

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO COUNCIL@LAKEWOODOH.NET

December 13, 2021

Clerk of Council
City of Lakewood
12650 Detroit Road
Lakewood, Ohio 44107

Re: Letter of Interest for Vacant Ward 1 City Council Seat

Dear Clerk of Council:

Please accept this letter as an expression of my sincere and earnest interest to represent the residents of Ward 1 on Lakewood City Council. Less than 45 days ago the voters in Lakewood's Ward 1 voted in an Election for Lakewood City Council. In that Election, I am humbled that the voters of Ward 1 selected me as their top candidate by a margin of over 120 votes in a crowded and competitive race. While that Election was for City Council at Large, it is still very telling of the sentiment of the voters in Ward 1. Now, with the election of Ward 1 Councilperson Tess Neff to Lakewood Municipal Court Judge, City Council has the tough task of appointing her replacement. I believe that the overwhelming support from the voters of Ward 1 is a strong indication of their trust and belief in my as a representative for them and their interests on City Council.

The democratic process aside, Lakewood, and Ward 1 in particular, has helped mold me into the person, professional, father, public servant, and friend that I am today. I grew up in Ward 1 (Rio St.), attended the Lakewood City Schools in Ward 1 (Horace Mann), lived in Ward 1 as a young professional (Rio St.), and am raising my young family in Ward 1 now (Niagara Drive). Ward 1 has a great mix of people, businesses, and assets, and I am very familiar with each corner and neighborhood in Ward 1. I have the lived experience, knowledge, temperament, and history to represent the residents of Ward 1 very well on City Council. I can both quickly and appropriately help residents navigate government and city services and help City Council tackle the development issues facing Lakewood today.

As all of you likely saw during the recent City Council at Large Election, I have a profound respect for public service. When I left Thompson Hine in 2014 for Cleveland Metroparks, it was out of a desire to be a public servant and do work furthering our community. As an inner-ring suburb in Northeast Ohio, Lakewood is at a critical juncture. Lakewood needs to continue to position itself as a community of choice, while at the same time taking care of its aging infrastructure, nurturing a safe community friendly to all, and welcoming appropriate development that fits with the community. I believe that a strong City Council is necessary to help guide and provide vision to keep Lakewood moving forward.

My resume is enclosed, and it shows that I am very qualified to assume the serious and hard work of representing Ward 1 on City Council immediately. I have a unique and varying blend of public, private, and volunteer experience. I have already devoted countless hours to the Lakewood community this past year in the Election and in a volunteer capacity on as a leader with the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation and on the Lakewood Planning Commission. Through my role as Director of Real Estate and Sr. Assistant Legal Counsel for Cleveland Metroparks, I work in the field of real estate and development. Knowledge and experience in that field will be invaluable to City Council as Lakewood navigates some of the most consequential development decisions facing the community in 50 years.

If you have any questions about my qualifications or interest in serving, please call me at (216) 469-1484 or email me at bakerkg@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Kyle G. Baker

Kyle Gerard Baker

2317 Niagara Drive • Lakewood, OH 44107 • (216) 469-1484 (Cell) • Bakerkg@gmail.com

Legal Experience

Cleveland Metroparks, Senior Assistant Legal Counsel & Director of Real Estate, *2016-Present*, Cleveland, OH, Assistant Legal Counsel, Cleveland, OH, *2014-2016*

- Plan, budget, organize, and oversee Real Estate Division of the Legal Department, including, but not limited to land acquisition planning, board management, budgeting, negotiation, environmental, grant resources, closing, and proposed land use changes.
- Provide legal support and counsel to Cleveland Metroparks on general legal matters, including but not limited to real property use and acquisition, procurement of goods and services, professional services agreements, construction contracts, construction bidding, ethics, risk management, insurance, environmental compliance and other legal areas.
- Collaborate with local municipalities on land acquisition, multi-model, regional trail connections, and other park related projects.
- Managed over \$25 Million in land purchases from the capital budget and outside grant funds to preserve nearly 1,400 acres in Northeast Ohio through over 100 real estate closings.
- Provide general organizational legal advice and support day-to-day activities of Cleveland Metroparks when Chief Legal & Ethics Officer is unavailable.

