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**What types of development do you think are appropriate for downtown Asheville?
What types are inappropriate? Explain.**

Downtown development ought to meet a number of principles:

- Either include Affordable Housing/Affordable Retail components; or
- Achieve NC Healthy Built or LEED certification status
- Integrate well with existing historical architecture
- Mitigate shadow through use of setbacks and other features

How would you improve Asheville's Homeless plan and service system?

As a member of the City/County Advisory Board on Homelessness, I advocate the following:

- Maintaining funding for the ten-year plan to end chronic homelessness
- Continued integration of the Homeless Management Information Service (HMIS), which will allow service providers to streamline services and reduce duplication
- Utilization of 'Medicader' software to ensure that people have access to all available services
- Continued support of the Homeward Bound program, which has had an incredible track record of putting people into housing and making it possible for them to stay.

What initiatives would you undertake to make Asheville a greener city?

- Raise the bar on energy efficiency to preclude the building of another dirty energy power plant
- We must commit ourselves to a multimodal transportation system that includes pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders, and car riders alike.
- Commit to moving ahead with the Wilma Dykeman Riverway Plan
- Commit to moving ahead with the Greenway Master Plan
- Commit to moving ahead with the Bicycle Master Plan

The American Clean Energy and Security Act includes a lot of meaningful conservation and renewable energy initiatives. One of the lesser discussed is a national building code for energy efficiency. Title II of the bill calls for a 30% increase in energy efficiency. Asheville is uniquely positioned to take advantage of this change. By getting out in front of the legislation, Asheville can clean up its energy act while giving a boost to our local energy industry. We have solar manufacturing and installation, green retrofit companies, green construction companies and all of the supportive services necessary for them to operate. By committing ourselves to doing our part to reduce greenhouse gases, we can mitigate the effects of climate change while providing the potential for an industrial boom.

**Do you support a living wage for all city employees including contract labor?
Domestic partner benefits?**

I support maintaining a living wage for all city employees and continuing to form strong public/private partnerships that encourage a living wage among private business owners. When the economy turns around, I would like to revisit living wage requirements for contractors with the city of Asheville.

While we're working towards marriage equality for same-sex couples who want the same rights as their heterosexual equals, the City of Asheville can take a step toward social justice by offering same-sex health benefits to its employees.

City employees are currently empowered to include their spouses on their health plans and can take bereavement leave in the case of a spouse's death. Same-sex couples, even if legally married in another state, are not eligible.

The gay and lesbian citizens of Asheville deserve equal recognition and equal benefits. To deny these benefits is to relegate gay and lesbian couples to second-class status. We all know that Asheville is a gay-friendly city, and our city government ought to reflect our commitment to honoring the civil rights of all our citizens.

[Cities across America have included domestic partnership benefits](#) in their health plans, and many have gone a step further to require that contractors provide domestic partner benefits as well. Given Asheville's vibrant gay and lesbian culture, recognizing their committed relationships is the only just way forward.

[What is the definition of a domestic partner?](#)

- Have lived together at least six months.
- Are both age 18 or older.
- Share a close personal relationship and are responsible for each other's common welfare.
- Are exclusive.
- Are not married to anyone else.
- Are not related by blood closer than would bar marriage in the state.

- Share the same regular and permanent residence, with the current intent to continue doing so indefinitely.
- Are jointly financially responsible for “basic living expenses,” defined as the cost of basic food, shelter and any other expenses of a domestic partner because of the domestic partnership. (Domestic partners need not contribute equally or jointly to the cost of these expenses as long as they agree that both are responsible for the cost.)
- Were mentally competent to consent to the contract when the domestic partnership began.

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 If elected to City Council, I will be a strong advocate for domestic partner benefits. Social justice benefits everyone, and the current inequity is a stain on Asheville’s social justice aspirations.

What are the three best City Council achievements of the past four years?

- Continuing to repair and replace its critical water infrastructure by installing more than 25 miles of new water pipe and returned the Bee Tree Water Plant.
- Approving 30 separate UDO wording amendments to improve the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) and create guidelines that encourage sustainable development. Added several designs to support low-impact development and help preserve open space. In addition, the city increased (UDO) enforcement efforts by more than 140% and experienced a 12% decrease in citizen complaints in zoning violations.
- Utilizing Community Development Block Grant monies to: support the Woodfin and Griffin Apartments, which are providing 68 housing units to the homeless and low-income families; support Buncombe County's construction of a mental health crisis stabilization center;

Bonus achievements:

- Continuing to implement the West Riverside Operation Weed & Seed strategy.
- Voting in favor of Alternative 4B in regards to the I-26 Connector project.
- Funding a coordinator position for the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness.

