

1. What is the most important issue that you think Durham is facing, and how would you plan to address it if elected?

Our most critical issue is how to preserve what we love about our city and build a Durham for all. As our prosperity and our population grow, we face a number of critical questions:

- How do we make sure Durham stays affordable for working people and families?
- How do we maintain our racial diversity?
- How do we ensure that our city is welcoming to all people and that displacement, racial profiling, and economic injustices are quickly and effectively addressed?
- How do we preserve our public spaces, trails, parks, tree canopy, and other amenities that have a huge impact on our health and our daily quality of life?
- How do we engage all of our citizens in making decisions about our city's future so that everyone's voice is at the table and everyone's concerns are being heard AND acted upon?
- The way we answer these questions will determine whether we will grow into a larger version of the city we all love, a Durham for All, or become a different city entirely, a city where a great number of us cannot afford to live and do not feel welcome.

As a member of council, I will make sure the city does everything we can to ensure that Durham remains a diverse and welcoming community. I will make sure the city stays involved in providing affordable housing that is well-maintained and safe. We need to provide this housing in different areas around the city, but a significant focus should be on downtown. These are the neighborhoods that are most at risk of gentrification, and using resources there allows low-income people to continue to have access to the jobs and transit that the central city provides and to remain in their historic neighborhoods. I will also continue to demand accountability from our police department with regard to racial profiling and use of force against residents and make sure we fully implement the FADE coalition recommendations that were accepted last year. I will also move to implement the final recommendation to make marijuana enforcement a lowest-level law enforcement priority.

There are a great many other issues facing our city, and I plan to get direct input from residents about the needs and challenges their communities are facing. We will make the best decisions for our city when all of our residents feel engaged in our democracy and believe that their ideas and their voices are valued.

2. What policies/steps would you propose/support to advance the city's goal of protecting and increasing its affordable housing stock?

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.

Additionally, I support the Durham CAN and Self-Help Credit Union proposal to build an affordable development on city-owned land adjacent to the bus station for households earning up to 60% of the area median income, or approximately \$40,000/year for a family of four.

3. Did you agree with the City Manager's decision to ask the Durham Police Chief Jose Lopez to step down? Why or why not?

I believe that a change in the leadership of the Durham Police Department was needed. The police chief sets the tone and the culture for the department, and we need a person who is going to be serious about resolving the department's problems and being accountable to the community. I am hopeful that our city manager's promise to involve council members and the community in the process of choosing a new chief will result in the selection of someone who is able to shift the culture in the police department to better reflect the values of our community.

4. Do you have concerns about the Durham Police Department's relationship with the community? If so, what are those concerns, and what policies/steps would you support to address those concerns?

In any interaction between law enforcement and the public, there is inherently an imbalance of power. Law enforcement agents are authorized to carry deadly weapons and use force against civilians, and as such are wielding a powerful authority over us. I believe that any trust issues between residents and police result from this fundamental structural inequality. In addition,

statistics show that black people, especially black men, are being stopped and searched in Durham at much higher rates than white people and that while consent searches have gone down since the department implemented a written consent policy, “probable cause” searches have gone up, indicating that officers are bypassing consent altogether and finding probable cause where perhaps none exists. These situations further exacerbate distrust.

I would address issues in the department by ensuring the full implementation of the five FADE recommendations that were introduced to the council last year, including the one that the council has not yet approved, making marijuana enforcement a lowest-level law enforcement priority. I would also adopt the Durham Community Safety Act, proposed by Southerners on New Ground (SONG) 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. I also support strengthening the Civilian Police Review Board and giving them direct oversight powers over the police department.

5. While some areas in the city, such as downtown, are thriving, other areas, such as inner city neighborhoods, continue to struggle with crime, poverty and housing concerns. What policies/steps would you support in addressing that inequity?

The violent crime that affects communities of color in Durham is truly devastating. I believe that more investment in community economic development in low-income areas of town is the primary way we will change these statistics. 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. I am hopeful that some of the tax revenues that city will receive from development downtown will be directed toward these critical priorities.

Though the city council has little power to address this issue, I would be remiss not to bring up the issues of guns, and how extremely dangerous our current state and national gun policies are. National action to reduce the number and availability of guns in this country is crucial for crime reduction efforts.

6. What city service do you think most needs improvement, and how would you improve that service?

As a parent, I am often frustrated by our inability to clean snow from city & county streets after storms. Our last winter was particularly hard on families due to the large number of days schools were closed due to ice and snow on the roads. While it is entirely reasonable for schools to be canceled when roads are unsafe, it is very difficult for parents to find last-minute care for young children when this occurs. We need to cooperate with the county in order to

greatly improve our ability to provide safe transportation through Durham in the winter. I would like to address this issue by requesting that city staff explore what the causes are for these cleanup delays (lack of vehicles? staffing? inadequate supplies? etc.) and develop a budget proposal for improving our snow & ice cleanup operations. We are quite likely to experience even more unpredictable weather in the next few decades, so we need to make sure our city and our residents are prepared.

7. Do you have concerns about gentrification in Durham? If so, what are those concerns, and what steps would you support in addressing it?

I am very concerned about gentrification in Durham, which is a serious and worsening problem for many of our communities. I believe the city should focus on implementing a comprehensive affordable housing policy and dedicate the requisite public resources needed to carry it out. Durham City Council has made significant decisions over the past few years that acknowledge the critical need for affordable housing in Durham, including dedicating a 'penny' of every tax dollar for affordable housing and adopting a resolution for affordable housing goals within ½ mile of new proposed light rail stations. However, the need for a comprehensive affordable housing strategy, with broad public buy-in is sorely needed. The term "affordable housing" is a term that encompasses everything from ending homelessness, to public housing, to affordable rentals, to affordable home-ownership. All of these aspects of "affordable housing" are important and should factor into the City's future housing policy.

The importance of publicly-owned land can not be overstated. City land must be dedicated to affordable housing in order to meet our goal of 15% affordable housing within ½ mile of light-rail transit stations. I believe this strategy should also include long-term affordability strategies such as that of the land trust model, where nonprofit ownership of the land guarantees affordability for much longer periods of time. We should also be investing public dollars to renovate existing affordable units in order to extend the period of affordability beyond what would be possible without public dollars.

In addition to providing more affordable units, the city should do whatever we can to make sure that people who currently live in affordable homes can stay. With tax revaluations upcoming, I think it is also important to consider the impact that rising home values due to gentrification will have on low-income homeowners and people living on fixed incomes. We need to do whatever possible to lessen the impact of this revaluation on these populations and help people stay in their homes. We should also put public dollars into renovation programs to help people with repairs that they might not be able to afford on their own.

I am hopeful that the city's hiring of Enterprise Community Partners as a consultant to help us develop a comprehensive affordable housing strategy will have great results. I am committed to dedicating the public resources necessary to meet our strategic affordable housing goals for Durham residents.