

Below is the unedited questionnaire response of:

Harold Harnett
Atlanta City Council
District 11

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

As a 20 year business owner, I am well familiar with budgeting, allocation of resources and working with ever changing consumer demands. In business, our constituents are consumers. This experience has afforded me skills such as time management, exceptional customer service skills, top notch negotiation and problem solving. The councilman has to do all of this for a variety of different demographics. My district has residents in poverty to those who have wealth. The position gives everyone a seat at the table. I have talents to bring people together, enable us to reach consensus on items that impact us all. The business world taught me to be responsive to needs and demands while looking at better ways to do things. I bring this to the table.

Campbellton Road Merchants Association
Southwest Atlanta Business Alliance
100 Black Men of South Metro
Thomas Dortch Jr.
C. David Moody
Marvin Arrington Sr.

These endorsements are important because these are tried and true community leaders and organizations. They have sweat equity in this community and they are well respected as they all said 'they want someone who loves and has passion for this area not an opportunist'.

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

My vision for the City of Atlanta is to create a place where everyone can grow, thrive and feel safe. As we continue to attract residents from other parts of not only the metro area, the nation and the world; we need to make sure each neighborhood has amenities such as green space, basic services, transit accessibility and housing stock to create new homeowners. Every community should be a place of choice for residents and businesses. If elected, I want to work with Invest Atlanta to have relationships with our business and merchant associations to let business owners know their options. We also should look at collaborating with companies such as Club E Atlanta in College Park to bring co-working facilities to areas where we have a high concentration of home based businesses as this would be a public private partnership. In the case of housing, we need to sell any city owned private housing to target groups such as millennials, senior citizens, veterans, public sector employees and disabled as we must stabilize our communities. Furthermore, we must provide incentives for millennials to stay within the city to grow their families rather than leaving for the suburbs. We must promote growth that leads to homeownership rather than just renting and leasing. Homeownership among current residents and future residents is the way to provide space for everyone. Too many people are in the

'house flipping' business and it's leaving neighborhoods in a holding pattern disrupting growth and development. The same thing for commercial properties.

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

Public Safety: Implement Programs for youth; more incentive to retain police such as competitive pay for cities of our size. We have to do our part to make officers want to grow with the department and ultimately retire from here. Not only do we have to take care of police, we need to look at our fire department and 911 dispatchers. As we have a significant elderly population, they rely on the department for wellness checks and medical responses. I know in such cases seconds count so we must make sure our fire personnel is ready and able as they are paid and have the resources to respond quickly. I would create an RUOK program that would provide a call to our seniors to ensure they are okay and to make sure they are not in medical distress. We must strengthen our neighborhood watch programs where citizens become stakeholders and start becoming neighbors who care. Our youth must be engaged through more opportunities in our parks and recreation department, collaboration with Atlanta Public Schools and community partners.

Affordable Housing: The city has 5,000 properties it owns through code enforcement/municipal court seizures which should be sold to citizens who want to live in the city not investors, realtors or firms. I would like to use these properties to provide housing solutions for blue collar individuals, public sector employees, young professionals/millennials, small business and senior citizens. These groups are key to stabilizing our neighborhoods as they are looking for places to live not flip or be temporary. We have to fill up our empty communities if we want to attract equitable and quality economic development as developers and businesses look at this. In addition, we must also make sure the workforce for the businesses within the city are close to their jobs and this helps create more vibrant communities as people are more likely to have civic pride and engagement when they get to spend more time in their communities rather than be stuck in traffic for excessive amounts of time.

Economic Development: It is imperative that we continue to attract new careers, jobs and opportunities to the city to continue to put people to work and provide for tax dollars for the budget. Buckhead and Midtown cannot house all of our businesses. Southwest Atlanta and Westside need to benefit from such as well to provide jobs, careers, and business opportunities. Often times, our communities are empty during the day as everyone is across town at work. Economic development goes beyond just having a coffee shop and a restaurant, we need to look at how to bring businesses that contribute to the community, generate regional traffic and put locals to work. For our affluent residents, by increasing our daytime population it can justify and legitimize the types of businesses and amenities that are desired so we can have a case for them to come and build within our communities. Case in point, the Cascade Corridor, while in the City of South Fulton has been told for many years, they have the rooftops but do not have the daytime population. There are plenty of redevelopment sites in our areas including Westgate, Barge Road Park Ride, Greenbriar Mall, Campbellton Plaza and more. We have

room for infill development at Greenbriar and we must make that area dense. I support a comprehensive economic development plan that is holistic and also is collaborative with East Point and South Fulton so this quadrant of the city can thrive.

