

RECEIVED 4:53 p.m. 10/31/08
Selma Oliver

**APPLICATION TO FILL THE VACANT CHAPEL HILL CITY COUNCIL SEAT
WILLIAM R. ABB**

A lifetime of service to others is what motivates me to seek the honor of becoming a member of the Chapel Hill City Council. I recently retired as an Army Infantry Lieutenant Colonel and moved my family to Chapel Hill. The sense of community, diversity, high quality schools, and southern hospitality attracted me to this great city. While I closed out my military service to our nation, I would like now to contribute my skills, experience, and leadership toward service to the people of Chapel Hill and to assist in preserving the distinct qualities of the city- the very qualities that lured my family to settle down in Chapel Hill.

My family and I want what everyone wants for a community; a shared sense of responsibility for our future. I believe our challenge is to continually improve the city's capacity to provide the best services to the residents and to grow in a responsible way that does not sacrifice a city's distinct character. We want to live in harmony with nature and our neighbors. We want a safe place to raise our children with great schools that reward excellence, celebrate diversity, build their self esteem, confidence, and intellect to make them competitive in the global workforce and successful in life while also building in them a sense of personal responsibility, of community and a desire to serve others. We want reliable and responsive public services which are managed by those with the highest ethical standards and greatest concern for being stewards of our community's limited resources. We want the best infrastructure possible, from schools to parks to roads and bridges. We want a responsive local government that is attuned to the needs of the taxpayers, transparent in its activities and held to the highest standards. We want a local government that can solve complex problems, willing to make hard decisions, and can communicate those decisions effectively to the tax payers. We want a local government with an eye to the future and a plan for expansion; whether that is managing green space or incorporating new sub-divisions or existing communities.

I know that Chapel Hill is facing a number of critical issues and I want to be a part of fashioning the solution. Whether it's general concerns about safety, gangs, trash pick-up and taxes, or specific issues like an airport in Orange County, elevated levels of harmful chemical in our drinking water, or a new dump, I know I can help develop and implement creative solutions.

In closing, serving on the council will allow me to represent the voices of the many Chapel Hill residents, young, middle aged, and seniors who share the same interest in building a sustainable, safe, and prosperous community for everyone who is so privileged to call Chapel Hill their home.

Sincerely,



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