Thompson Hine LLP, Associate (Construction & Government Contracts Groups), Cleveland, OH, *2009-2014*, Summer Law Clerk, Cleveland, OH, *2008*

- Direct involvement in litigation, arbitration, mediation, other forms of dispute resolution, and advising clients regarding private and government procurement and construction contract disputes, bid protests, personal injury claims arising on construction projects, design professional standard of care defense, property tax appeals, mortgage and lien foreclosures, and other construction and business disputes.
- Examples of representative matters include:
 - Represented contractors with claims on public and private construction projects, including claims relating to differing site conditions, design error and omissions, and construction delays.
 - Represented general contractors, project managers, architects, engineers, and other construction professionals in disputes for both private and public projects.
 - Represented clients in contract disputes, design claims, defect claims, delay claims, bond claims, bid protests, false claims act claims, prompt pay act claims, and mechanics lien disputes.
 - Represented the City of Akron in its dispute with the U.S. E.P.A. regarding its combined sewer system.
 - Assisted various clients with bid protests and procurement-related disputes.
 - Assisted and advised various owners in closing out difficult construction projects and evaluating the likelihood of success of dispute resolution for increased project costs.

Barkan Neff Handelman Meizlish Law Offices, Columbus, OH, *2007-2009*

- Responsible for critical legal research, writing tasks, and memoranda drafting for attorneys practicing labor and employment, workers' compensation, and Social Security law.

The Supreme Court of Ohio, Judicial Extern for Justice Maureen O'Connor, *Fall 2008*

- Drafted jurisdictional memoranda, opinions, and bench memoranda, many of which dealt with labor and employment, construction, Ohio Public Records Act, and business law issues.

Ohio House of Representatives, Legal Extern, Columbus, OH, *Spring 2009*

- Assisted the House Majority Counsel with various legal tasks; wrote memoranda and opinion letters pertaining to the constitutionality or practicality of potential legislation.
- Provided the House Finance and Appropriations Committee Chairman with legislative analysis on the budget bill and various other pieces of pending legislation.

Involvement

Community Involvement

- American Constitution Society, Co-Chair of Programming, 2012-2013, 2017-2019, Vice-President, 2014-2016
- Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation, Board of Trustees, Member 2012-2018, President, 2013-2014
- Lakewood Planning Commission, 2015-2020, Vice-Chair, 2019, Chair, 2020
- Cleveland Bridge Builders, Cleveland Leadership Center, Class of 2016
- West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development, Board Member representing Cleveland Metroparks, 2017-2021
- Advanced Leadership Institute, Stokes Fellow, Cleveland Leadership Center, Class of 2021
- Candidate for Lakewood City Council at Large, 2021

Professional Involvement

- American Bar Association
- Ohio State Bar Association
- Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association
- Northeast Ohio Law Directors Association
- Admitted to Practice in State of Ohio
- Admitted to Practice in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio
- Admitted to Practice in the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

Legal Education

Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, June 2009

The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, Columbus, OH

Class Rank: Top 15–20 percent

GPA: 3.54

Honors

- Chief Managing Editor, *Ohio State Journal on Dispute Resolution*, the official publication of the ABA Section on Dispute Resolution. One of eight selected on the basis of writing skill to publish a “recent development” in the field of ADR in the 24th Edition of the Journal.
 - Kyle G. Baker, *Recent Development: Pyett v. 14 Penn Plaza LLC*, 24 Ohio St. J. on Disp. Resol. 641 (2009)
 - Won the “Past Editor’s Award for Outstanding Third Year Leadership”
- First Runner Up, Herman Moot Court Competition. Ranked second in class-wide competition based on oral advocacy and brief writing.
- American Bar Association Moot Court Team. Represented Ohio State at the 200+ school, 2009 American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Competition.
 - Won Top Five Brief Overall
- CALI Award in Banking Law (2008). Received highest grade in Banking Law.
- CALI Award in Legislation Practicum (2009). Received highest grade in Legislation Clinic.
- Research Fellow, Pro Bono Research Group. Selected on the basis of writing and research competition to provide research services to attorneys representing pro bono clients.

Activities

- University of Oxford/Ohio State University Summer Law Program

Pre-Legal Education

Bachelor of Arts, *magna cum laude*, May 2006

Miami University, Oxford, OH

Major: Political Science

Thematic Sequence: Accounting

Overall GPA: 3.80/4.00

Activities

- Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity, Membership Orientation Officer
- Interfraternity Council, Vice President of Fraternal Conduct

References

Available upon request