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**What are the top three issues facing Durham that you intend to address if you're elected?
In what ways would you address them?**

I believe the most important issues facing Durham are affordable housing, police accountability, and building racial & economic justice.

I am deeply concerned about the rising cost of housing in the areas around downtown and increasingly all across Durham. The development in our downtown has been a benefit to many of us, but we must also address the needs of working people whose neighborhoods are changing into places they can no longer afford to live and where they do not feel welcome.

I believe the city council should ensure that Durham maintains adequate stocks of affordable housing by:

- 1) Leveraging city resources to help nonprofit housing providers construct both for-sale and rental housing that is affordable for low-income people;
- 2) Committing city-owned land to the construction of affordable housing, especially near transit;
- 3) Demanding that housing developers who request city funding or significant zoning changes contribute to our affordable housing goals by providing affordable units as part of their developments and/or providing significant cash contributions to support affordable housing;
- 4) Providing safe and affordable alternative housing for every person living in public housing that is slated to be torn down;
- 5) Involving members of the communities most affected by these decisions and policies in every step of the process; and
- 6) Ensuring that issues of racial equity are addressed in any affordable housing plan.

I am also deeply troubled by traffic stop data that indicates that racial profiling is occurring in the Durham Police Department. This is unacceptable and city council should continue efforts to monitor these statistics and demand action from the police department to reduce profiling and racially biased policing. I supported the adoption of the proposals of the FADE coalition and would support also adopting the last remaining recommendation to make marijuana enforcement a lowest-level law enforcement priority. I also support the adoption of the Durham Community Safety Act proposed by Southerners on New Ground as part of their Free From

Fear campaign, which would ban bias-based policing against African Americans, Latinos, immigrants, youth, and queer, trans, and gender non-conforming Durham residents.

Finally, I would like to see our city develop in a more racially equitable and economically just way. It is telling that as downtown is seeing such a huge boom, income inequality and child poverty rates have increased. Nearly 25% of Durham's census tracts are considered high-poverty. Crime rates in high-poverty areas are higher than in other parts of the city and economic and social opportunities are lacking. There are also clear racial disparities; unemployment rates for people of color are higher and wages are lower. It is important to me that as we grow, we grow together as a city, and that the benefits of economic development do not accrue only to a privileged few, but rather are widely shared by our community as a whole.

Recently the City Council has voted to approve multiple projects that will increase the population density of downtown Durham (such as the 539 Foster project). Along with those projects the commercial development of downtown has been booming in recent years. Do you think that other areas of Durham are being ignored when it comes to development (both residential and commercial)? In what ways do you plan to ensure that other areas of Durham are as sought after as downtown is?

I believe that the benefits of Durham's growth should spread more broadly across our city, but I don't think that all areas of Durham need to develop in the same way. Many north and south Durham residents feel very differently about new commercial development than downtown Durham residents, and this is reasonable and fair. Rather than make other areas as sought after as downtown, I believe we should implement a holistic development plan based on solid city planning and input by the members of the communities who will be most directly affected by these decisions. Some areas of our city need dense commercial and residential development, and some don't. As we grow, I think we should focus on smart development where it is appropriate, but also make sure we are preserving the quality of life of our residents.

With regard to where development can and should be directed: downtown will likely continue to be the most desirable location for dense development for some time, but I am also excited about plans for transit-oriented development along the future path of the Durham-Orange light rail line. I support plans to provide affordable housing in a variety of neighborhoods, both central and more distant from the center city, and in particular I support the efforts by Durham CAN and Self-Help Credit Union to build a development adjacent to the bus station that would be affordable for people earning below 60% of the area median income, or approximately \$40,000/year for a family of four.

With regard to other areas, I believe more investment is needed in low-income areas of the city. Many neighborhoods in Durham still don't have grocery stores, pharmacies, and other essential services. I would like to see the city support innovative small businesses in targeting these needs.

Along with that, many businesses in downtown Durham have been in storefronts since before the rebirth of the area. How would you promote growth and development of larger corporations while being able to not price out those early adopters to downtown Durham?

Unfortunately I am not sure the city has much power to control rents in downtown or anywhere else in the city. I am very concerned that small businesses in particular are going to be hurt by rising rents. We are already seeing small businesses leaving the Five Points area, some of whom, like Blue Coffee Company, had been there for many years. The city does have programs to assist small businesses with grants and development assistance and I hope troubled businesses will continue to be able to take advantage of those.

Crimes rates in Durham have been growing steadily over the past five or so years. In what way would you help address the spikes in crime if you were elected? Do you think the police department needs to be reformed in order to better address the increasing crime problems in the city?

Lack of economic and social opportunities is the primary cause of crime. People who already have the opportunities they need to provide for themselves and their families rarely commit crimes, regardless of how many police officers are on the street or how strictly sentences are enforced. Therefore, I believe the only way to really prevent crime is to focus on building up our communities by investing in their economic and social development. Good, safe jobs that pay living wages, educational and recreational programs for youth, and affordable housing and stable neighborhoods all create strong communities with low rates of crime. I also believe that mediation, nonviolent conflict resolution, and restorative justice are tools that can be used to build up the capacity of our communities to avoid creating the conditions that cause crime.

Many people believe that there must be a quick fix that we can implement right now to “solve” the problem of crime in Durham, but I believe that in order to actually reduce crime, there is no other choice but to address its root causes. More policing is a band-aid solution at best. Intense increases in policing can certainly have short-term effects on crime levels, but there is no way to sustain these gains over time without continuing this intense level of police enforcement indefinitely, which itself also has serious negative impacts on the well-being and quality of life of people in communities with high crime rates.

I do believe that the police department needs to be reformed, and many good ideas for this have already been proposed and some adopted by council. I would support continuing efforts to increase police accountability and target police resources where they can be most effective.

How would you work to engage Durham’s youth to keep them invested in the community?

I believe that all of Durham's young people deserve to have access to the educational and recreational resources they need to live healthy, successful lives. I would like to target more resources for recreational programs for youth in low-income neighborhoods and support the incredible work of the many nonprofit organizations in Durham who are already serving our young people. I would prioritize early childhood education, youth jobs programs, and free summer and after-school recreational programs.

If you were elected how would you address the decline of decent single-family affordable housing available for working families?

As stated above, I believe the city can be more proactive about ensuring that affordable housing continues to be available in Durham. We should work actively with the Durham Housing Authority and our local nonprofits to maintain our existing affordable units and build more and demand that developers are contributing their fair share to our stocks of affordable housing. Please see question 1 for details on my position on this issue.