

Candidate Pre-Interview Questionnaire

The Committee for a Better Atlanta (CBA) is a coalition of business organizations concerned about Atlanta. In 2009, CBA is interviewing candidates for mayor, City Council president and City Council with the intent of publishing a voter's guide of candidate evaluations. The evaluations will be based on the answers to the questions in this document, plus in-person interviews to be held this summer.

Your answers to these questions are very important to the CBA interview and evaluation process. *Candidates who do not complete this questionnaire will not be scheduled for an interview with CBA.*

Please complete this questionnaire and deliver it to the Committee for a Better Atlanta so it arrives **no later than 5 p.m., July 31, 2009**. Questionnaires can be filled out electronically and emailed to cwatkins@macoc.com or mailed to:

**Committee for a Better Atlanta
235 International Blvd., NW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Attn: Che Watkins**

If you have any questions about completing the questionnaire – or about the CBA process – please contact Che Watkins at (404) 586-8468.

Candidate information:

Name: Councilmember Clela Winslow

Position Sought: Atlanta City Councilmember, District 4

Address: 55 Trinity Avenue, Suite 2900

City, State, ZIP: Atlanta, GA 30303

Telephone: 404-330-6047 Cell phone: 404-216-1701

E-mail address: cwinslow@atlantaga.gov

Campaign Web site address: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Secondary contact information: (If you prefer that CBA direct scheduling inquiries to someone other than the candidate, check here. PLEASE SELECT)

Name: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Relationship to candidate: [Click here to enter text.](#)

(e.g. Administrative assistant, campaign manager, etc.)

Address: [Click here to enter text.](#)

City, State, ZIP: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Telephone: [Click here to enter text.](#) Cell phone:

E-mail address: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Please answer the questions in the space provided on this questionnaire.

1. In your opinion, what are the three greatest issues (problems or opportunities) facing Atlanta?
 - A. Mortgage Fraud-even though there has been a lot of mortgage fraud in zipcode 30310/District 4, it has created an opportunity for young families to move into District 4 and into other parts of the City of Atlanta. Due to the reduced house sales, many persons who were previously unable to afford a home now have moved/ or can move into the City of Atlanta through affordable home ownership. I believe that the City of Atlanta should conduct neighborhood tours for persons who are interested in moving to the City of Atlanta; and, should include the neighborhood leaders who can talk about the strengths of living in their neighborhood.
 - B. In regard to crime, I believe there is an opportunity for City of Atlanta residents to become more involved as stakeholders in their neighborhoods. In April of 2009, I sponsored a grant writing workshop for churches, neighborhood leaders, PTA leaders and NPU leaders to encourage them to collaborate on writing grants that would enhance their quality of life their communities. We had corporate sponsors, including Home Depot and over 300 people attended.
 - C. Public Safety

2. Describe briefly your qualifications for holding this office. *(Please answer in the space below, but you may also attach a resume or other description to provide us with additional detail.)*

- I have 16 years experience as an elected official, and have been Chair of the Public Safety Committee for the last three years, and have chaired the Community Development Committee

-I have real estate/ development background and over the years have been able to attract major developers into District 4 in the areas of retail, single-family and condo housing development

- From 1990-1993, I worked as the City of Atlanta's Neighborhood Planning Unit Coordinator

-Since 1992, I have served as the President of the National Association of Neighborhoods

-From 1979-1988, I worked for the Fulton County Board of Commissioners and before that, I was an intern for the Georgia General Assembly

3. What events or experiences caused you to decide to run for this office?
- having been a victim of crime (burgularies)
 - realizing that quality development needed to be addressed in Southwest Atlanta
4. Please identify up to five organizations or individuals who are actively supporting your candidacy.
- 1) West End Merchants Association
 - 2) Steve LaBovitz
 - 3) Castleberry Hill
 - 4) Lottie Watkins of Lottie Watkins Enterprises
 - 5) George Andrews, President& CEO, Capitol City Bank and Trust Company
5. The city government faces a \$50 million budget shortfall this fiscal year. How would you close the budget gap?
- keeping City employees on furloughed until January 2010 saves \$20 million dollars
 - selling the City's Jail to Fulton County Government for the remaining bond indebtness would save \$34 million
 - lower the City's contribution for healthcare from 75% to 70%

6. Since 2004, the city's official goal has been to have 2,000 police officers. The Police Department is now at 1,615 officers. Do you support the goal? If so, how would you pay for the additional officers given the city's budget problems?

Yes. I believe the City of Atlanta needs to have a dedicated tax for public safety, because 75% of our budget goes to public safety

7. Mayor Franklin has used tax-allocation districts and tax abatements to support redevelopment projects. What would you have the city government do to support desirable redevelopment projects in the years ahead?
- A. One of the things that the City could look at is a partial or full waiver of permit fees/zoning fees and impact fees on large developments to help encourage development in the City of Atlanta, and especially in areas that are underdeveloped.
 - B. Expedite the permit
 - C. For land that the city owns waive or reduce the lease of the property to the developer

8. Traffic congestion is a major problem in Atlanta. If you could implement only one initiative, enhancement or management change to reduce congestion in Atlanta in the next four years, what would it be? Note: This should be something within the city government's ability to implement.

MARTA and /or other transit systems need (example:“ The Atlanta-Macon Express Lines”-like they have in New York City that goes from NYC to the northern part of the state) to be more universal among the 15-25 county area around the City of Atlanta with a one-cent sales tax. If we don't continue to address developing mass transit with other surrounding counties, we are going to choke-off future development due to congestion.

9. In your opinion, what are the three greatest infrastructure problems facing Atlanta over the next four years? Please rank them in terms of importance and urgency.

- 1) Replacement of old water lines
- 2) Brownfield Remediation Grants/Loans from the Federal Government can offset cost of developers putting in new infrastructure
- 3)The need to repair our bridges in the Downtown District