



Below is the unedited questionnaire response of:

Kenny Hill
Atlanta City Council
District 10

2017 Candidate Pre-Interview Questionnaire

1. Describe briefly your qualifications for this office. In addition, please identify up to 5 organizations or individuals who are actively supporting your candidacy and why you believe their support is important.

Active supporters of my campaign include a combination of business leaders that I worked with during my 30-year career at The Home Depot Inc. and community and non-profit leaders that I have collaborated with as the founder of The Launch Pad Foundation. The Launch Pad Foundation is a 501-C non-profit that focuses on transitional housing, education, and life skills for homeless individuals. Supporters of my campaign include:

Mr. Frank Blake- retired CEO of The Home Depot Inc. and current Board Chairman of the Board of Delta Airlines and Grady Memorial Health Corp.

Mrs. Liz Blake- retired Senior Vice President of Habitat for Humanity and current Chair of the Carter Center Board of Councilors.

Mrs. Teresa Wynn Roseborough- Executive vice president and general counsel of The Home Depot Inc.

The International Brotherhood of Police Officers-IBOP Local 623 has endorsed my candidacy for my leadership and support of police officers in the community. I have supported building positive communication forums with officers and the Southwest Atlanta community and sponsor a quarterly First Responders Appreciation event to honor those who work to keep residents' safe in our community.

I am also receiving support from a host of Atlanta Public School teachers and staff members. This support is due to partnerships and support of the schools in my community, including mentoring and a family literacy support program that I founded. My support base comes from a wide range of people who have firsthand knowledge of my commitment to serving others and my ability to get results. I believe these are leadership qualities that Atlanta needs to face the challenges ahead and continue to thrive.

2. What is your vision for the City of Atlanta and how would you implement it? Please be specific.

My vision is for the City of Atlanta to become a city where a culture of partnership and collaboration produces cooperation between city departments, the School Board and City Government and the public and private sector. This requires a new level of transparency and accountability from City leadership that builds trust with the citizens.

This environment brings everyone to the table for idea sharing and best practice utilization. We currently have individual projects underway that embody some of these principles such as the Westside Future Fund. For this vision to become a reality on a citywide basis we must transition from career politicians who are committed to the status quo to public servants who are willing to eliminate wasteful practices and deliver results that the business sector can embrace and invest in.

3. Please identify the three greatest issues or problems facing the City of Atlanta and specifically how you would work to solve them.

The three greatest issues facing the City of Atlanta include Affordable Housing, Transportation and Public Safety. These issues are not new to the City and are becoming increasingly interrelated. As the affordable housing stock decreases many people are having to move further from the center of the city and are faced with long commute times and many become completely dependent on public transportation. The commute time from the edges of the City to its core exceed an hour and a half each way when a bus and train are required. This adds 3 hours to the workday. I would work to build consensus with the Mayor, developers, AHA and nonprofit agencies that address affordable housing. The affordable housing requirements attached to the Beltline would be my area of focus. There are also hundreds of vacant and blighted houses in my district. Legislation has been brought forward to allow these properties to be handed over to developers. There should be a requirement that affordable housing be mandatory for a high percentage of these properties.

Transportation must be addressed at the community level. I would encourage the meetings on transportation be held at every NPU location and at every neighborhood association that requests one. Many citizens are not able to schedule themselves to attend the pop up meetings that have been held. When the pop up meetings are held they should be at a location convenient for citizens who ride MARTA to attend. This is not currently the practice in my community. When we have inclusive meetings that truly listen to the concerns of the citizens, we are develop solutions that are equitable. Transportation is a huge part of our future progress and I will work to ensure it is effective and equitable for all concerned.

