

## Questions from the Westview Votes Committee:

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

*Yes. I strongly support public facing online dashboards to track transportation spending.*

*Most of the budget for councilmembers is for personnel costs (salaries and benefits). The remaining amounts are reported on the City's Open Checkbook website. As City Council President, I will support easy to understand and accessible online dashboards to track all my expenditures. I will also work to ensure this information is also available on Channel 26, for residents who do not have access to computers.*

- 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?

I believe that the city should use every available resource to prevent the displacement of legacy and low-income residents. We need to provide more funding for owner occupied rehabilitation programs. Such programs provide funding for critical systems such as plumbing, electrical, HVAC and other health and safety repairs. Additionally, we need to implement policies that require affordable units in every rezoning and in new developments. We should also create a fund for low interest loans for landlords who currently provide housing for low-income residents. We must advocate for State permission to freeze property assessments for senior citizens (65 and older). Also, we must provide more funds for down payments assistance and for the development of workforce housing throughout our city. We must establish a dedicated fund to incentive the development of affordable housing. This fund may come from an additional affordable housing bond, a percentage of the general fund, or from Atlanta's corporate and philanthropic communities. Finally, we must more rapidly and effectively deploy the Cares Act and American Rescue Plan dollars to assist tenants at risk of eviction.

- 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?

*Diversion and policing alternatives should play a larger role in building a safer and more equitable community. The city of Atlanta currently provides 1.5 million dollars annually to fund the Pre-Arrest Diversion Program (PAD). I fully support continued funding of PAD from the City's general fund, and to supporting their efforts to secure supplemental funding from philanthropic and federal agencies. The measure of success of diversion programs should be in terms of the number of people served and the number of former clients who do not recidivate because their underlying challenges have been addressed.*

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

I intend to hold regular public forums both to hear from the public and to provide information to the public. Whenever the council is considering legislation that is controversial or will significantly

- 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?

To increase pedestrian safety, we need to fully implement vision zero – establishing 25mph speed limits throughout our city. We must increase our current funding for sidewalk maintenance and installation. We need to authorize another bond to address our growing infrastructure needs. The Cascade corridor is a major and important corridor. I have received complaints about the road diet installed from the Kroger City Center to Beecher. The primary concern was about the lack of public input on this project. We must make sure residents have meaningful and timely input on projects in their communities.

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

I support having a review panel comprised of our City Solicitor, Public Defender, District Attorney, and community stakeholders to identify when such targeting is suspected. We must use the findings of this commission to swiftly address this situation. Solutions may involve repealing laws that are disproportionately being enforced against people of color and poor people, suspicion of officers involved in such targeting, and to retraining our officers.

- 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?

I support using a portion of the City's Tree Recompense funds for the purpose of assisting the elderly and low income home owners, maintaining the trees on their property.

- 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?

*The underlying causes of environmental racism must be addresses. Ensuring fair lending practices in the housing market, funding affordable housing initiatives in every community, establishing public-private partnerships to encourage home buying, and rent and mortgage assistance are means of addressing dislocation and gentrification. We cannot undue or reroute I-20, but the city must closely consider the effects any sort of infrastructure project has on the surrounding community.*

- 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?

*One of my first actions as Council President will be meeting with Georgia Power alongside independent energy experts and the Office of Sustainability to address to address this issue. Energy outages in certain*

*neighborhoods is a form of environmental racism that must be stopped.* Georgia power is working grid by grid to move their infrastructure underground. I will demand that Georgia power incorporate equity and environmental justice considerations in determining which grids to prioritize.

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 am in favor of the city authorizing a storm water utility dedicated to storm water management. In addition, I support the use of a larger portion of the Municipal Option Sales Tax revenues currently being collected by the city, to address street flooding and stormwater management.

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?

As I understand it, Cares Act and America Rescue Plan dollars will be provided directly to MARTA. I strongly advocate for citizens to regularly attend MARTA board meetings to demand increase in services and to respond to direct community needs. I also support persons nominated to serve on the MARTA board require that these members regularly use MARTA as their means of transportation.

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?

*Absolutely. Police officers with a history of domestic violence have no business policing our community. Black and Brown women are disproportionately victims of violence at home and in the workplace. At the same time, police brutality and systemic racism inherent in the criminal justice system unduly affects communities of color. It's clear: policing in Atlanta – and around the country – must be reimaged. We can ensure our streets are safe and combat violent crime while also being culturally sensitive to the communities police officers are sworn to protect. Continuing education, retraining, enhanced background checks and continuous performance evaluations for police officers must be implemented to weed out poor performing officers.*