

**From:** Jim Graham <[Jim@grahamwone.com](mailto:Jim@grahamwone.com)>

**Date:** Thursday, February 6, 2014 4:34 PM

**To:** Richard Rosendall <[equal@glaa.org](mailto:equal@glaa.org)>

**Subject:** Completed GLAA questionnaire

Here is the completed questionnaire. All the best, Jim

***I typically answer emails before 9 AM on weekdays. If you email me after that, it is likely that you will hear from me the next weekday. If there is a need to communicate prior to that, you may wish to call me. For most effective communication, please use my direct email address: [jim@grahamwone.com](mailto:jim@grahamwone.com)***

***Jim Graham, Councilmember, Ward One, 1350 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, #105, Washington, DC 20004. 202-724-8181; 202-724-8109 (fax).***

***Chairman, Committee on Human Services. Main Committee Number: 202-724-8191. 1350 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, #116, Washington, DC 20004.***

***Website: [www.grahamwone.com](http://www.grahamwone.com)***

## **Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC 2014 Questionnaire for D.C. Council Candidates**

### **PUBLIC HEALTH**

1. Will you act to ensure that the District provides transgender-inclusive health insurance to all D.C. Government employees, to include coverage for sex affirmation surgery (also known as sex reassignment surgery)?

RESPONSE; Yes, definitely. Transgender people face discrimination in health insurance especially—but not exclusively-- relating to sex affirmation surgery. Yet, at least 36 universities -- among them a number of Ivy League institutions, including the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard-- already cover the procedure. The American Medical Association has called for ending discrimination in health insurance for transgender people. Discriminatory transgender insurance exclusions in insurance contracts cause coverage to be denied for non-transgender care and care related to sex affirmation or reassignment. The DC Government needs to strike a different course on this.

2. Will you support budgets that target funds to address health disparities in the LGBT population, including in mental health and substance abuse treatment?

RESPONSE: Definitely. Clearly justified. I recall my professional experiences in both fields while Director of Whitman Walker Clinic. Because of the special needs of LGBT recovery and therapy, we worked hard to create specialized programs. I am very proud that much of that continues to this date—including WWAS and the Scott Harper House.

3. Will you support reforming the medical marijuana law and regulations to delete the outdated list of qualifying conditions and rely instead on a physician's diagnosis of medical needs?

RESPONSE: Quite clearly, despite good intentions, it is clear to me that this law is not working as it should. The Council was far too conservative in establishing so many restrictions. As someone who was been directly involved in supporting the original referendum back in the 1990s, it is especially disappointing. I have opposed efforts to limit the location of new clinics. We must revisit all of this soon.

4. 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.

RESPONSE: I need to be back on the Health Committee—please help me do that! I fully support maintaining steadfast oversight of HAHSTA's programs and finances to ensure that we aggressively address the HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD, and TB crisis. When I served at Whitman Walker we transformed the clinic from a small STD clinic in Adams Morgan into one of the nation's premier AIDS service providers. We were able to achieve this through careful programmatic and infrastructure investments and financial accountability. I need to apply all of that experience to strengthening current programs. We have a very supportive council and Mayor. But this is an example of where of having somebody at the table with passion about these issues makes a critical difference!

## **JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

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?

RESPONSE: Yes I will. I want to work with GLAA and their outstanding advocacy, to

insure that the issues here are uncovered and remedied.

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

RESPONSE: In 2011, when I became Human Services Chairman, the DYRS Lead Entities and community based Service Providers were just getting underway. However, almost immediately we noticed significant flaws in both contracting and programming - - and very little or no performance measurements to help gauge success of the programs. Contracts were being awarded without a competitive process. Almost 70% of the \$4 million in funding was being dedicated to “Intensive Third Party Monitoring” which no one could identify. And there were no outcomes associated to the work. Through oversight, we have worked closely with DYRS in establishing an RFP process for Service Providers, performance based contracting, and ensuring families are a key component to youth’s rehabilitation. As a result, we are beginning to see increased capacity among our DC YouthLink Service Providers—with greater impact for rehabilitation-- a more specific set of services offered based on the needs and interests of the young people. Thus, improved results among our youth and more youth moving into responsible adulthood. A key indicator of success or failure of the programs and services administered by our juvenile justice system is recidivism. One of my legislative priorities is to define recidivism in the District to reflect recommendations from Council on Juvenile Correctional Administrators and Department of Justice / Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and to develop a mechanism by which to measure and evaluate our successes and failures with respect to youth in the juvenile justice system. Recently I toured the Juvenile Unit at the Central Treatment Facility (CTF) operated by the Department of Corrections. The Juvenile Unit holds juveniles under 18 years old that have been charged as adults. There were 18 youth on the Unit at the time of my visit - - the Unit has the capacity to house 48 young people. Some are waiting for trial - - others are too young to be sent to adult facilities under the Bureau of Prisons. I am opposed to housing juveniles at the adult facility - - especially those awaiting trial. Adult prisons are for adults - -regardless of the charges the US Attorney’s Office has brought against a young person. I am working with Councilmember Wells and advocates on re-introducing the Juvenile Justice Improvement Act.

