



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](mailto: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 MORRIS FINLEY

Position Sought COUNCIL MEMBER DISTRICT 11

Address 2080 HONEYSUCKLE LANE, S.W.

City, State, ZIP ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30311

Telephone 770-728-2854 Cell phone 404-438-4088

E-mail address VOTEMO_09@ATT.NET

Campaign Web site address TBA

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

Name EDNA LYONS

Relationship to candidate ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
(e.g. Administrative assistant, campaign manager, etc.)

Address 370 AUBURN AVENUE, N.E., SUITE "A"

City, State, ZIP ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30312

Telephone 404-523-1100 Cell phone 404-287-3487

E-mail address EELYONS@ATT.NET

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?
 - 1) **The city's inability to reach it's full Growth and Developmental potential.**
 - 2) **The current financial climate and the assumption that the only way out is an increase in property taxes.**
 - 3) **Our inability as a community to put forth viable solutions to our current problems with crime – including drugs and gang activity.**

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.)*

Having previously served (two (2) decades on the Council, being instrumental in the implementation of legislation that proved to have positive effects on the citizenry and the city overall. In addition, Atlanta is home to me, my immediate and extended family, I am and have always been a concerned and loyal member of my community, a good neighbor. I've been an active participant in cultural and educational affairs, having a son who's a Junior in high school and lastly and most importantly I am willing to serve.

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

As previously noted, I have a son in the public school system and that means that I have on several different occasions attended sports events and other functions where I witness the rampant presence of gang activity and petty criminality, additionally, I've kept a close watch on the climate of the current Mayoral race and saw some things that weren't in keeping with the direction that I'd like to see the City go and I for one feel as if we're on the verge of losing our identity as the "City too busy to Hate". Ultimately I was approached by a small contingency of friends and neighbors who thought that I'd be a good fit for the position. In summation, the only constant in our City is the rising crime rate, the ever-ready threat of potential tax increases and loss of our business base.

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

- 1) **William "Bill" Fuller, Sr., Architect**
- 2) **Mr. Norman Urquhart, Retired YMCA Executive**
- 3) **Audry Arrington, Educator**
- 4) **Turner Sibley, II, Retired Educator**
- 5) **James "Jim" Garcia, Builder/Developer**

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

Through interaction with the business community - which by the way has an equal stake in the economic success of the City. We must implement new and innovative measures to generate revenues. – Some suggestions are the implementation of surcharges for services used more by visitors to the City than by locals, i.e., public parking facilities and sports and entertainment ticket sales. Services provided by the City of Atlanta are enjoyed by a great many residents of the surrounding communities and as such those individuals should be required to share in some of the resulting costs.

NO PROPERTY TAX INCREASE!

6) 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?

Once again, my strategy would be incumbent on input and cooperation from the business community. In addition, I would be supportive of the implementation of a one percent (1%) special options sales tax of which all funds generated would be earmarked specifically for the Fire and Police “General Fund”, a number of incentives for our officers that could include but not be limited to; pay increases and tax breaks based on their willingness to reside within the city limits.

NO PROPERTY TAX INCREASE!

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?

Presently, I am not privy to valuable information regarding current studies relating to the present budget crunch, however, given the present climate, I would have to say that being in need of a stronger tax base, it may be deemed necessary to offer meager tax abatements – providing we can come up with alternative sources of revenue. This would of course be decided on a case by case basis. This is an issue that calls for detailed research and discussion.

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.

PARK & RIDE LOTS - again, in conjunction with the business community. Since for the most part, business is what causes the influx into the City, a solution of any magnitude would only be possible with the economic assistance of BIG BUSINESS.

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) **TRANSPORTATION - AS IT RELATES TO THE BELTLINE PROJECT**
- 2) **WATERHED MANAGEMENT ISSUES**
- 3) **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**