourage the digression of significant strides already made to promote safe sex-education and HIV/AIDS prevention.

11. Will you support legislation to ensure equal Medicaid spousal impoverishment protections for same-sex partners, including providing local

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funding to pay for benefits that are denied at the federal level due to the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act?

Yes. The Marriage Equality Act of 2009 gives District residents the right to marry whom they choose—giving them the same right as a man and woman. Considering this is already established in law, all married District residents should equally receive the same rights, privileges, and responsibilities regardless of the type of marriage.

CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES

12. Do you support the right of adults in the District to choose adult-oriented entertainment for themselves, and the right to appropriately licensed and zoned businesses to provide it, without excluding any ward?

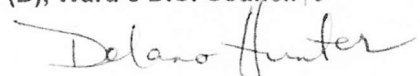
Yes. There are many adult-oriented entertainment establishments throughout the District. It will be my obligation to ensure these legitimate businesses follow the appropriate licensing and zoning processes in order to provide such services. With a fine balance of regulatory control and residents' recreational needs, it is possible to ensure that these legal establishments become good corporate neighbors and a thriving piece of each ward's economic development.

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

Yes. Many legal business establishments throughout the city tend to fall victim to baseless complaints. If a regulatory agency (such as the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration—ABRA) receives on-going complaints and/or filing of lawsuits from any one individual, it should be obligated to explore the history of the case before issuing a formal complaint or investigation. It will be important for regulatory agencies to devise a recordkeeping system that monitors and reports all case activity—formal and informal—in order to establish a track record for both the business establishment and individual(s) who file a complaint against that particular business.

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 the next Ward 5 councilmember, I will support the Department of Employment Services (DOES) Project Empowerment program. This program was pivotal in helping transgender people who resort to prostitution for survival gain meaningful employment. A more detailed analysis of this program will be necessary to suggest areas of improvement that will create effective implementation and greater success rates.



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I will forge meaningful relationships with the Transgender Health Empowerment, Covenant House Washington, the Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League (SMYAL), Latin American Youth Center, and any other organization that helps provide alternatives to our youth, transgender people, and other at-risk communities. Partnerships with other community-driven organizations should be geared toward presenting a better quality of life for at-risk populations.

Members of at-risk communities should be offered quality job training, transitional housing programs, mental health services, addiction recovery programs, educational opportunities, STD testing and treatment, and other types of assistance that will help them gain healthy control of their lives.

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

The National Organization of Marriage—an organization that opposes gay marriage and most recently was exposed for its detailed plan to create conflict within the African American community—donated money to my campaign in 2010. Unfortunately, campaign materials were produced unbeknownst to me and my campaign during that time. I would like to apologize to all who were affected by the nature of the materials that circulated throughout Ward 5.

While I do have my own set of beliefs, I am truly respectful and tolerant of those who carry different views than me. I stand by the following statement that was released January 10, 2012:

"I respect the Marriage Equality Act.

Respect and tolerance toward mankind serve as a driving force in my life. These two values have been the very essence of what has been instilled in me since I was a child. I was also taught that, as individuals, it is okay to have different perspectives. Everyone has the right to agree or disagree as long as respect, understanding, and open-mindedness guide our words and deeds.

As you know, the Marriage Equality Act of 2009 gives District residents the right to marry whom they choose regardless of gender; and gives religious institutions the right to ordain marriages in accordance to their beliefs.

I do not seek to overturn the Marriage Equality Act when elected. I will, however, continue to establish working relationships within the LGBT community to focus on issues that affect the quality of life for residents of the District of Columbia. Our shared interests and concerns trump any type of personal belief or agenda; and, my pledge for



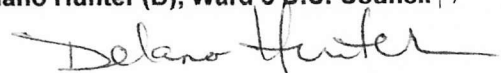
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respect and tolerance remains at the forefront of serving all residents in the Ward 5 community.”

When I first decided to run for Ward 5 D.C. Council on Oct. 31, 2009, I spoke about Ward 5's high unemployment rate, our youth being murdered, and our high HIV/AIDS rates (Video Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ttkVeNNYjU>). Combating these issues were the driving force for wanting to run for D.C. Council then. These types of issues keep me embedded in Ward 5 civic affairs. And, it is these types of issues that will continue to push my campaign forward.

I look forward to building bridges with organizations like GLAA so we can ensure that we create an enriching quality of life and safer environment for all residents.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Delano Hunter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.