

Historic Preservation Review Board Confirmation Questions

Linda Mercado Greene

April 26, 2019

1. Please provide a copy of the Financial Disclosure Statement you filed with the Office of Campaign Finance or the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability. If you have not filed a Financial Disclosure Statement, please provide answers to questions no. 2-8 in lieu of that statement.

ANSWER: Will be filed by May 15, 2019

2. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting any business with the District Government in which you have a beneficial interest valued in excess of \$1,000, including publicly traded stock.

ANSWER: N/A

3. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting any business (including consulting) with the District Government from which you or your immediate family have received (or are receiving) income for services rendered in excess of \$200 during the past two years.

ANSWER: NONE TO MY KNOWLEDGE

4. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting business with the District Government in which you or any member of your immediate family serves as an officer, director, partner, or agent. Also list the position(s) held, a brief description of the entity, and any other pertinent details.

ANSWER: N/A

5. Please provide the name of any lender and the amount of liability for each outstanding liability borrowed by you or any member or your immediate

family in excess of \$1,000. Do not include loans from a federal or state insured or regulated financial institution, or from any business enterprise regularly engaged in the business of providing revolving credit or installment accounts.

ANSWER: N/A

6. Please list the location of all real property located in the District of Columbia in which you have an interest with a fair market value in excess of \$1,000.

ANSWER: 1354 W STREET, SE, WASHINGTON, DC 20020; 2114-14TH STREET, SE, WASHINGTON, DC 20020

7. Please list all professional and occupational licenses held by you.

ANSWER: N/A

8. Please list any professional organizations of which you are currently a member.

ANSWER:

**DC Medical Cannabis Trade Association
Minority Cannabis Business Association
Anacostia Coordinating Council
Anacostia BID**

9. Please list all boards and commissions connected with the District Government on which you are or have been a member, and include the term of service for each.

ANSWER: The Historic Preservation Review Board, 2016-2019

10. Please list any other boards (e.g. Boards of Directors or a non-profit) on which you are a member.

ANSWER:

**Anacostia Coordinating Council
Minority Cannabis Business Association
DC Medical Cannabis Trade Association**

11. Do you have any outstanding liability for taxes, fees, or other payments to the District, federal, or other state or local governments, either contested or uncontested? If so, please provide documentation of attempts to pay the amount owed or to resolve the disputed claim.

ANSWER: NO

12. Do you or any member of your immediate family have any interest, financial or otherwise, that may be directly or indirectly pose a conflict of interest for you in performance of your duties as a member of the HPRB?

ANSWER: NO

13. Please describe any political activity (i.e. District of Columbia local elections or campaigns) that you have engaged in over the past five years, including any campaign contributions to a candidate or political action committee.

ANSWER:

Meet and Greet for Mayor Muriel Bowser in 2018;

Served on host committee for campaign events 2014-2016 prior to serving on HPRB as well as made small campaign contributions;

Campaign contributions over past 5 years:

Mayor Muriel Bowser, former Mayor Vincent Gray, Chairman Phil Mendelsohn, At-Large Councilmember Anita Bonds, At-Large Councilmember David Grosso, At-Large Councilmember Robert White, the late Councilmember Marion Barry, Councilmember LaRuby May, Councilmember Trayon White, Attorney General Karl Racine, Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie, Councilmember Brianne Nadeau, Councilmember Brandon Todd, Councilmember Vincent Orange.

14. Are you registered with any local, state, or federal government to lobby? If so, list the jurisdictions(s) in which you are registered.

ANSWER: NO

15. Why have you agreed to serve another term and how do you plan to continue to help the Board fulfill its role and mission during the time on the Board?

ANSWER: It is an extreme honor to serve as a Mayoral appointee on any Board. I agreed to accept the offer to serve another three years on the Historic Preservation Review Board as a citizen member because I believe I bring a unique perspective to the Board due to my cultural, professional, and diverse background. As a 47-year citizen of the District of Columbia, I have been actively involved in all aspects of DC social and political life, from grassroots to high society. And, I have been blessed to have developed close personal and working relationships with people who have and continue to make lasting impacts on our city in the arenas of politics, business, entertainment, religion, and social justice. Because of my breadth of relationships, I am able to connect with the residents who come to testify before the Board with a more human understanding. It is a great pleasure and a high honor serving with such an illustrious group of citizens and professionals I admire.

16. Given that you are being reappointed to the Board, what challenges do you believe the Board has experienced since your time on the Board, and how do you believe these challenges should be addressed moving forward.

ANSWER:

(1) It is evident we are all sensitive to the requests we receive for those who live in Historic Districts, especially those residents who purchased their homes long before the Historic designation. Many times, they are presenting to the board to obtain permission to add more space as their family grows; or, they are seniors who are aging and in need of more space to accommodate a family member or caretaker so they can stay in their home, aging in place. As the city's population grows and as our residents age, we need to find a happy medium to allow them to make those alterations to their homes without destroying the character of their historic home and neighborhood. Otherwise we risk losing them to surrounding jurisdictions. We are height restricted and land-locked. The cost of living in DC is extremely high negating the

possibility of many to move in areas that have not been designated Historic. During my tenure, I have seen the Board become more understanding and collaboratively work to find solutions the owners and architects can consider.

(2) Everyone works in DC and it is hard for residents to take off from work to come to a daytime hearing to express their concerns or support for various projects. Residents who live in ward 8, particularly Historic Anacostia, don't arrive home until 7 p.m. in the evening. These are hard working residents who are primarily our labor and workforce in the city. They feel they have very little voice in the projects affecting their community due to the fact of not being able to take leave to attend a HPRB meeting, daytime. Therefore, you only have the same people coming to speak on behalf of the residents.... for which many of the residents have no idea of any cases coming before the Board. Knowing this factor, it would be helpful for HPRB to have Saturday meetings in such communities when cases arise for that particular area. Additionally, this will afford an opportunity for HPRB to educate residents on historic guidelines and dispel many of the myths believed about historic preservation.

17. Please discuss any past and present experiences not already mentioned that you believe are relevant to support your appointment as a member of the HPRB.

ANSWER:

I am a dedicated member of the Board arranging my work schedule so as not to miss a board meeting unless in case of an extreme emergency. During my travels, speeches, social and business events, locally and nationally, I always speak of my service on the Historic Preservation Review Board. There have been remarks to me stating that Philadelphia and Baltimore could learn a lot from how DC has protected the landmarks and history of our city.... from their city leaders, which makes me extremely proud.