



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: Kwanza Hall

Position Sought: Atlanta City Council District 2

Address: 595 Piedmont Ave. #320-222

City, State, ZIP: Atlanta, GA 30308

Telephone: 404-523-1066 Cell phone: 404-454-1116

E-mail address: kwanzahall@gmail.com

Campaign Web site address: www.hallforcouncil.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
- Fiscal Fitness
- Education

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.)

Atlanta City Council District 2 is the most culturally and socio-economically diverse district in the City of Atlanta. Its neighborhoods are the heart of the City. Its elected representative must be capable of representing a broad range of interests and making decisions capable of maximizing benefits to all.

I have demonstrated these skills as a Benjamin Mays High School student government president; as a member of the Atlanta Board of Education; and during my first term as the elected representative for Atlanta City Council District 2.

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

Much of my work during my first term has focused on laying the foundation for the District 2 of the future.

I have led master planning processes involving hundreds of residents and business owners in the Old Fourth Ward, Poncey-Highland, and Downtown; and along the northeast corridor of the Beltline. I have sponsored legislation creating the Castleberry Hill Historic District, expanding the South Central Business District, and updating rules for development in the Martin Luther King Historic District. I enjoy helping others create a clear vision of their collective future. I have fought hard for City policies that will Fast Forward our quality of life. For example, this spring I was instrumental in getting the stalled specialty food legislation out of committee and approved by full council. I have organized the District 2 office to be visible, available, responsive, and solution-driven. I see District 2 as the incubator for pilot projects that will one day improve the City as a whole. The valet parking ordinance is a good example of that.

But we have more to do in District 2. That is why I am running for re-election.

During my second term, I want to integrate the Old Fourth Ward into the fabric of District 2 and the City as a whole. Preparing the Auburn-Edgewood Rights Heritage Corridor for the opening of the Center for Civil and Human Rights is my highest priority. Our intown neighborhoods cannot seize the opportunities of the 21st century if Auburn-Edgewood continues as a living museum for the failures of 20th century social policies.

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

- 1) Hal Barry
- 2) Mtamanika Youngblood
- 3) Georgia Slate
- 4) Kermit Thomas
- 5) Sharon Gay

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

The City of Atlanta relies almost exclusively on property taxes and sales taxes to fund City services. We must diversify our revenue streams while we continue to reduce our expenses. We need a dramatic increase in the federal dollars we receive. In the first budget of the next administration, I want to see bold thinking about our options for eliminating or outsourcing those City functions that can be better delivered by the nonprofit and private sectors.

At the department level, we can be leaner where APD clerical and middle management positions are concerned. We must scrutinize our pension commitments and employee benefits plans, to ensure that they are in line with our peers.

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?

We need to add 1,000 officers over the next four years—as long as they are beat officers and not clerical, office-based positions. I support dedicating unspent Renewal Community/Empowerment Zone funds to this effort.

Over 70% of the City's General Fund employees are public safety officers (police, fire and corrections). The City must become more aggressive in lobbying for and identifying new sources to fund public safety initiatives. This will require a bigger and more sophisticated Grants Management Office in the Department of Finance.

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?

There are four Tax Allocation Districts in Atlanta City Council District 2. As a former ADA board member, I was and remain one of the biggest proponents of TADs. Moving forward, we need to ensure that TAD projects bring a full range of basic services to the communities that were meant to benefit most from our tax abatement policies. My first question for future TAD projects will be clear and simple: "Where's the grocery store?"

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.

Many of the City's solutions to traffic congestion require administrative and funding partnerships with regional, state, and federal entities. I would like to see the City expand its congestion prediction and notification capacity, so that we better inform residents, business owners, and visitors of alternatives. Pre-emptive e-blasts and real-time messaging via Facebook, Twitter and

other social media would be smart first steps in this direction. This is an innovation the City can implement on its own.

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) Constituent service and code enforcement.
- 2) Human capital. Too many of the City's young people are dropping out of school. Too many of our poorest citizens have no gainful employment.
- 3) Water/sewer.