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

Each city council district is uniquely different and that is our best attribute about our city. From Buckhead to Princeton Lakes; Niskey Lake to East Atlanta; Old 4th Ward to Centennial Olympic Park; each one has different demands and expectations. For starters, we need to look at issues that are our shared pain points where we can begin to have cohesive working relationships. From that point, it opens dialogue for them to learn about my district and for me to learn about theirs. I would make it my point to visit each council district for a community event and invite my colleagues down to my district for us. With any item on the council agenda, I would need 7 additional votes plus having a unit where we can override a mayoral veto or making sure the mayor signs the item after we pass it. As I keep open lines through various information channels to my district, I also would explain to them on why voted on various matters to let them know that while I am their rep, I also have to work with others to get things done for us. It's about having the votes to move items forward, working relationship with both the mayor and city council president.

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?

A surplus on hand gives us cash needed for emergencies or protects us during sluggish economies. At the same time, we cannot get so focused on creating a surplus that we neglect the basic services in the neighborhoods citizens expect us to handle. When I see trash, blight and overgrown weeds everywhere, it tells me that we need to take some of those funds to help keep our corridors pleasant that will attract new investments from both homeowners and businesses. Citizens should always know how much we have in the bank at any given time and a full accounting of city funds. I believe in having this information online for each department and the budget as a whole. This is not the city's money but the people's money. Keep enough on hands for emergencies but also we need to reinvest into our communities.

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

The city should do all it can to provide relief for our homeowners. Our city has slightly over 460,000 people and we swell with millions of people during business hours, holidays and tourism season. Our homeowners should benefit from these significant events. I want to see our seniors, veterans, disabled to have protections from rising property values. I would propose a tax exemption from school taxes for seniors 65 years and older. By providing relief for our seniors, it will allow them to have more disposable cash to enjoy their golden years in the city. As the city, we need to continue to push for aggressive economic development not only to

attract business investment but retain such firms to help share the load of the cost to run a city that provides quality standard services. I would do my part to make sure all residents can be aware of the investments of their dollars back into their communities.

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

The MOST is our short term solution to help repair our aging water and sewer system. Water and sewer are not sexy but it's necessary. Former Mayor Shirley Franklin should be commended for her tough leadership on such and this is something I would like to continue. The city must continue to make friends in Washington and the state legislature to help pay for repairs and upgrades. We've shown that we put skin in the game and we will need continued support from those levels. The back pockets of our residents cannot be our sole source of this funding. We don't want to overtax tourists and visitors where the suburbs take over so we have to look at creative funding such as impact fees, federal and state dollars.

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

We must have a focus on small business and entrepreneurship. We cannot rely on national chains to come back to underserved neighborhoods they abandoned. Growing local and within the most reasonable solution as we want business owners who are part of communities they operate in. I would propose incentives for small business owners to bring needed services and amenities to such communities through job credits, discounted business licensing fees and even facade grants for taking over abandoned commercial property. Businesses would be encouraged to create internship and apprenticeship programs for our youth in such communities to provide skills training.

Secondly, we must develop a strategic working relationship with Atlanta Public Schools to bring back vocational training and enhance STEM education to make sure our students are prepared for the challenges of today's global economy. Atlanta's youth are not only competing with suburban youth but youth across the country and world. They should be ready for the growth that is coming to our region to fully capitalize. The alternative education program for students requiring a non-traditional environment should be offering career education in addition to high school completion. We can attract all the development we want but if our citizens are not benefiting from the opportunities then we have not solved our poverty problems.

Finally, every business node in Atlanta should be marketed and branded. I would look at zoning uses of my business districts such as Greenbriar Mall, Cascade Heights, Campbellton Road and Princeton Lakes. The major concentration would be Greenbriar, Cascade Heights and Campbellton. Greenbriar needs to capture the overflow growth from the Camp Creek area in East Point and Campbellton needs a plan for today's and tomorrow's needs. It's no longer a retail corridor as it was in the 1970s and 1980s. The city is currently studying Cascade Heights

and if elected, I would take the results and begin to implement all recommendation. I also would work with my local business groups such as the Campbellton Road Merchants Association, Camp Creek Business Association and Southwest Atlanta Business Alliance along with the Metro Atlanta Chamber to empower and support local businesses, retain and attract new growth.

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

Every TAD within our city needs to be audit to see how much affordable housing was built by the developers. As I recognize many developments remain incomplete due to the previous economic slowdowns, this is a chance for the developers who received incentives to honor their commitments made to the city. I believe affordable housing needs to be spread across the city as it was initially intended when we started revitalizing public housing. Also, we need to work with MARTA with new proposed transit oriented developments near Oakland City and Lakewood MARTA stations to ensure that transit dependent riders can have units to live near the rails they rely on for their commutes. As we continue to build new multi-family developments across the city, at least 20 percent should be committed for affordable housing (seniors, blue collar workers, public sector employees and startup business owners).

