

From: "john@settlesfordcatlarge.com" <john@settlesfordcatlarge.com>
Date: Sunday, February 9, 2014 2:57 PM
To: Richard Rosendall <rrosendall@starpower.net>
Subject: GLAA

GLAA

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)?

I fully support equal rights for all citizens, and believe that no government employee should be denied medical coverage. I don't know the insurance company that insures District employees, however, if the similar medical procedures are covered for non-transsexuals by the same plan then it's only fair that the health plan covers the same procedure for all employees, whether or not it is related to transsexualism. Working with programs like Whitman Walker and other Council Members such as David Catania who have experience and success in advocating for equal coverage will be a priority.

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

Yes. I am especially concerned about LGBT youth, and young adults that are impacted. I applaud programs such as the Trevor Project who are integrating educational programs with DCPS in our public school and hope to learn more how to expand these programs. The efforts done through the DC Center need more support and exposure throughout our city. All of these factors need to be integrated in delivering services from our youngest citizens to our seniors within the LGBT community and among allies.

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 Will you support reforming the medical marijuana law and regulations to delete the outdated list of qualifying conditions and rely instead on a physician's diagnosis of medical needs?

I support this as long as there are strict requirements in place that ensure those without medical issues are not abusing the system.

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.

I will HAHSTA needs to take a number of steps to improve, including but not limited to, greater collaboration with community based organizations, innovative partnerships to increase educational and preventive programs. The MSM in DC study clearly points to a lack of consistent use of condoms during sex as a major problem. HAHSTA also needs additional funding from the District, and Private foundations to increase a range of programs from needle exchanges, monitoring of new and existing cases. Again, it is imperative that we collaborate with programs that currently exist and are successful and broaden their exposure and resources throughout the city and in all wards.

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?

Yes. I am concerned with rise in street crimes against the LGBT community, and more specifically the transgender community. MPD needs greater training and accountability in handling these crimes. HASHTA must also ensure that victims advocates are trained to for assisting transgender victims.

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?

The cities acute Housing Affordability crisis is impacting many residents, At-risk populations severely. With funding from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund the city needs to invest in creating more traditional and permanent supportive housing that includes wrap around services for at-risk populations. Increasing the supply of beds in these facilities, and providing holistic services will allow for diversion programs in lieu of incarcerations.

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?

Yes. I believe MPD needs sensitivity and other training in addressing partner and sexual violence. The Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit (GLLU) needs additional support and funding to broaden education, safety and recruitment of more members.

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?

Yes. Additionally, I will insist that they keep up on the most current trends in education and professional development for themselves and their employees that they oversee.

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?

Yes. I think DOES needs to work with agency directors to ensure that all District residents are given equal consideration in hiring decisions. Not only should the government reflect the diversity of the city, private sectors companies can't be held up a standard different than the govt. employs.

YOUTH AND SENIORS

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

Yes. There is an urgent need for transitional and permanent housing for many demographics. However, within the LGBT community there is an additional need to educate and offer opportunities that will give these individuals a viable option for living fulfilling lives. Transitional housing can offer such programming and opportunities.

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?

Yes. There are proven examples on how businesses and residents have worked together for a common goal without confrontation and lawsuits. We need to engage stakeholders from businesses, civic associations, residents, etc. To discuss what concerns are out there and what measure need to be taken to solve the problem.

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?

Yes, as long as they are located within pre-designated boundaries where children are not exposed.

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) to equal@glaa.org. Thank you.

Democratic Candidate for DC City Council At Large April 1, 2014

Share your thoughts at www.settlesfordcatlarge.com

Follow me: [Twitter@JohnFSettlesII](https://twitter.com/JohnFSettlesII)

"I feel that there is nothing more truly artistic than to love people" - Vincent van Gogh