

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: **Natashia Holmes**

INCUMBENT? **Yes**

OFFICE SOUGHT: **Ward 7**

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

My public service office policies and procedures for 2015 include a non-discrimination clause.

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

I have not started such training, but would not be opposed to such a training if the need arose.

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

I host a health and wellness fair annually and make sure to invite organizations that can provide education/information on HIV/AIDS programs.

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

I support a woman's right to choose and believe it should remain legal.

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

I support proper funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and education.

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

Yes.

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.

10) Would you keep committees such as the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Council on LGBT Issues?

Yes.

11) 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 am open to studies and evidence from LGBT experts on the issue.

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?

I would support training or community programs to better educate and unite the police and people of color and the transgender community.

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?

Yes. Ideally the minimum wage would guarantee enough money for full-time employees to feed and shelter themselves and their families without having to turn to the taxpayers for support.

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

Improvement in public safety is on the shoulders of all Chicagoans. The police have the responsibility to enforce the law, fight crime, and get perpetrators off our streets; however residents also have a responsibility too - neighbors must be willing to stand-up collectively and not allow activities to take place on their block or in their community, which prevents our ability to attract the type of development and re-investment that we sorely need and want.

I have been pleased with the creation of impact zones and special tact teams to address those districts that have high incidents of crime. It behooves us all to report crimes and disorderly behavior that is taking place in the public way. At every meeting or community gathering, I reiterate the TSA motto - "if you see something, say something." I also have placards that can be seen throughout the ward that remind criminals and potential criminals that in the 7th Ward, we call police.

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

Highest priority is to make sure that my residents get the highest quality in city services and that the citizenry of the 7th Ward remain active and engaged in what is happening in their community. Following that, I am fighting to bring much needed investment to the ward. This comes in the form of economic development (in the sense of jobs, job training, and retail options that the community wants to support), safety (more police patrol on the streets and more community engagement in reporting disorderly conduct and criminal activity), and quality education options, that exist in the neighborhood.

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 open to ideas from the LGBT community and mental health professionals on the best way to approach and solve this problem.

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.

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

Not that I am aware of.

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

I work closely with friends, family, and constituents who identify themselves as LGBT.

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

Full acceptance by society, and discrimination.