Improving public safety is vital and requires the partnership of the Mayor, the Council, and the communities. There is a request for more Community Policing from the citizens of this city. The local police leadership want to provide community policing, it's good for everyone involved. I have completed citizen Ride- A- Longs' with officers in my community to see things from their perspective. The police force is under manned by several hundred officers. This makes it very difficult to respond to all of the 911 calls in a

timely manner and get out of the car and walk the beat. There is also the issue of the retention of officers, as mature officers qualify for retirement and newly recruited officers are lured away to work for other jurisdictions, our city struggles to provide the level of public safety that they are trained to give. Leadership must empower the police force to provide a higher level of public safety

4. As a City Council member, how would you manage collaborating with your colleagues on difficult citywide issues versus representing your own constituents?

Collaborating with others on tough issues and leading without authority have been requirements in my role as a business leader. Developing the level of trust between myself and my peers on the council would be one of my first priorities. I have already started to establish good relationships across the field of candidates. When elected I will focus on listening and understanding the needs of my peers and their constituents just as intently as I focus on my own district. By understanding the priorities across the city, I will be able to candidly discuss the viability of the needs of my district with my constituents. Being transparent with must haves and nice to have projects will help set proper priority level across the board.

5. How do you view the City of Atlanta's financial position? Should the City of Atlanta have additional tools in place to ensure financial management going forward?

My view of the City of Atlanta's financial position is favorable. The recommendation that I have going forward is for the City to provide greater transparency for citizens to see how and where money is being spent. I support this information being made available in an easy to access format and to include councilmembers expenditures. Citizens don't have the time to sit through the budget process at City Hall. Leadership should make the process simple.

6. Please describe your philosophy regarding property tax assessments and municipal taxation.

As the owner of a small real estate development company, I understand both sides of the current property tax assessment problem. I support fair assessment practices, but also think that some consideration should be given for seniors aging in place. This consideration could potentially be given as a reduction on the school tax for seniors above a certain age threshold.

7. What is your opinion of Atlanta's MOST, and what approach do you support to fund long-term water and sewer operations?

Citizens have voted to continue the municipal option sales tax to improve the sewer infrastructure since 2004. There is still an obvious need for these improvements, however, the lack of transparency and accountability in the watershed department is concerning. The City owes fiscal responsibility to the tax payers for their support of the tax increase. I will work with the new mayor and councilmembers to restore the credibility of City utilities.

8. Would you change the current procurement process to protect against "pay to play"? If so, what changes would you support?

During my 30-year career with The Home Depot Inc. and as an entrepreneur running a small business, I've had extensive contact with vendors and potential vendors. My experience has shown that the culture that an organization sets around these relationships is critical. It's not enough to have a list of rules or a class that everyone is required to attend to avoid pay to play. Leadership must have the will to eradicate the negative culture around the procurement process. Some suggestions would be to: Rotate the procurement department leadership roles annually, utilize undisclosed independent third-party agencies to review the recommendations that the procurement department makes, assign a grade for the companies that have been vetted and post the names of all companies responding to the RFP and their grade on the City's web site. This would only help if the leadership focus and culture is addressed. The fact that legislation that prohibits family members of elected officials from securing contracts with the city has only been instituted during the current administration, speaks to the cultural transparency gap.

9. If elected, describe your role in ensuring ethical and transparent management of City resources by City employees?

This question is similar to the pay to play issue in the procurement department. The solutions begin with the leadership team which begins with the Mayor and his/her appointees, the Council President and the Councilmembers. This group must be aligned around ethical use of tax payer funds. I welcome the opportunity to help lead this in this area.

10. What economic development strategies would you prioritize to ensure the City of Atlanta captures its fair share of future job growth?

The City has done a good job of attracting companies of all sizes to locate in the City. Business attraction, expansion and retention are each vital to sustained economic development. Key drivers of this development include but are not limited to; available land(space), workforce(labor) and incentives/taxes. The City has the ability to impact these areas to various degrees. Here are a few thoughts:

Available land- There is not enough to go around so the plan is to build upward. We should also continue to preserve industrial and commercially zoned areas and aggressively address blighted industrial and commercial plots the same way that residential properties will be addressed.