7. Will you support funding to hire qualified trainers to provide LGBT-inclusive cultural competency training to all police officers, including in the handling of intimate partner violence?

RESPONSE: Yes. This is badly needed as evidenced by the compelling information collected at Council hearings on the MPD handling of sexual abuse and assault cases and hate crimes. MPD is in dire need of more training.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

8. Will you insist that anyone appointed as Director of the Office of Human Rights be required to have professional training and experience in civil rights law enforcement?

RESPONSE: It's an idea which I am willing to consider. But why not list it as one of several qualifications? I am not sure I can agree to this as the sole qualification, but I would like to discuss it further before making up my mind.

9. Given the limited results from trans-inclusive Project Empowerment training, will you push to establish a project at the Department of Employment Services to increase government hiring from under-represented populations, including the chronically underemployed trans population?

RESPONSE: I am pleased with the action Mayor Gray took in this regard for Project Empowerment. I attended one of the graduations, and I was very impressed. More is obviously needed. And I would also encourage the DC gov generally, and the Mayor's office in particular to hire transgendered people.

## YOUTH AND SENIORS

10. Will you support improved services and treatment for LGBT homeless youth and seniors, including transitional housing?

RESPONSE: LGBTQ Homeless Youth - On February 3, 2014 the Council voted final passage of "LGBTQ Homeless Youth Reform Amendment Act of 2013". Dealing with more than several complex issues, I worked hard as Human Services Cte Chair to make sure this bill—which went through my committee—would be passed. It is funded in his fiscal year. The legislation includes several provisions, including the requirement of a minimum of 10 beds with a preference for homeless youth who identify as being LGBTQ. The bill also sets training standards and requirements for all providers so that workers are trained in cultural competence with regard to the LGBTQ community. I am very proud of the efforts of the working group that I convened. The introduced version of the LGBTQ youth bill was significantly strengthened as a result of the working group's efforts. The working group will remain intact to continue the dialogue and monitor the implementation of the legislation's provisions. During the course of the working group meetings and subsequent hearings on the bill, we identified service gaps for all homeless youth. Through oversight and possible legislation, I will focus on addressing these service gaps with the Department of Human Services and introduce legislation based on best practices if necessary. Much more needs to be done for homeless seniors,

generally, and LGBT specifically. There are far too many seniors in low barrier shelter for want of other referrals. Just a few months ago, during a visit to CCNV, I encountered an elderly woman who variously identified herself as 80 then 88 years of age. I am not a medical professional but it was at once apparent that she needed specialized care. I took steps immediately to see that she received that. Obviously, it ought not to take a visit from the Oversight Cte Chair to have that result. In this case, and probably too many others, the current system was not working.

## **CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES**

11. Will you support strengthening Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) reforms by eliminating license protests filed by citizens associations and ad hoc groups, requiring stakeholders to participate in the community process provided by the Advisory Neighborhood Commission?

RESPONSE: *The Omnibus Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Amendment Act of 2013*. The law enacted by the Council last December modernized many aspects of existing alcohol law that were out of date and did not adequately reflect current industry practice; it addressed serious, ongoing concerns of residents affected by nightlife establishments in their neighborhoods—particularly concerns about noise and safety; and strengthened public safety and enforcement. The law was the culmination of the work of two different task forces over two years. The Noise Task Force met for more than 30 hours from March 2010 to December 2010 and developed ten recommendations, some of which became part of the Omnibus bill; while others were put into practice by the agency. The ABC Working Group also met ten times for more than 30 hours between December, 2011 and the end of April 2012 and developed 43 detailed recommendations, almost all of which remained in the bill in their original form. One of the significant changes was—when an ANC has entered into a Settlement Agreement with an applicant, certain other license protests—such as the group of five—are thereby extinguished. A protest by a citizen association (defined in the bill) does survive for ABC Board consideration. In spite of various attempts, there were not the votes on the Task Force to include this as well.

12. Will you defend 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?

RESPONSE: Absolutely. I am very proud of the role I played in the complex and difficult issues of saving such businesses in the wake of the commitment for a Nationals Stadium. It wasn't easy at all, and I was roundly criticized by those who would have been happy to see them go entirely out of business. We were able to save certain licensees. I know how much this means to our community.

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

**Your answers should be typed on separate paper rather than on this form. *You must sign your name on each answer sheet to indicate your personal commitment to your answers.***

**Please return your signed questionnaire responses by Thursday, February 6 to GLAA, P.O. Box 75265, Washington, D.C. 20013.**

**In addition to sending your signed hard copy, please email a copy (in any major word processor or text format) for loading on GLAA's website ([www.glaa.org](http://www.glaa.org)) to [equal@glaa.org](mailto:equal@glaa.org). Thank you.**