List and explain three of your priorities for City Council during the upcoming four years.

1. We are in a housing crisis. Rents are rising, foreclosures are rising, and wages are stagnant. If you work a full-time job in Asheville, you ought to be able to afford to live in Asheville. Cutting affordable housing funds during a housing crisis would be like cutting police patrols during a crime wave. We must:
 - Fortify the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the Affordable Housing Infill Development Incentive.
 - Utilize Density Bonuses to encourage more infill on transportation corridors.
 - Make housing affordable now and in the future by raising the bar on energy efficiency.

- Allow “Use by Right” instead of “Conditional Use” when Affordable Housing developers meet requirements.
- Encourage mixed income housing in the downtown catchment area as stated in the Downtown Master Plan

2. Raising the bar on energy efficiency in our new developments while incentivizing the retrofit of existing buildings can create a great deal of work for our talented construction industry while supporting the growing alternative energy manufacturing companies in the area. Living up to our environmental aspirations will also continue to attract green industry to our area.

3. Giving our citizens the choice of how to travel offers everyone the chance to save money by riding the bus, riding bicycles, or walking. We must protect our public transit funding, increase the number of bike lanes on our roads, fight to ensure that a future I-26 connects west Asheville to downtown, and work to implement our Greenways Master Plan and Wilma Dykeman Riverway Plan.

Bonus priorities:

- Preserve Open Spaces: Encouraging density along existing development corridors reduces sprawl and preserves green space. Further, protecting our future greenway corridors is a paramount priority. We can complete the Beaucatcher Overlook Park. We can enforce existing development ordinances to create more predictability and discourage developers from taking more trees than necessary or polluting our streams and lakes.
- Keeping our water resources clean and abundant: The unfair Sullivan Acts restrict our city’s ability to create a sustainable water plan. Therefore, our top legislative priority must be to repeal the Sullivan Acts. By partnering with Buncombe County and other surrounding governmental bodies, we can create a long-term strategy for managing this most precious resource.
- Every neighborhood in Asheville is as important as every other. Just as Burton Street neighborhood ought to be protected, so should Haw Creek, Kenilworth, West Asheville, Beaverdam, and the rest. We do this by insisting on an I-26 alternative that respects and honors our neighborhoods. We can do this by ensuring that new developments are concentrated on existing transportation corridors. We can do this by ensuring that new multi-family developments in existing neighborhoods meet special requirements.

What sets you apart from the other City Council candidates? Explain.

I’ve been engaged in public service all of my adult life. From community reconciliation in Belfast, Northern Ireland to my professional work with children and families with mental health needs to serving on the Media Arts Project Board to develop economic opportunities for our arts community, I have demonstrated a commitment to effecting lasting change.

I am not in any way beholden in any way to special interest groups or big-money interests.

I bring a solid, demonstrated commitment to progressive priorities.

I have worked hard for Democratic candidates to bring needed change to Asheville, Buncombe County, and the 11th Congressional District.

If elected, how would you engage the citizenry of Asheville in helping to make decisions and accomplishing your goals?

I've been an advocate of government transparency throughout my political life, and that will not change when I'm a Council member.

- Encourage open debate in public meetings.
- Bring meetings to the people
- Utilize social media to increase accessibility
- Hold regular public meetings in addition to Council meetings

Do you support President Obama's agenda, including his energy, health care and education initiatives? Explain why or why not.

Yes. While I would prefer much more sweeping reform to health care than what is currently being proposed, I believe that President Obama is working towards lasting change that will benefit us all. The proposed energy bill will make necessary strides to responsibly address global climate change.

I voted for Barack Obama in the primary and general election campaigns last year.

Who are the five largest contributors to your campaign and how much did each contribute?

1. Shelley Pereda Camp - \$1,010
2. Dr. Errington Thompson - \$727.65
3. Veronika Gunter - \$520
4. Tom Sullivan - \$500
5. John Swann - \$500
6. John Cram - \$500
7. Ferris Camp - \$500

(Since there are a number of individuals contributing \$500, I included many of them here)