

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: Edith Ladipo

Position Sought: Atlanta City Council District 11

Address: 2232 Belvedere Ave

City, State, ZIP: Atlanta, Georgia 30311

Telephone: 404-755-2481 Cell phone: [Click here to enter text.](#)

E-mail address: edithm2004@yahoo.com

Campaign Web site address: www.electedithladipotocouncil.webs.com

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

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?
Crime, the Budget, and poor delivery of City services.

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 am a 35 year resident of the City of Atlanta and have been active in community and the City of Atlanta for almost 30 years. I have been a member of numerous community organizations, and served on the board and in leadership positions of many of those organizations. I believe that my years of experience as a community activist and my ability to build consensus between my community and policy/decision makers at the local, State and Federal level will make me a sensitive but conscientious and compassionate council person.

3. What events or experiences caused you to decide to run for this office?

I decided to run for the Atlanta City Council because I am tired of seeing my neighborhood rapidly deteriorate due to an increase in crime and the slow and continuous exodus of businesses.

4. Please identify up to five organizations or individuals who are actively supporting your candidacy.

- 1) Neither the organizations nor the individuals supporting my candidacy have given me permission to use their names.
- 2) Click here to enter text.
- 3) Click here to enter text.
- 4) Click here to enter text.
- 5) Click here to enter text.

5. The city government faces a \$50 million budget shortfall this fiscal year. How would you close the budget gap?

It would be my duty to closely review, question and monitor the budget as presented by the Mayor. In order to reduce spending and balance the budget the Mayor and Council need to re-new priorities...to get back to the basics. Getting back to basics means that only those initiatives that meet the basic needs of it's citizens;(providing for a safe, clean and green city) should be funded. If we don't keep our citizens safe by providing adequate police protection,or maintain our communities by providing clean, and sanitary environment, and on-going delivery of public services, that make every community a pleasant place to to live, work and play, residents will move to other locales where they can receive those services and benefits.

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?

I do support the goal to have 2,000 police officers. According to the Atlanta City Charter, the City is required to provide basic services and public safety is one of those services. It is time to get back to the basics- by considering neighborhood policing and foot patrol programs. Additional police officers

can be funded by eliminating wasteful spending, collecting unpaid debt and and by expanding thje City's grants seeking operations.

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?

Before the City can attract more desirable development it must create more desirable communities that can attract desirable development. In order to make our communities more desirable we must first create safer, cleaner, greener environments for our citizens to live, work and play. Once we create livable safe, clean, green communities then we can redevelopment plans to developers and provide incentives for redevelopment to those individuals who are committed to providing employment, training and other benefits to the residents, the community and to the City of Atlanta..

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. Promote alternative forms of transportation and provide the necessary infrastructure and public policies to allow for the accessibility of those forms of transportation (ex. Trolleys, cycling, scooters roller blading, golf carts, etc.) I would work to incorporate this plan into the framework of the Georgia Regional Transportation Plan.

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) Sewers
- 2) Reservoirs (Alternative sources for drinking water)
- 3) Repair bridges, streets, and sidewalks.