



400 S Vine St  
Urbana, IL 61801

## URBANA CITY COUNCIL APPLICATION FOR VACANCY IN WARD 2

Name: Christopher Hansen

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Employer: Self Employed

Occupation: Electrical Engineer

How long have you lived in Ward 2? 18 years

**1. Why do you wish to serve on the Urbana City Council?**

--- See Attached ---

**2. Please list education, training, work experience, community involvement, service on municipal boards and commissions, or any other experience which has prepared you to serve on the Urbana City Council. Attach CV, if desired.**

--- See Attached ---

**3. What do you believe are the most important issues facing Urbana?**

--- See Attached ---

**4. What do you believe are the most important issues facing Ward 2?**

--- See Attached ---

Please list three personal references:

Name --- See Attached ---

Occupation

Address

Phone

Name --- See Attached ---

Occupation

Address


Phone

Name --- See Attached ---

Occupation

Address

Phone

Signed: 

Date:

11/30/20

Please return completed application via email to [CityClerk@urbanaininois.us](mailto:CityClerk@urbanaininois.us) or by mail to:

Urbana City Clerk 400 S Vine St  
Urbana, IL 61801

## **1. Why do you wish to serve on the Urbana City Council?**

The Urbana City Council needs leadership that more accurately represents and reflects the voices of the public. During the past 8 months, it has become clear to me that Urbana needs fresh leadership – individuals who are not strongly tied to existing government and who can stand without constraints. The elected officials of Urbana have largely lost the trust of the community, and we must not continue down this path. The public is demanding responsibility and accountability of their elected officials and public employees. This aligns strongly with my own principles and I wish to see that the residents of Urbana have a more responsible and responsive government.

I have invested myself substantially in the issues of local government over the past few years, and I believe it is incumbent upon me to step up and adjust our path for the better. I do not take this position lightly, and when appointed I expect to expend a substantial portion of my time in this effort. I look forward to the challenges at hand and intend to engage those challenges rigorously. It will bring me substantial meaning to shoulder responsibility at a time when the residents of Urbana really need it.

My primary goal is to close the gap that has been widening between the public and our government. I plan to substantially increase government transparency and accountability, and ensure that Urbana residents do not feel ignored when they approach the Council.

## **2. Please list education, training, work experience, community involvement, service on municipal boards and commissions, or any other experience which has prepared you to serve on the Urbana City Council.**

I received my degree in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois. I started my own electronics business in high school, and continue to run that business today. My business acumen is unique and derived from decades of self-training.

I have attended and participated in numerous municipal meetings, including various boards and commissions in Urbana, Champaign, and Champaign County. I have never served in any official governmental capacity, which is exactly what makes me uniquely qualified for the vacant Urbana City Council seat. The residents of Urbana will not be well-served by yet another politician who is deeply ingrained in the status quo or closely connected to other politicians. At this time, what the public needs most are fresh voices who are not constrained by cronyism and political alliances.

I have lived in Ward 2 as an undergraduate student in the student dormitories, I have lived in Ward 2 in an apartment building as a young professional, and I now live in Ward 2 as a homeowner and business owner. I am intimately familiar with the area, the homes and businesses, as well as the spectrum of residents who reside within Ward 2.

I am well-suited to represent the interests of our large student population, who are often poorly represented in Urbana government and rarely heard.

I have spent countless hours attending police review board meetings in Champaign and Urbana, and have worked hard to see reforms in the police complaint processes. I have been through Urbana's police complaint process as a complainant. I am one in four people, in a decade, to have experienced

the CPRB appeals process. I am already in the process of working with the Urbana CPRB members to see their process improved, and I look forward to doing the same in my capacity as a City Council member.

I have also experienced the Urbana Human Rights complaint and appeal process as a complainant, which gives me unique perspective that almost no other Urbana resident can offer.

Urbana desperately needs police reform and I am uniquely qualified to participate in this reform process. I have been arrested, charged, jailed, and put through the local justice system. Having been completely vindicated in regards to charges for a crime that never even occurred, I am all too-familiar with the mechanisms of corruption and incompetence that are taking place in our justice system.

I am intimately familiar with the many sections of the Urbana City Code, especially the CPRB and HRC ordinances, both of which require immediate attention by the Council. I am very familiar with the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, the Open Meetings Act, the Citizen Participation Act, and the Illinois Constitution. I have repeatedly demonstrated myself more competent in this areas of expertise than City staff, and I have emerged successful in legal arguments against Urbana's Legal Department a dozen or more times.

### **3. What do you believe are the most important issues facing Urbana?**

Clearly, police reform is currently the most important issue to many Urbana residents. The people of Urbana have spoken more loudly and persistently about this issue than any other issue in decades. This issue must not be kicked down the road again, as it has been so many times. Thus far, the residents of Urbana have been deeply dissatisfied with their attempts at communicating with their own government. I wish to change that trend.

The racial disparities, undeniably evident in our justice system, continue to be a deep and long-felt pain among many in our community. The origins of these disparities are not just causing individual injuries and injustices, but are so pervasive and detrimental that they are responsible for widespread damage to the well-being of the community as a whole.

Unfortunately, Urbana has recently headed in the direction of attempting to patch up its problems by unlawfully restricting the free speech of its own residents. This is unacceptable and needs to be ameliorated immediately. Fortunately, for the residents of Urbana, I will accomplish this task on or off the Council.

Economic growth will be one of the most important issues going forward, to help alleviate both the governmental budget problems, and elevate the economic well-being of individual residents. Any opportunities to lower property taxes (or at least limit increases) will also help attract investment and ease housing costs for everyone.

### **4. What do you believe are the most important issues facing Ward 2?**

The MCORE Project has been of major significance to Ward 2 and Urbana in general. I look forward to the new opportunities that Project 5 will bring, but we need to honor the historic neighborhood and make efforts to listen to the concerns of nearby residents.

Infrastructure, particularly roads and sidewalks, remains a noticeable issue throughout Ward 2.

Properly balancing the desire for economic growth with the desire to keep intact the historic charm of the neighborhood has always been an important issue for Ward 2.

Crime is always a concern, and the public wants new solutions to reducing crime that put greater emphasis on solving problems of crime at their origins, and dealing with crime in a way that does not escalate and compound problems.

**Please list three personal references:**

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