

Aldermanic races

Return responses by fax (-173-871-7609). regular mail (Windy City Times, c/o Andrew Davis. 5315 N. Clark. #192. Chicago. Ill., 60640) or e-mail (Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com). Call 773-871-7610. ext. 201, if questions arise.

DEADLINE: Friday, Jan. 9, 2015, by 5 p.m. LATE RESPONSES WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Please feel free to use additional paper as needed.

YOUR NAME: **Jocelyn Hare**

INCUMBENT? **No**

OFFICE SOUGHT: **5th Ward Alderman of Chicago**

1) Do you have or would you install a written policy in your office regarding sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination?

Yes, I would.

2) Have you started or would you start sensitivity training for your staff members regarding LGBT related issues?

Yes, I would. Through my work with the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, I've both been through and given many sensitivity trainings regarding LGBT related issues.

3) Have you taken or would you take any steps to further HIV/AIDS treatment and education programs? If so, what are those measures?

Yes, I would.

4) What is your position on abortion as it pertains to the law?

I support a woman's right to choose and oppose efforts to restrict those rights.

5) What is your position regarding funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and education?

I believe we must invest heavily in funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and education-- particularly on the South Side of Chicago where we are relatively resource-poor compared to the North Side. I am committed to bringing programs to the 5th Ward that will educate folks down here on healthy sexual practices and advocating for increased funding for HIV/AIDS treatment in the Chicago region.

6) Do you favor marriage equality (marriage between two people of the same gender)?

Yes. I made phone calls to legislators and marched on Springfield and Chicago for marriage equality in Illinois.

7) Do you favor hate-crimes legislation that increases penalties for crimes committed based on the sexual orientation or gender identity of the person attacked?

Yes.

8) Do you believe LGBTs should become foster parents if they are qualified?

Yes.

9) Do you believe LGBTs have the right to adopt children if they are qualified?

Yes. There are plenty of children that need qualified adoptive parents and would benefit immensely from being raised in a supportive and loving home.

10) Would you keep committees such as the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations'

Advisory Council on LGBT Issues?

Yes.

l1) What are your thoughts on a school that would be designed specifically for LGBT students, much like the Harvey Milk School in New York City?

I think it would be very much worthwhile to investigate the level of need for a school like the Harvey Milk School in Chicago. I firmly believe that every school must be a safe space for our LGBT students. However--if there are circumstances in which creating a school like this would fill a need and we could reasonably figure out how to fund it, I would fully support its creation.

l2) Would you advocate for mandatory anti-bullying policies/training in Chicago public schools?

Yes.

l3) Would you advocate for mandatory LGBT inclusive history education in Chicago public schools starting in middle school?

Yes.

l4) Would you advocate for mandatory comprehensive, LGBT-inclusive and age-appropriate sex education in Chicago public schools starting in middle school?

Yes.

l5) What would you recommend to have a better relationship between police and the citizens they serve, including people of color and the transgender community?

Relationships with residents and police are strained across the nation. It's time we build a new model of policing--one where residents and police work together collaboratively for the better of the city. I think implementing police trainings and professional development to better work with youth, women, rape victims, LGBTQ and homeless folks would go a long way to changing the current climate.

To improve public safety, we must have more opportunities for youth--whether it's sports, jobs or job trainings, connections to resources. Schools should be looking at models of restorative justice for discipline, rather than punitive measures. We MUST STOP LOCKING UP OUR YOUTH OF COLOR and treating them like criminals. To build trust between police and POC and trans folk, I would personally introduce stakeholders from these communities to come together and work out a plan for community policing together.

A big concern in the 5th Ward is lack of transparency with the UChicago Police. While Chicago PD must report and publish its data, UCPD are exempt--meaning residents do not know who is being stopped, arrested, and targeted. This lack of transparency is creating major distrust between residents and police. I'm hopeful the University decides to release its data on policing.

l6) If you are an incumbent, did you vote for the recent increase in the city's minimum wage and, if a challenger, would you have? Also, what do you think is the ideal minimum wage for the city of Chicago?

I supported the recent increase in the minimum wage. Further, I believe we should research how to raise it to at least \$15 by 2019. Our economy has grown considerably since the recent financial crisis, but wages have not yet recovered. If we don't guarantee a livable wage for residents, they will eventually be at risk of requiring government support. Taxpayers should not be on the hook for companies that aren't willing to pay a fair wage to employees. Cities like Seattle were able to strike a deal for \$15 because the

Mayor made formed a committee made up of many employer and labor factions - small companies get 7 years, large companies get 3 years to transition. There is common ground that can be achieved between employers, workers and the public good but it's of utmost importance that this be an organized movement combined with strong political leadership.

l7) How do you propose to handle the crime rate in Chicago, especially in minority neighborhoods?

We need to do more in the community to support the Chicago Police Department. Residents should be encouraged to use technology such as social media to document and report suspected criminal activity in their neighborhoods. As alderman, I would also host community meet and greets in each precinct of my ward so neighbors can get together and establish a network for sharing information and getting to know their beat patrol officers. I believe offering more opportunities to the youth in my ward is one of the best ways to combat crime and gun violence in the 5th Ward.

