

2017 Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate's Full Name: **Kershemia Ramirez**

Your current occupation: **Small Business Owner of Tax Genius and SH'Bella Model and Talent Agency/ Founder of A Beautiful You, Inc**

Have you held an elected position before? If so, please describe. **No**

Have you ever served on a public board or commission? If so, please state the name of the board and the dates that you served. **No**

Have you received endorsements from the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, Friends of Durham, People's Alliance, or any other notable organization? If so, please indicate which ones. **No**

1. What do you believe to be the most important job of our Mayor? **To serve the residents of Durham in and every way that their quality of life increases. To be the role model of the city by building relationships between citizens, local government, law enforcement and businesses.**
2. Why have you decided to run for Mayor in the City of Durham? **I have lived in Durham for a little while and Durham has made me into the woman, mother, business owner, and wife that I am today. I have worked in service of various Durham communities using drives, hosting of community events, and through partnerships from other organizations. I have seen firsthand the struggle, pain, and uncertainty that some of the Durham residents experience. I feel that I have done all I can within my current status and would be able to serve Durham more as the Mayor. My background as a business owner, community volunteer, and Durham resident make me a great candidate and would make me a great Mayor. I understand that these are common roles, but my passion for service and Durham and my unique service to Durham set me apart.**
3. Please define the constituency for our Mayor. **The Mayor serves as the presiding officer over City Council, Durham residents' votes on all matters and appoints individuals to citizen boards, committees and commissions.**
4. Please define the role you believe corporations and businesses should play within the City of Durham. **The role is a mutual-beneficial relationship between corporations, businesses, citizens. This will leave room for the City of Durham residents to patron businesses and corporations. Therefore, all parties have something to gain.**
5. Do you support public-private partnerships through incentive opportunities for incubating and recruiting businesses? Please explain your answer. **Yes, I do support public-private**

partnerships. This relationship allows new businesses to start up with low to none initial investments.

6. In 2011, the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce led a sales tax referendum for multimodal transportation. Given recent updates, do you believe the transit plan still makes sense for Durham in 2017-2019? Also, do you believe this plan supports current and future growth patterns? Please explain your answers. **Yes, as the city grows it is vital to have reliable transportation to help people provide a living wage for their family and to have an adequate transportation and ease congestion within the city streets. Citizens working or living outside of the city and commute back and forth would help bring in outside revenue.**

7. Do you support tax or other fee increases to augment revenue growth? Do you feel the private sector should pay a greater cost burden? Please state why or why not. **A tax or fee increase is something I would support. I will support it as long as it is allocated 100% correctly to the appropriate funds. This plan has to be beneficial and feasible to all Durham residents. Yes, I feel that the private sector should pay a greater cost burden.**

8. Please state the top three infrastructure challenges confronting the City of Durham. If elected, how do you plan to help resolve these challenges? **The top three infrastructures are streets, transit and housing. I plan to use the money allocated through the Bond Referendum for exclusionary housing, streets and the transit system.**

9. What should the City's priorities be in working with other stakeholders to develop and preserve affordable housing? **Give residents a path to some type of ownership or savings to go toward home-ownership. Give builders and developers incentives to come in and assist with developing these areas with the residents having a path to ownership. Get residents involved with the upkeep of neighborhoods and ensure that the city does its part with trash pickup and maintaining roads and streets.**

10. What additional business issue confronting the City of Durham in 2017-2019 do you believe to be the most important? Please explain your answer. **Starting a business can still be difficult in Durham. I plan to have collaborations with other organizations to educate on the power of entrepreneurship and create other ways that ease starting and growing a new business.**

Signature: _____Shea Ramirez _____ Date:
_____September 22, 2017_____