

To Mayor and City Council
City of Lakewood, Ohio

November 8, 2010

Dear Lakewood Council Members,

Please find this letter and the attached resume as application for the at large seat vacated by the recent election of Nickie Antonio to the Ohio State House of Representatives. I understand this seat will be appointed for the remainder of the year until the next general election in November of 2011.

I have been a resident of Lakewood for 10 years, having purchased and restored a house on Hopkins Avenue on the east side of town. When I first moved here I redeveloped storefronts on Detroit Avenue and opened 2 successful retail shops. I was president of the Lakewood Stonewall Democrats, worked with Council members Antonio and Dunn to establish the Community Relations Committee, and have volunteered at the Lakewood Christian Service Center.

I will bring to the Council a varied background of experience and expertise, having served as Deputy Director of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg (NC) planning staff, and presently as a fellow with the Center for Community Solutions. I have extensive relationships in Columbus with the House and Senate, both Republicans and Democrats and the present administration. I have future meetings set with the incoming Kasich administration also. I represent constituencies not typically represented on Lakewood City Council: the LGBT community, the east side residential community, understand the needs and issues of the human service and lower income community, and the faith community. With my planning background, I see the infinite possibilities of Lakewood, and have a close relationship to the Development Director.

My focus on the Council would be to identify the opportunities Lakewood has to continue to flourish, work closely to solve the problem of absentee landlords and disruptive renters, strengthen the physical development, and utilize vacant commercial properties and second story apartments for use.

I look forward to this opportunity, the chance to serve Lakewood, and finally discussing this with you at a future date.

Sincerely

David A Howard

David Howard

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Objective

Lakewood City Council Appointment

Strengths

Creativity, Problem Solving, Work Ethic, Communication, Mediation, Design, Leadership, Strategic Planning, Organization, Community Building, Consensus Building, Coalition Building, Community Involvement, Professional Relationships

Summary of Experience

- Management of professional staff
- All geographies and degrees of physical and social planning.
- Teaching - public schools, university, and Chambers of Commerce.
- Citizen involvement and consensus building.
- Strategic Planning
- Capital budgeting
- Plan implementation
- Leadership training and development
- Departmental and governmental coordination.
- Business ownership, management and development.
- Public policy decision making.
- Public presentation and facilitation of groups.
- Field organizing and training
- Leadership positions on various boards in the fields of education, the arts, housing, politics, culture, religion, community relations and the environment.
- Numerous volunteer opportunities
- Public policy advocacy
- Relationship building, Coalition building and maintenance
- Legislative relationships in both parties at the State and Federal level

Work Experience

Legislative and Field Director, The Center for Community Solutions

- Federal budget monitoring and advocacy.
- Coordinator/presenter for statewide budget workshops
- Leadership for Human Services Advocates network (Cuyahoga county)
- Field and Legislative Director of groundWork, early childhood initiative
- Designed award winning strategic field plan for groundWork, early care and education campaign.
- Strategic plan implementation; partnership development; mobilization of providers
- Direct advocacy and relationship building with members of the Ohio Legislature
- Training and education

- Planning major advocacy events including candidate forums, rallies, and local site visits with legislators
- Statewide coalition building

Consultant, Membership and Financial Development

Sponsorship and membership development for Ohio City Near West Development Corporation. Success in bringing dollars to Ohio City from 4 of the 6 banks located in the neighborhood. Also succeeded in expanding the membership base.

Lakewood Christian Service Center

Organized food drives, interfaced with Cleveland Food Bank, streamlined food storage and order filling departments.

Field Director

- State field director for the LGBT community during the 2004 election cycle which included leadership development, statewide program development and implementation, program monitoring, and working with a diverse group of people.
- Educated, organized and energized community which included registering 5000 new voters, direct contact with over 20,000 people and utilizing hundreds of volunteers

Business Development

- Owned 2 franchise stores in Charlotte NC
- Created, owned and managed 2 specialty stores in Lakewood, Ohio, which included development of a business plan, design, construction, product mix and purchase, payroll and day to day activities.

Deputy Director, Charlotte-Mecklenburg (NC) Planning Commission

- Managed staff of 17 professionals in fields of physical planning, design, landscape architecture, and historic preservation.
- Responsible for all short and long range planning and for its implementation which included developing strategies to implement, project oversight, and capital budgeting for over \$1 billion in capital needs.
- Coordination with all city and county departments as well as adjacent counties for water and sewer, parks and transportation as well as daily coordination relating to plan implementation, resolving citizen conflict, and assuring a smooth running government.
- Extensive involvement in setting public policy through direct inclusion in city management decision making.
- Extensive interactions/presentations/facilitation of decisions with city and county elected officials concerning plan development and implementation, conflict resolution between boards and commissions, consensus building and visioning, and resolving community conflict.
- Coordination/interaction with University, business and development communities for the purpose of education, advocacy and project review.
- Initiated county wide citizen involvement program which resulted in the creation of over 200 neighborhood groups.
- Leadership in developing nationally recognized planning program.

Leadership

I have had tremendous opportunities for community involvement through my professional career, church and varied other interests.

- Chair: Neighborhood Housing Services, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Academic Internship Program, LGBT Community Center Strategic Planning Committee, Lakewood Caucus of Stonewall Democrats, Various church committees and faith groups.
- President GALA
- Organized community tree planting initiative which included 10,000 plantings and fundraising (\$ 150,000.).
- Created and organized various activities around issues in Northeast Ohio, involving up to 1000 participants.
- Volunteered in multiple social, political, religious and community causes including organizing multi food drives.
- Received the 2009 Ohio AEYC Outstanding Citizen Award for advocacy for young children in Ohio.

Education

Bachelor of Science degree, City and Regional Planning, Iowa State University
Extensive continuing education courses in management, consensus building, strategic planning, community organizing, computers, and personal development.

References

1. Gayle Channing-Tennebaum
Channing and Associates
510 East Mound Street
Columbus Ohio 43215
614-226-3116
2. Margaret Hulbert
Vice President, Public Policy
United Way of Greater Cincinnati
2400 Reading Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
513-226-2961
3. Representative Debbie Phillips, District 92
77 South High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-466-2158
740-590-1371
4. John R. Corlett
Director of Community Relations
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216-272-1723