

1) Would you be transparent about your Council budget? How?

Transparency around the individual Council District Budgets is needed not just going forward but we need to take steps to audit the budgets of current and past Councilmembers. I will call on the full Council to approve and audit of every District budget and account to identify areas where ethics reform should be instituted. In the past the Council budget has been used as a slush fund, to curry favor in the district.

I will ensure that my Council budget expenditures are posted on the 10<sup>th</sup> District Council page, allowing every tax payer to see how funds are spent and to allow for a conversation on how my office is prioritizing District events and needs. I will also provide a budget roll up to the taxpayers via all communication channels quarterly.

I will also push for ethics reform to ensure that Councilmembers are not utilizing taxpayer funds and Council Resources to skirt campaign finance laws during election season.

As the next Councilman for the 10<sup>th</sup> District I will always keep top of mind that the money in the 10<sup>th</sup> District Budget belongs to the taxpayers and it should be used only for the benefit of the community. To this end I would seek opportunities to create a participatory budgeting process for part of the District Budget.

2) What is your stance on displacement of legacy and low-income residents? How would you enact policy to support those residents and prevent displacement?

As President of the WCO I led the community to actively work around the displacement issue. Under my leadership we created the "This Old House" initiative to help seniors and legacy residents deal with code enforcement violations that can start the displacement process. I would work to expand this program city wide and merge it with programs already in place to help legacy residents update, improve and weatherize their properties.

Atlanta has simply failed on the affordable housing question. As councilman I would push innovative solutions to change how we calculate affordability. Currently the city uses the federal Area Medium Income (AMI) formula to calculate what is affordable. This formula takes into account the richest communities in Atlanta when calculating affordability. I will push for a targeted formula that is localized to zip code or council district and based on average salary to calculate affordability for city supported developments. The medium household income in the 10th District is \$31,655 which means most residents are locked out of "affordable" housing set by AMI medium household income which is \$82,700.

We should also prioritize and incentivize developing vacant city land and parking lots near transit hubs for affordable housing. In these developments we should legislate that developers not be allowed to opt out or pay penalties to work around their commitment to building affordable units.

I also support expanding inclusionary zoning in Atlanta. This would increase the types of housing including basement apartments, accessory dwelling units and neighborhood apartment buildings. The

current zoning code pushes either exclusive single family zoning or large apartment buildings. By focusing on “middle” zoning we will increase the diversity of housing options and increase affordability.

3) Do you support the Policing Alternatives and Diversion Initiative (PAD)? What role do you see diversion and alternative to policing initiatives, such as PAD, playing in building a new approach to community safety and wellness? Currently, PAD is only .5% of the public safety budget, so how can we financially support it to ensure success?

I am 100% supportive of PAD. There is an opportunity to make diversion and policing alternatives a pillar of our public safety strategy. The PAD program was built after studying 3.5 years of 911 calls a creating a program to matched the data seen in the previous period. I believe that this data based approach is key to ensure that we are targeting the right areas for diversion. Evaluation should happen through the ability of the program to facilitate a reduction in repeat offenders in the same category. Currently the diversion strategies are funded via allocation in the city budget. The current funding level falls well below the requested budget for the program.

As councilman I would work to fund through the general fund and in partnership with regional partners to fund wrap around services such as low barrier facilities, treatment programs and mental health and detox facilities. These wrap around services as vital if we hope to expand PAD to a 24/7/365 service.

I would also as Councilman push legislation to require APD cooperation with PAD including mandatory training on diversion strategies and processes. This is an area that APD has refused to act in good faith in the past.

4) Will you hold monthly town halls and allow input from constituents before voting on controversial matters that affect our daily lives for years?

Yes I commit to multiple townhalls a quarter with the following goals:

- Discuss legislation and community issues through a data based approach. I will begin with the data. It is astonishing how many decisions are made in city government without proper or complete data analysis. By using data to craft solutions it will lead us to focus on the root cause of issues and not just the symptoms of them that capture media attention. Proactive leadership is not just solving the issue as it exists now, it is creating solutions that solve for future and evolving issues.
- I will also focus on collaboration and communication with subject matter experts. It is important that we lift the voices of those who have expert knowledge around the issues that plague Atlanta. I will walk into office with a vision but I will leverage experts to create policy from that vision that has tangible results.
- Finally I focus on metrics and accountability to track the success of my policies. It is not enough to simply have activity while in office, it is important that we see fruitful results from that activity. I will collaborate with department heads and commissioners to set realistic targets that allow the city to measure success and show taxpayers how policy has benefitted them.