Previously, I mentioned the 5,000 units the city owns of vacant dilapidated housing from the courts. Those units need to be sold to seniors, blue collar workers, start up business owners (who have their firms located in the city limits), and young professionals who are within a certain income to help keep them here instead of going to the suburbs. These units need to be sold to them not investors or realtors at a steep discount rate to get them to fix up the homes to code and move in. There would be agreements in place that they cannot sell the houses for 25 years or else be penalized by paying the city the current market rate for the property.

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

We are the digital era and gig economy. More individuals are becoming contract workers along with entrepreneurs. Also, with going digital, that means many jobs are evolving the way things work and operate. Given that, we must start having programs that educate on STEM, coding, and vocational. I want to see more skill training programs offered to our low income and skill workers at our community and recreation centers to put the programs closer to their homes and make it easier for them to get to. We should also partner with various non-profits and other agencies to help us develop our talent and provide a bridge between firms and residents to ensure we can hire talent. As we become a movie mecca, we need to make sure our residents are trained to work on movie sets so these jobs are not being outsourced out of state. Our economy is changing and our approach to workforce development must change with it.

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.

We must build light rail to connect more communities to each other to encourage alternative forms of transportation. We are a major city not a suburb and millennials have said loud and clear, they want transit. Transit also helps moves low income and disabled residents around to jobs and medical appointments. The city is talking about the streetcar along Campbellton Road from Oakland City to Greenbriar Mall. This needs to become a reality. We also must look at continuing to offer better rail service at nights and weekends for our blue collar workers, and residents who want to travel to Downtown for events and nightlife. The system is there and we must utilize it better. We've committed to the MORE MARTA tax and we must make sure the people who need MORE MARTA are receiving the service.

Secondly, we must grid our sidewalks to encourage more walking and activity. If the sidewalks take people from residential areas to business areas or transit, we will see more people start to use this to help. The city has too many piecemeal sidewalks which makes no sense. We also need to provide more safer crosswalks to allow people to cross corridors safely. We should be able to leverage 'safe crossing' grants to help us improve safety on busy roads where people use buses, or frequent items. In my district, I want to enhance pedestrian safety around Greenbriar Mall and Cascade Road near John A. White Park.

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?

Many of our NPU's have public safety committees, some of our business associations have a public safety liaison to coordinate relationships between the businesses and police. Often times I hear people say, 'Southwest Atlanta is not safe' due to unfair news coverage, things of the past or internet rumors. This hurts home sales, lowers community morale and limits business investment. To address such, we must do more with the neighborhood watch program where citizens can become additional eyes and ears for the police including our local businesses. A business should not allow criminal activity to take place on their grounds and residents should not turn a blind eye to things. Crime does not thrive in a community that cares. When we get people on the same page, we can better coordinate. While everyone doesn't attend NPU meetings, the information on our stats needs to be given out in more public forums. As councilman, I will share this in my newsletters and ensure the community leaders are passing the data along to their members. It will also take us looking at safety audits of our communities. Once elected, I will create a ride through with community stakeholders were we will look at the district at night to see where dark spots are at, what are the safety hazards and work with various city departments and agencies on resolution. It could be the need for more street lights or a business may need to leave the parking lot lights on to deter activity. I also would like to coordinate with the Aerotropolis CID for the airport at looking at how to make a Southwest ATL video integration system more widespread and a reality similar to what downtown Atlanta has.

I recognize that police cannot do everything nor should they do everything so I want to look at creating a security task force with property owners, police and organizations to bring everyone's security procedures into a cohesive unit. Case in point, Greenbriar has a security team along with Kroger but there's no communication. Some of our apartments have security units along Campbellton and Cascade so we have to get on the same page. With that being said, we have to make sure the community has connections to other communities in East Point, College Park, Hapeville and South Fulton as we share borders with them. Crime has no boundaries and criminals love it when we are not working together. As councilman, I will definitely create working relationships with the mayors and councilmembers of the districts that touch mine to have a better understanding of what's happening in their area and for us to start sharing information and acting on items. Citizens are tired of infighting and this 'well, that aint our jurisdiction' style responses; we are the elected and we cannot continue to punt this issue for another entity to deal with it.

Georgia ranks 49th among states 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?

Arts are a major tool of economic development and a change agent that helps us address vandalism and neglect. I believe that arts programs should be community based not community placed so people in the areas can feel like it belongs to the area. I would support increasing more incentives for arts based organizations that are based in the various council districts to look at ways of how to create a master plan for our public spaces and have relationships with property owners. A mural can bring a wall to life on a corridor and that would come from the private sector allowing their property to be used for such. Or land in a shopping center that would be a nice place for a piece of art. For my district, I would like to convene a meeting of our local artists to come up with a master plan for art in our area. With corridors that we share with other council members, we would get them involved to help in enhance our part of the city. I would look creating an economic development art fund with the city's budget that would create such for each district across the city so all can benefit. This would have to be studied among our arts groups such as C4 Atlanta and others to determine amounts and other sources of funding including private dollars.