To improve public safety, we must have more opportunities for youth. Schools should be looking at models of restorative justice for discipline, rather than punitive measures. The best way to reduce crime is to increase resources and opportunities in impoverished communities. In Gary, we target abandoned buildings as they are magnets for crime. By working to eliminate blight in concert with increasing opportunities for residents, and improving relations with police and first responder trainings, I believe we can lower crime rates in the 5th Ward.

l8) What do you feel is the biggest problem facing your ward? How do you propose to tackle that problem?

The 5th Ward is quite uneven, resource-wise. In speaking with thousands of residents, I've learned that Hyde Parkers care very much about overdevelopment of the neighborhood and ensuring we keep high standards of safety and security. In the South Shore, Woodlawn and Grand Crossing neighborhoods, concerns are dramatically different: gun crime; job training; access to healthy foods; blighted vacant buildings and access to quality public schools are what my constituents care about.

My first task in office would be to complete a Community Asset Mapping project to identify all of the resources in the community - health services, pharmacies, shops, schools, etc. After mapping that data, we'll be able to see exactly how far residents have to travel to reach certain types of businesses (groceries, for example, in South Shore). This type of analysis will show us where our "holes" are - in terms of what's needed in the community. Working with residents, I'd come up with a plan to target specific businesses to fill those holes.

My priority is to support local businesses and also bring in new ones. There is a desperate need for a grocery store in South Shore. For new developments, I'd like to look at enacting local hiring ordinances to ensure local residents are getting the jobs in their neighborhoods. In Gary, we're working on several jobs initiatives involving business incubators, workforce development training in the steel and trucking industries, and working with ex-offenders to deconstruct the many abandoned homes.

My experiences working with Gary, Indiana, combined with my background in public education, training in urban policy and my ability work with diverse groups of people have given me extraordinary preparation to serve as Alderman of the 5th Ward. I believe Chicago is ready for new leadership that's committed to better government, data-driven

solutions, transparency, green policy, and--perhaps most importantly--working with the people to come up with new and innovative solutions to old problems.

19) Some studies show that 40 percent of homeless youth are LGBTQ. What would you do to provide more resources for prevention, education and services for the entire homeless youth population?

I am particularly concerned with the issue of homeless youth in Chicago. I pledge to work to find resources of housing and social services for homeless youth in the 5th ward. I am also interested in creating safe space housing for LGBT youth on the south side. There is a huge disparity in resources for LGBT Chicagoans depending on where one lives and if they have access to transportation. I will ensure resources are increased for LGBT youth on the south side.

20) New York City eliminated barriers to transgender people changing their birth certificates. They just need a letter from a doctor to do so. Would you support this for Chicago?
Yes, absolutely.

21) Are any members of your current staff-either campaign or general office personnel-openly LGBT?

I am an out queer, cis, woman of color and identify as part of the LGBT community.

22) Please list any and all experience you have on LGBT-related issues.

While attending college at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, I ran a Coming Out Support Group assisting LGBT persons who were unable to express their genders and/or sexualities publicly. I then became president of the campus Pride organization and, as a result, was asked to serve as student representative on two campus-wide committees to provide insight on issues of Diversity and LGBT inclusion. In these roles, I was able to effect change in a way that was more intentional and systematic than I did in high school. Our group, comprised not just of students, but also administrators and professors, issued position papers to the UIUC Chancellor on how to make the campus a more inclusive place.

As a board member of the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance for six years, I worked with policymakers at the local, state and national level to design/organize for/pass Safe Schools legislation. I believe great schools are the anchors of our communities and also a primary mechanism for improving neighborhoods. At the Harris School for Public Policy, I was president of Out In Public Policy--a student organization devoted to raising awareness of LGBT policy issues and how to strategize around them. I have been and will continue to be a loud, out, and vocal advocate for LGBT rights.

As an active Chicago citizen, I've spent time over the past year:

- Calling elected officials surrounding votes on Marriage Equality;**
- Marching for Marriage Equality in Chicago and Springfield;**
- Volunteering time during NorthHalsted's Market Days;**
- Keeping a vocal social media profile highlighting issues related to LGBT social justice**
- Supporting friends and activists in Chicago's growing Trans scene (Anjelica Ross of TransTech; Jen Richards; Precious Davis)**

23) What do you feel is the biggest problem facing the LGBT community today?

I feel the biggest problem facing the LGBT community today remains institutional barriers to full equality. In 2014, we can still be: fired from our jobs; kept from marrying; kept

from adopting children; prosecuted for sodomy crimes; from donating blood; kept from our loved ones in the hospital; be beaten or killed for our gender or sexual identity without it being considered a hate crime. There is much work to do legislatively to ensure our full and equal civil rights.

My experiences as a queer woman of color growing up in the Midwest have shaped my opinions, politics and beliefs. My sensitivity to issues of race, gender, sexuality and class ensure that my professional work always takes into account perspectives of the “Other,” helping me work effectively and comfortably with people whose beliefs and values are clearly different from my own. My lifetime of activism has connected me to a variety of colleagues working for social justice together with youth, people of color, women, the LGBTQ community, workers and other underrepresented groups. By connecting these people and resources, I believe Chicago can make great strides towards becoming a fully safe and inclusive city for LGBT folks.