



Special Advocacy Report: The Issue of Homelessness in Atlanta Citywide Elections

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OAC Executive Director

October 15, 2009 - The Central Outreach and Advocacy Center (OAC) asked candidates for Atlanta citywide offices to complete a questionnaire on issues related to homelessness. As a nonprofit organization, the OAC is prohibited from ranking or endorsing candidates. We are, however, allowed to educate voters on issues of importance and the positions taken by each candidate.

The questionnaire, which consisted of five questions listed on page two of this report, was sent to more than 50 candidates seeking office in Atlanta in the upcoming November 3rd election. Almost half of the candidates responded to the survey. Some of the candidates who did not respond are incumbents without opposition. Others, considered to be strong contenders for certain offices, failed to respond, raising concern as to how, if elected, they would provide leadership to the issue of homelessness in Atlanta. All four candi-

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dates considered by the media to be leading the race for Mayor responded to the survey, as did the two top contenders for the position as President of the Atlanta City Council. We also received responses from many of the candidates vying for district or at-large seats.

This project is a first for the OAC and demonstrates our commitment to advocacy as an integral part of our mission. It is an opportunity for the candidates to learn about the work of the OAC while also calling their attention to the issue of homelessness in Atlanta. Also, it provides an opportunity for the candidates to present their positions on the issue and to describe how homelessness will be ad-



"As the granddaughter of ministers, I believe that the faith community must be integral to addressing the needs of the homeless."
Mayoral Candidate Lisa Borders



"To effectively tackle homelessness, we need to address the underlying causes of it."
Mayoral Candidate Kasim Reed



"We must not criminalize poverty."
Mayoral Candidate Mary Norwood



"We as a city cannot sit and watch our brothers and sisters starve in the streets, ravaged by disease, addiction and insanity and do nothing."
Mayoral Candidate Jesse Spikes

OAC Mission Statement

Compelled by faith in Jesus Christ and God's call to "do justice," the Central Outreach and Advocacy Center works in partnership with individuals and families to assist them to avoid or recover from homelessness and to advocate on their behalf.

Whether or not you live within the city limits of Atlanta, I encourage you to review the responses from each candidate. The issue of homelessness is regional and is not limited to city boundaries. Those elected to serve for the next four years will serve as critical leaders, crucial to helping our neighbors avoid or recover from homelessness.

Because of limited space in this publication, the complete responses from each of the candidates participating in the survey may be found at our website.

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Click on the positions below for candidate responses to the OAC questionnaire:

[Mayor](#)
[City Council President](#)
[City Council At Large](#)
[City Council Districts](#)

These candidates responded to the survey from the OAC. Their complete responses are available by clicking on the position in the box to the left.

<u>Running For</u>	<u>Candidate</u>
Mayor	Glenda Allen
Mayor	Lisa Borders
Mayor	Tiffany Brown
Mayor	Mary Norwood
Mayor	Kasim Reed
Mayor	Jesse Spikes
District 1	Felicia Martin
District 3	Darrian Fletcher
District 6	Bahareh Azizi
District 6	Miguel Gallegos
District 6	Alex Wan
District 8	Yolanda Adrean
District 9	Felicia Moore
District 11	Alvelyn Sanders
District 11	Reginald Eaves
District 12	Curtis Davis, Jr.
District 12	Joyce Sheperd
City Council Pres	Cesar Mitchell
City Council Pres	Clair Muller
At-Large	Adam Brackman
At-Large	Dwanda Farmer
At-Large	Amir Farokhi
At-Large	Weslee Knapp
At-Large	Aaron Watson