Clintonville Area Commission Candidate Statement Jim Garrison – District 8

I am proud to call Clintonville my home and because of this, I seek a position to serve as District 8's next Clintonville Area Commissioner.

Like most residents of this neighborhood, I have witnessed countless elections of public figures over the years both locally and nationally. I have seen political parties work diligently to pander to constituents with black/white positions on the same platform items that have since come to define the parties and the candidates affiliated with them. I feel that a haze of negativity has also overshadowed the process from candidates and parties attempting to affront their opposition.

When running for a public office, it seems easy to fall into these practices and it is something I oppose.

I come into this candidacy with no set positions on issues aside from having a goal to fairly and positively represent the residents of District 8.

Having lived in Clintonville for 12 years and in District 8 for 10 of those, I have witnessed significant change sharing pride with the positive growth and frustration with the setbacks. I choose to shop locally whenever I can and appreciate the personal connections that come as a result. I also am thankful for larger businesses that have felt our community is worth investing in and who've also employed my neighbors in their stores.

As a professional in the field of architecture with a master's concentration in urban design, I feel that I am well versed in elements of planning, zoning, design, and construction.

As an affiliate of several organizations over the years including the American Institute of Architects, Boy Scouts of America, and even RecyColumbus, I am familiar with the benefits of community and social service.

As a neighbor, partner, father, brother, and son, I also have respect for others and understand how to love someone you might disagree with.

As commissioner, I seek to work towards increasing communication between the Clintonville Area Commission and the residents as well as serve to create beneficial partnerships with the City of Columbus for the betterment of our community. However, I don't undertake this duty lightly as the effort required is undoubtedly relative to the diverse make-up of the area.

I look forward to fostering growth of Clintonville in a way that respects the feelings and needs of the residents.