Workforce- The City is blessed with a robust university system that produces top talent across most major industries. Our opportunity is to bring the trade school system (which has improved) and the vocational training platform up to the same level. Several key industries of the future i.e. Supply Chain/logistics and the Film Industry rely on talent from these institutions.

11. What strategies would you implement to ensure an adequate supply of affordable housing?

Affordable housing is an issue that must be addressed as a priority and not an afterthought. The recent exposure of the Beltline's affordable housing short comings is a classic example of what happens when development moves forward with affordable housing on the back burner. As the founder of a non-profit focused on transitional housing for homeless single mothers, I experienced the struggle to place graduates of our program, into independent housing. Sustainable solutions will require public-private partnerships between Developers, AHA, the City Planning Dept., Non-Profit Organizations, and the School Board.

12. What workforce development strategies should the next administration prioritize? How will these strategies address and improve economic mobility among low-to-mid skill workers?

Workforce development strategies that improve economic mobility need to begin in secondary education in the form of vocational curriculum. This is where partnership with the School Board is paramount. Engaging high school students who are not interested in pursuing college with vocational training is a big step towards reducing the drop-out rate and property crimes. Expanding the vocational training platform at the post-secondary level can direct low to mid skill level workers into fields that provide respectable and in many cases gainful employment opportunities. Citizens who are reentering the workforce or are on Return to Work programs can benefit from vocational training in the fields of Supply Chain/Warehousing, Medical coding, and the Film industry.

13. What are the three most important transportation/infrastructure projects that should occur in the City of Atlanta? Please rank them by importance and urgency and explain your reasoning.

The most important transportation/infrastructure projects are Sewer system updates Storm Water runoff and the Widening and Resurfacing of paved roads. The sewer system repairs are critical in many areas of the city. Years of patching sewer problems instead of addressing the root cause has persisted for too long. One of my properties has a sewer issue on the City side that has caused waste to back up into the toilets on three occasions. We have had to call the City emergency repair line to have them send the large snake truck before the waste overflows into the property. When I asked why the problem wasn't properly fixed I'm was told that the City would pay to replace the flooring and anything that gets contaminated as well as hotel for my tenant and back rent for me the landlord, but they can't fix the sewer right now.

Storm water runoff causes flooding and threatens are drinking water supply. The water often pools and sits in some areas for several days after a heavy rain. This promotes mosquitos and poses health issues.

Widening and resurfacing of high traffic roads- With the rapid growth of our city, the narrow winding roads that we love and are used to have become clogged and unsafe. The volume of traffic requires that the roads be resurfaced more often. The amount of pot holes that cause tire damage has increased significantly. The citizens expect safe and drivable roadways.

14. What strategies would you pursue to improve the safety – both real and perceived – of all residents, visitors, and workers in Atlanta? What partnerships are needed to realize these strategies?

Improving public safety is vital and requires the partnership of the Mayor, the Council, and the communities. There is a request for more Community Policing from the citizens of this city. The local police leadership want to provide community policing, it's good for everyone involved. I have completed citizen Ride- A- Longs' with officers in my community to see things from their perspective. The police force is under manned by several hundred officers. This makes it very difficult to respond to all of the 911 calls in a timely manner and get out of the car and walk the beat. There is also the issue of the retention of officers, as mature officers qualify for retirement and newly recruited officers are lured away to work for other jurisdictions, our city struggles to provide the level of public safety that they are trained to give. Leadership must empower the police force to provide a higher level of public safety.

15. Georgia ranks 49th among states for per-capita arts funding. What actions would you take to ensure our arts and culture organizations have the funding they need to thrive and enrich our city? The Arts and cultural experiences are important for citizens of all ages. By providing exposure to the budget for the Arts and actively collaborating with public and private organizations, I would work to increase the budget at the City level and enhance the level of donations received for Arts funding.

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