



APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO YPSILANTI CITY COUNCIL WARD #3 POSITION

Applicant Information

(Please type or print)

Applicant Name BRIAN JONES-CHANCE

Residence Address [REDACTED]

Home Phone [REDACTED]

Work Phone [REDACTED]

E-Mail [REDACTED]

Cover Letter & Resume

Please attach a one page cover letter and a resume of no more than two pages to this application.

Supplemental Questions

Please respond to the following questions regarding your interest in the position of Councilmember for the City of Ypsilanti on separate pages using no more than 3 pages total:

1. Why are you interested in serving as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?
2. What strength would you bring to the Council?
3. What are the three highest priorities and/or issues you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?
4. Explain your current and past community involvement and/or service on city, nonprofit, or public boards, committees, task forces, or commissions and how this has contributed to the Ypsilanti community. Address its relevance to the position of Ypsilanti City Councilmember.
5. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?
6. What is your vision for our City and community?
7. Is there anything else that you may wish to add that would help us get to know you a little better?

Please return (*in person*) this form, your cover letter, resume, and answers to the supplemental questions to the City Clerk, at Ypsilanti City Hall (1 S. Huron St.) **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 6, 2020.**

Applications received after 5:00 p.m. will not be accepted.

The application and any correspondence should be addressed to:

**Andrew Hellenga, City Clerk
City of Ypsilanti
One South Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

Affidavit of Identity

State of MICHIGAN

County of WASHTENAW

I, BRIAN JONES-CHANCE do hereby affirm the following:

Name: BRIAN JONES-CHANCE

Address: [REDACTED]

Date of birth: 6.MAY.1986

I certify under penalty of perjury that the above statements are true and correct.

Signature: [REDACTED] Date: 22.JULY.2020

City of Ypsilanti Clerk Staff Date: _____

BRIAN JONES-CHANCE



Andrew Hellenga
City Clerk
City of Ypsilanti
One South Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL,

I'm writing to express my interest in filling the Ward 1 vacancy on council. I believe I am a strong candidate to fill the position. I offer:

- Six generations of family history in Ward 1
- A strong desire to investigate and eliminate the root causes of problems
- A bias for deliberate action

In my attached resume, I've included recent and relevant experience, which I believe align well with the position. In the summary is a brief statement explaining my reasons for applying. In my answers to the supplemental questions you will find more details regarding how I might be useful.



Brian Jones-Chance

BRIAN JONES-CHANCE



BUSINESS EXPERIENCE

OCTOBER 2007 – PRESENT

REAL ESTATE LICENSEE / BROKER, JONES CHANCE & CO.

Except for a period beginning in 2010, I have been a real estate licensee. Having grown up in Ward 1, I recognize the importance of ownership equity in the built environment, particularly for racial minorities. Increasing that equity is a focus area of my firm, along with assisting small businesses and ethical investors/developers.

SEPTEMBER 2016 – PRESENT

CHAIRMAN & C.O.O., 734 BREWING COMPANY, INC.

734 Brewing Company, Inc. was designed to create and encourage diversity in both the craft beverage industry and Depot Town. As Chairman, I lead the executive team of three Ypsi natives to achieve that mission. As C.O.O., I lead staff while developing new leaders and a pipeline of diverse talent to occupy industry positions at all levels.

PUBLIC & NON-PROFIT EXPERIENCE

FEBRUARY 2020 - PRESENT

BOARD MEMBER, YPSILANTI D.D.A.

I assist in making decisions to direct dollars generated by the TIF district to help the businesses within it. I remember and remind others that there is an opportunity cost inherent in the district for all residents with respect to those dollars and balance my thinking with them in mind.

JULY 2020 - PRESENT

FOUNDING DIRECTOR, ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESSES OF COLOR

Formed in June by a small group who noticed disparities in funds granted through DDA and decided to address it. In my role I steward and steer the group to address inequities and promote growth in local businesses of color.

RELEVANT SKILLS & STRENGTHS

- Deep knowledge of commercial and development real estate deal structures
- Local knowledge of both the area and individuals
- English and Spanish languages
- Judicious fund allocation
- Bridge between public interests, commercial interests, and activism

SUMMARY

Ypsilanti and Ward 1 have been my home and that of many generations of my family. My decision to apply is rooted in a deep love for my hometown and an ardent desire to be useful to it. In the wake of recent events and in the current climate, I believe it is important to tirelessly put whatever skills I have to good use. If selected, I will do just that.

RESPONSES TO SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

1. Why are you interested in serving as an Ypsilanti City Council member?

I believe in the current climate, that I have a responsibility to do whatever I can to advance the causes of justice and equity and to improve the stewardship of resources.

2. What strength would you bring to the Council?

One of my strengths is that I can serve as a bridge between different interests and perspectives. I can help to close gaps between and align commercial interests, public interests, and activism.

3. What are the three highest priorities and/or issues you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?

i. Reduce disparities in policing

- a. Improve working hours for officers. No armed officer should have to make potentially life or death decisions at the end of a 16 hour shift. At best, this results in poor quality police work. At worst, loss of lives of the public or officers.
- b. Review officer candidate selection criteria. It may be beneficial to have more officers who reside in Ypsilanti or those who have more experience.
- c. Strict enforcement of MCL 750.411a False report of a crime or report of a medical or other emergency. There must be zero tolerance for the weaponization of police by citizens against other citizens.

ii. Reduce barriers to housing

- a. Facilitate landlord-tenant mediation to reduce evictions and investigate complaints.
- b. Uncover and reduce barriers to homeownership for current residents of Ward 1.
- c. Facilitate & promote appropriate increase in housing supply to exert downward pressure on rents and home prices.
- d. Spend and save responsibly to limit property tax burden which has a disproportionate impact on our poorest residents.

iii. Increase Percentage of Properties on Tax Rolls/Improve YCS and Library funding

- a. Facilitate and promote responsible new development and construction
- b. Be discerning with respect to City's participation in removal of properties from the rolls, its approval of projects which propose to, and its purchase of properties which could otherwise be taxed.

4. Explain your current and past community involvement and/or service on city, nonprofit, or public boards, committees, task forces, or commissions and how this has contributed to the Ypsilanti community. Address its relevance to the position of Ypsilanti City Council member.

I currently sit on the Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority board as well as its Operations and Finance Committee. I have gained insight into the difficulty inherent in the intersection of business community needs and those of the broader community. I am now comfortable balancing the tradeoffs of a T.I.F. district with the needs of all stakeholders and reminding others that benefits must justify costs. I believe this sort of stewardship mentality would be beneficial if I'm selected to fill the vacancy.