In addition to townhalls I commit to ensuring that my office is represented in community and NPU meetings every month and not just during election years. I will also hold a quarterly meeting with the chairs of NPU-T, NPU-I and NPU-H to craft solutions across neighborhood boundaries.

5) What would you like to see improved regarding pedestrian safety and how would you enact that plan? For example, how would you address the Cascade Corridor? Would you add speed bumps and sidewalks to the budget, or support continuing to use the General Budget funds for those overdue improvements?

I will begin by demanding that ADOT utilize data regarding Atlanta's High Injury Network to prioritize safety improvements. The same data should be used to re-baseline the Renew Atlanta Program. As Councilman I would also push to fully fund Vision Zero. Funding Vision Zero will not be enough, there is a need to reimagine speed and traffic enforcement in Atlanta. As a former Community President I know from my own interaction that APD does not have the bandwidth to enforce our speed limits. I would support creating a separate non police traffic unit that could exclusively focus on enforcement. As stated earlier we should prioritize walkability, especially around our schools and retail centers. Crosswalks, including beacon crosswalks, should be used on major corridors. Speed enforcement must become a greater priority. We must also see walkable streets as a public safety issue. Streets that see higher rates of pedestrian traffic see lower rates of crime.

At current funding levels it would take the City of Atlanta over 20 years to deal with the current backlog. The city should begin by partnering with the State and Federal Governments to procure additional funds focused on sidewalks, rail and safe streets projects. The Biden Administration has shown a willingness to fund these types of initiatives. The city of Atlanta should also re-baseline the Renew Atlanta Program. The re-baselining process should prioritize city data regarding injuries and fatalities on city streets to prioritize projects. It should also reengage original promises to include steps like sidewalk maintenance in all road projects. The steps mentioned above would move the needle on our urgent transportation needs but they will not solve them. Atlanta must make the tough decision to create a new revenue stream dedicated to road and sidewalk projects. This revenue stream must also include a new level of transparency to give the citizens of Atlanta confidence in the process to differentiate it from previous initiatives and proposals. I would be open to issuing additional bonds to close the funding gap. We must also look at taxing options to either renew or reapportion current T-SPLOST money.

6) What steps will you take to decriminalize current city ordinances that disproportionately target black and brown people and poor people?

Using a data based approach as Councilman I would pull statistics around APD arrest records, 311 call records, work with state partners to pull Department of Public Safety and GSP record and pull MARTA and APS records to compile information showing how laws are administered differently in black and brown neighborhoods compared to majority white neighborhoods.

It is important that when the data is in hand that it is presented in an open forum. I would push for the Council President to appoint a special ad hoc committee to hold open meeting to craft decriminalization legislation in conjunction with justice subject matter experts and community leaders.

I would also work with state and federal partners to codify in law at those levels decriminalization efforts that do not allow for law enforcement to work around local efforts.

7) Westview residents love our trees, but they can be prohibitively expensive to maintain, which has created dangerous and even fatal situations for our beloved neighbors. What can be done to not only plant new trees, but maintain existing trees on public and private property?

As WCO President I worked with community partners such as Trees Atlanta to focus on planting new trees, removing vines from mature trees and identifying factors such as flooding and disease that impacts our canopy. The efforts culminated in Westview being named as Community Tree Champion in 2021.

I support establishing a community tree fund to create grant opportunities to allow private homeowners to remove dead or dying trees. We must also limit the ability of commercial builders to opt out of tree protection rules and simply pay penalties without replacing mature trees.

8) The proximity of I-20 creates airborne contaminants, which has been proven to shorten life spans, endanger children in their third trimester, and generally hurt the long-term health of residents. The highway transects our neighborhood in a way that historically was not allowed in more affluent areas of Atlanta. How would you address this inequity, and the effects of similar environmental racism that subtracts 20 years from our collective life expectancy?

A child born in the 10<sup>th</sup> District has a life expectancy 12 years shorter than a child born 12 miles to our north. We see higher rates of chronic illness asthma and cancer that is a direct result of this environmental racism.

