



Below is the unedited questionnaire response of:

Cleta Winslow
Atlanta City Council
District 4

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.

- 23 Years of Public service as Councilmember of District 4
- Former City of Atlanta Neighborhood Planning Unit Coordinator in Planning Department and Human Service Planner
- 1977 to 1993 – Volunteered for 16 years as a neighborhood activist to improve the quality of life in portions of Southwest Atlanta. Formed partnership with developers to bring improved housing and retail to Southwest Atlanta including Steve and Scott Selig, Herman and Jerome Russell, Noel Khalil, Egbert Perry
- West End Merchants Coalition, West End CID, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Jerome Russell, Scott Taylor, Steve Brock, Jeffrey and Joe Robinson, Carolyn Long Banks, willie Watkins, Leon Goodrum, George and Janice Andrews, Ken Yee, Kin Baik, Suna Om, Sharon Gay, Steve Labovitz, Charlie Hill Sr., Charlie Hill Jr., Paul Singh, Alex Panjwani, Anita and Bill Morris, Joel Iverson, Morehouse College SGA, Spelman SGA, Clark Atlanta University SGA, Warren Turnipseed, Robert Young, Scott Smith, Morris Kaplan, Marvin Green, Bruce Gallman, Amon Martin, and Derrick Hall

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

To help grow the City of Atlanta in a more balanced way. It is important to help educate the lending institutions that some of the blighted neighborhoods are ready for an infusion of development. As leaders, we need to put more pressure on the banking

industry to fulfill their commitment toward the Community Reinvestment Act which is federally mandated.

3. Please identify the three greatest issues or problems facing the City of Atlanta and specifically how you would work to solve them.
 1. Balanced Affordable Housing that should be interspersed through the City of Atlanta. I would support inclusionary zoning which the City Council and ARC have been talking about for at least a decade.
 2. Infrastructure – With so many people moving to the heart of the City of Atlanta, the government will have to continue to provide infrastructure improvements for future growth. So, we need to continue the penny tax.
 3. Public Safety continues to be at the forefront of business and neighborhood discussions. Recruits heavily with personnel that are leaving the military.

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

A task force could be set up to study the issue(s) to get a good cross section of the opinion on the issue(s). The City of Atlanta often uses the Neighborhood Planning Unit System to gauge how constituents from across the city feel about citywide issues that will affect the larger population.

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?

Over the last 8 years, the City of Atlanta has made tremendous strides in stabilizing our financials by having restructured our pension plan. Have provided more fiscally sound oversight from the top, down to the various departments. As a result, our bond rating is the highest that it has ever been and we are fiscally sound with at least \$145 Million in reserve. I want to make sure that the city maintains it's 5-year financial outlook plan.

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

1. We need to be watchful of Fulton County government and how steep they reassess each year. The Washington D C area is a perfect example of how fast housing prices rose and now people who once lived in DC now live in Baltimore Maryland. The old fourth Ward and the King District are other examples. We may need to petition the state of Georgia to raise the exemptions on urban homesteading's.
2. The city of Atlanta has not raised taxes in over 10 years. I believe in the CID, and West End just got theirs. CID's are important tools to help foster balance growth.

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

Due to the fact, that the City of Atlanta was under a federal consent decree, has proven to be the most equitable tool that we could obtain in the short period of time to start work mandated by the federal government.

In the late 1990's there was some discussion about the proposal of a storm water management fee, but that topic was not viewed favorably. We must start some discussions about maintaining this portion of our infrastructure. We need to explore what other cities are doing or have done regarding funding water and sewer operations.

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

In May of 2017, we strengthened the law as follows:

The Chief Procurement Officer shall also provide both document to the City in his/her recommendation of award of the solicited contract (redacting any proprietary information as appropriate), and in the monthly contracts report provided to the Council President, all members of Council, and the Municipal clerk.

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

The City of Atlanta already has some of the most strongest ethics laws in the country.

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

I hope that we would continue the programs that Invest Atlanta currently has in place. We need to continue to push small business start-ups and expansions, because these businesses represent over 50% of businesses in America.

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

I mentioned earlier about supporting inclusionary zoning citywide. And, we could look at Land Trust. I have visited the one in Athens, Georgia. This would be a good time to reintroduce the topic to government, developers and lending institutions.

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?

Atlanta Workforce Development's currently getting ready to start 2 programs for low to middle skill workers between the ages of 16-24 and 18-24. One of these programs will focus on young adults in foster care to promote a more stable future. It would be a good idea to partner young people in workforce with church groups to add a stabilizing component in their lives which would serve as a mentoring program.

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.

1. Expansion of the East Transit line by Marta
2. Expansion of the Northern and Western lines going into Cobb and Gwinnett Counties with their approval by referendum
3. Sidewalks, road transit improvements, rapid transit and infrastructure are important to continue to attract good sound quality businesses to the Atlanta area but especially the City of Atlanta. We are in a growth spurt. If we continue to have massive traffic congestion on our highways, this will discourage companies from relocating here. They want easy access for their workers to get to work and in a rapid method.

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?

To expand the camera surveillance program in district 4. I have always included the college students from Clark AUC, Morehouse and Spelman College as full partners to provide suggestions and to collaborate on safety issues of concern to them. I have also on a very regular basis reached out to the religious community and the churches have partnered with me on many neighborhood and district projects. I have collaborated with parents of AUC students who visit from out of state.

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?

I would hope that we could revisit the $\frac{1}{4}$ cent tax to go to the arts and I want the city of Atlanta to continue for the 1% of art funds from future infrastructure bond monies to continue to go to art projects.