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10-30-08

Mayor Foy and Town Council:

I am writing to apply for the Town Council vacancy.

I believe there are two significant challenges facing the Chapel Hill Town Council in the next twelve months. Decisions made on these critical issues will have significant long-term implications for our town's future and will shape the character of Chapel Hill for the next several decades.

1. **Navigating the uncertain economy**
2. **Planning and zoning of the Horace Williams property**

My years of public service in Chapel Hill make me uniquely qualified to add value to the Town Council. In order to maximize the Council's effectiveness on these crucial and time-sensitive issues, Council's decision to fill this vacancy should weigh heavily toward a candidate who can hit the ground running.

The Chapel Hill Town Council knows me. You have appointed me to several important Town Boards and Committees, and you have seen my work over many years of community service. You know my love of Chapel Hill and my dedication to continuing to make this a great community in which to live. You have seen my ability to build consensus, to take leadership positions, and the strength and conviction that allows me to take an unpopular position when I believe it's in the best interest of our community.

Here is how my experience will help the Council navigate these two issues in the next year:

#### **Navigating the uncertain economy and its fiscal impact on the Town**

- I have over fifteen years executive experience with profit and loss responsibility. That is the major reason you appointed me in 2004 to the Town Budget Advisory Committee where I gained significant insight into the Town's financial and budgeting processes. I believe the committee's work helped Council make some tough decisions that year in keeping a tax increase to a minimum.
- As an OWASA Budget & Finance Committee member for the past two years, I've gained additional experience in understanding how public entities' budgets and finances work. This committee worked diligently and calmly to navigate the financial implications of the recent severe drought, and to balance OWASA's commitment to continue the Chapel Hill odor abatement project. My experience in these areas will prove very beneficial as Council deals with uncertain economic times, and future implications for Town revenue, bonds, and expenses.

#### **Planning and zoning of the Horace Williams property**

The Council recently agreed with UNC to expedite a new zone for the Horace Williams property. It will be very important for the new Council member to quickly get up to speed on the issues related to the zoning in order to add value to these extremely important negotiations with the University.


- My understanding of the issue comes from my degree in Architecture and work experience with the Pasadena Redevelopment Agency which at the time was engaged in the process of undertaking a major redevelopment initiative in a town that has many similarities to Chapel Hill. In 2004 you appointed me to the Planning Board, where I further expanded my knowledge of local development issues. I subsequently served on the Horace Williams Citizens Committee during the stage of producing the final report outlining the goals and objectives for Carolina North. Work on both boards allowed me to gain valuable experience on the issues the Council will be facing in the next year.
- As President of the Gimghoul Homeowners Association, I advocated for the neighborhood during negotiations concerning the UNC Cobb chiller plant. In this process, I developed a strong and respectful relationship with University officials. As a result, for the past five years, I have been invited to participate in WCHL's annual Town and Gown Relations session, never afraid to probe University officials on issues such as the status of the Horace Williams foundational studies.

A summary of my Chapel Hill community service:

1995 – Present	Board member	Gimghoul Neighborhood Association
2000 – 2004	President	
2004 - 2007	Board Member	Planning Board
2006	Board Liaison	Greenwood Neighborhood Conservation District
2006 - 2007	Member	Tree Protection Committee
2004 - 2006	Board Member	Horace Williams Citizens Committee
2006	Vice-Chairman	
2004 - 2005	Chairman	Town Budget Advisory Committee
2006 – Present	President	Chapel Hill Public Library Foundation
2006 - 2007	Member	Library Building Committee
2007 – Present	Board Member	OWASA
2007 – Present	Member	Budget & Finance Committee
2008 – Present	Chair	Community Outreach Committee

Thank you in advance for your consideration. As a Town, we cannot wait to move forward in shaping the future of Chapel Hill. I feel confident that my expertise and collaborative nature can add a valuable dimension in addressing the challenges and opportunities we face in the next year.

Sincerely,



Gene Pease