In the short term the city should fully fund Vision Zero which has an expressed goal to reduce emission in neighborhoods and dealing with issues in high traffic corridors

One of the ways that we can combat issues related to airborne contaminants is by maintaining the urban tree canopy and expanding green spaces. We also are going to need a better partnership between the city and partners like GDOT and the Federal Government. The city should push for highway barriers to be placed on I-20 and 285 to shield neighborhoods from noise and emissions just as we see in the northern arc communities. We should also tap federal resources to reconnect neighborhoods such as Westview and Ashview Heights that were dissected by I-20

9) Incredibly frequent power outages plague residents, residents working from home, and local businesses alike. They routinely disrupt our economic and physical wellbeing. How do you plan to lessen this burden on us?

NPU Chair I worked with GA Power and community partners to create a better partnership and better reporting on outages and their frequency. This led to a project that made Westview a top priority to system upgrades and improvements.

I would also use my platform as Councilman to help elect a new Public Service Commissioner. It is important that we have leadership that seeks to prioritize the communities impacted by our utilities. Where the city can be a better partner is providing information from 311 and 911 regarding utilities and identifying patterns in outages and identifying the communities most impacted by outages

10) We have had issues for years with excessive street flooding, which damages homes and creates sudden expensive repairs. How do you plan to fix this problem?

I would push to ensure that watershed keeps the current commitment regarding scoping and identifying blockages in the system through the community. This would include work in the community alleys to clear vines and debris and working with community leadership to get the necessary easements granted to reduce roadblocks to the work.

While it is important that react to current deal with current flash flooding event with climate change there is a need that we take a more proactive approach to water retention and flooding in the city. I would push as councilman for reforms to zoning to require more green infrastructure including requiring more impervious building materials and on site water retention.

As a city we must also include this forward focused approach into the planning and development process.

11) The current public transportation options create unfavorably long commutes for residents. Long commutes have been shown to have a heavy burden on quality of life, from healthy family relationships to stable mental and physical health. Atlanta is due to receive sizable federal funds from the CARES Act this year. Specifically, which public transportation projects will you support to relieve these long commutes? How will you also improve MARTA to serve our neighbors with these already approved federal funds?

An integrated transportation system that promotes mobility, safety and equity will be a solid foundation on which the future growth and development of Atlanta is built. In order to build a stronger Atlanta we must fully commit to building diverse transportation options to meet the needs of every citizen and eliminate historic inequities. This begins with ensuring that the city makes a stronger commitment to building a sidewalk and walkable streets network. More walkable designs make our neighborhoods more vibrant and safer. Walkable communities see neighbors who are more connected to each other because of more direct interaction, you are more likely to connect socially by walking your community than by driving through it. Walkable communities are also safer! Walkable streets are active streets and that activity in many cases can drive a reduction of crime. Also by promoting safer and more walkable design we promote equity for our neighbors with disabilities or alternative mobility devices.

As Councilman I would promote policy that included multiple transit options in all future street design in Atlanta. Bike lanes should be as prevalent on Atlanta's West Side as they are in Midtown. Streets must be designed to promote the sense of shared space between cars, bikes, pedestrians, buses and trains. By integrating our transit systems with smart design we will see increased usage as more citizens are exposed to alternative transit options in their daily commutes and movements. As a city we must also

build for future growth and density. It is vital that we commit expanded options such as more heavy rail, beltline rail, BRT and an expanded street car. Failing to do so will not just doom the city to a higher number of traffic tragedies but it will also serve as an economic road block to future growth and development.

The creation of ADOT and streamlining resources has helped to move projects forward. As Councilman I would work support additional auditing of projects to identify additional steps that can be taken to reduce red tape around projects and streamline processes to proactively keep future projects from getting stuck in the mud. The city must increase advocacy and cooperation with GDOT to speed completion of projects along roads like Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. As a community President and NPU Chair I worked with our state representatives to shepherd the RDA Complete Streets Project through Westview from design to an expected ground break in November. This was a five year long process because the community was at the mercy of GDOT with little advocacy from city officials. City Hall must push advocacy around these projects.

12) Studies show that a common denominator of police officers that use excessive violence is a history of domestic violence. Will you support screening for prospective police officers to disqualify them if they have domestic violence priors?

Yes! It is important as a city that we do not ignore the factors that present red flags for a prospective officer. I will support a comprehensive reevaluation of disqualifying factors for all public safety officials. I will also work with our federal partners on including in police reform legislation data sharing across jurisdictions that allow the city to track these types of problems.