

City of Asheville
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
Application Form

APPLICANTS ARE STRONGLY URGED TO ATTEND SEVERAL MEETINGS OF A BOARD PRIOR TO APPLYING AND/OR APPOINTMENT TO A BOARD

Name of board or commission(s): CITY COUNCIL

Your name: JOHN 'JAKE' QUINN Home Phone #: (828) 253-2540

Street address: 428 SUNSET DRIVE City: ASHEVILLE Zip Code: 28804

Mailing address (if different): _____

Employer: RETIRED

Your position: N/A ^{CELL} Office Phone #: (828) 713-1972

Resident of City X County _____ Race W * Sex M * Age 56 *

Are you a United States Citizen (circle one)? Yes or No

Residence location (check one): Central _____ North X South _____ East _____ West _____

How did you become aware of the opening? _____ Webpage _____ Current Volunteer _____ eNews _____
Government Channel _____ Newspaper _____ Radio _____ Organization _____ Agenda X Other _____

Please indicate the area(s) of expertise that you can bring to the above board(s), and then in detail list education, experience, reasons for your interest, and other factors that support your interest in serving (use additional sheets if necessary). Expertise: _____ Legal _____ Technical _____ Fundraising _____ X Community Contacts
X Business Management (Financial) X Business Management (Operational) _____ Public Speaking

[PLEASE SEE ATTACHED SHEETS]

Return to:
Maggie Burleson, City Clerk
Post Office Box 7148
Asheville, N.C. 28802-7148

E-Mail: mburleson@ashevillenc.gov
Telephone: 259-5601
Fax #: 259-5499

Signature: [Signature]

Date: 11/26/08

E-Mail: JQRETIRED@YAHOO.COM

Fax #: (828) 253-2540

* This information is requested for the sole purpose of assuring that a cross section of the community is appointed.

John J. Quinn III
'Jake'
428 Sunset Drive
Asheville, North Carolina 28804
home: (828) 253-2540
cell: (828) 713-1972

Experience: In February 2005 I retired from my Federal career after nearly three decades of service. Most of it I devoted to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, where I served in positions of increasing responsibility -- as an analyst, manager and executive -- over the course of my career.

Major Accomplishments: I resurrected and led the FDIC's statistical publications program, developing products and processes for increasing the quantity and quality of public disclosure of information on the performance of individual banks and the banking industry.

I developed and helped lead the bank regulatory community's recent successful collaborative effort to develop and use state-of-the-art data exchange tools and techniques to improve the timeliness and accuracy of bank financial reporting.

I was a member of the senior executive management team that launched the Resolution Trust Corporation, where we succeeded in containing and defusing the late-80s/early-90s savings and loan crisis.

I managed a geographically dispersed staff of 80 in managing and closing 25 failed thrift institutions in the western U.S., including the largest savings and loan to fail during the S&L Crisis.

I organized the FDIC headquarters chapter of the National Treasury Employees Union. I was the chapter's first president and the lead employee negotiator of the FDIC's first collective bargaining agreement with the NTEU.

Current Civic Activities: Chair, Precinct 17, Buncombe County Democratic Party
Member, Executive Committee, North Carolina Democratic Party
Treasurer, Blue Century (*an unaffiliated 527 group; see www.bluecentury.org*)
Board member, Mountain Voices Alliance (*see www.mvalliance.net*)
Vice president, Grove Park Sunset Mountain Neighborhood Association
Fund-raising volunteer, WNCW 88.7 FM
Volunteer umpire, North Asheville Little League

Education: B.S., Business Administration (Finance & Applied Economics) – June 1975, University of California, Berkeley.

Family: I've been married to Tina Quinn, *nee* Heilman, since 1973. We have two adult sons, Ian and Conor, who live in Maryland.

Application of **Jake Quinn** for City Council

1. What motivates you to apply for this position?

I'd like to have the job description, the office, the colleagues, the pay and the perks of a Council member. And I think I would be good at the job. I feel I know each of the current Council members well enough to be confident in my belief that I can work well with each and all of them.

I enjoy my membership in the Asheville community, participating in civic affairs, and politics. How better to pursue all these than with a position on the City Council? Besides, I could use the job.

2. Where do you fall on the conservative-liberal spectrum in terms of fiscal and social policy?

In fiscal matters I tend toward the conservative. I value an excellent credit rating, a balanced budget, shrewd funds management, and accountability in service delivery and expense control. I am sensitive to tax burden, but I do not like debt, especially general obligation bonds, believing they are a last-resort funding source. I believe that in the public arena, every official's job includes being an effective steward of the community's resources.

In social matters I tend toward the progressive. I value inclusivity over exclusivity, transparency over opacity. I value the rights of all citizens to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I believe that government exists to safeguard these rights, to provide for the common welfare, and to help those who are least able to help themselves. Still, I am wary of a penchant that government has to grow larger than it need be, and to be meddlesome or unresponsive when it should be helpful.

3. In your eyes, what should be the top 2 or 3 priorities our City Council should be focused on in the upcoming year and why?

First, safeguard the City's balance sheet. This means increasing budgetary discipline while conserving real assets. Economic strains will challenge the City to be as prudent as possible in its fiscal activity. Maintaining sound finances and infrastructure will position the City well for the future.

Second, it is vital to the City's interests that we pursue improved relations with Buncombe County government. We can save money by resolving disputes. And we should explore opportunities for cooperation on issues such as expense control and regional planning and development. Going forward we would do well as a community to approach resource and environmental issues collaboratively on a more broadly regional basis. And we will be more successful in Raleigh if we can play as a regional team.

Third, there has been a good deal of time, effort and inspiration invested in the various plans that help guide civic activities. Some examples include the

Parks & Greenways Master Plan, the Wilma Dykeman RiverWay Plan, the Comprehensive Bicycle Plan, the 2005 Pedestrian Plan, the new Downtown Master Plan, the UDO, and the 2025 Plan. By taking the step of consolidating these into one master plan, we can offer a clearer picture of where we are heading as a community. This would entail identifying any discrepancies among the various plans and establishing a process for resolving them, as well as developing plain-language summaries of rules and regulations. The intended benefit is to make it easier to live, work and do business in the City, with greater predictability in the development and planning processes. A big undertaking, but not expensive, and definitely worth the effort.

4. What do you consider the most crucial problem, need, or cause for the citizens of Asheville? How would you approach its resolution or champion the cause?

Sustainability. We need to look to the sustained affordability of living, working, running a business, and raising a family in the beautiful city of Asheville, while making sure we keep it beautiful. The problem touches on many issues: housing, jobs, transportation, development, tax burden. In that regard, here are some things the community needs to focus on:

- Promoting job creation, and diversifying the economic base beyond tourism and health care.
- Ensuring that small businesses and long-time residents are not forced from their property by property tax burden.
- Promoting green development to preserve the environment and limit future resource demands.
- Ensuring that housing stock is available across market segments.
- Pursuing public transit options to meet public needs.

Addressing the broad issue of sustainability requires that we consider it in every matter that comes before the City; I would always look at issues through the sustainability lens. Success will require focus, imagination and collaboration, and taking advantage of opportunities as they present themselves.

5. 2008-09 and 2009-10 fiscal years will be financially tough for the City. What will be your top funding priorities and what would you like to see reduced to balance the budget?

I would want to consult with the City Manager and members of the City Council to tackle this one properly. That said, in the near term I see Public Safety and Community Development as top funding priorities. I would look for reductions in Environment and Transportation and in Parks and Recreation, and seek opportunities in funds management to control debt service expense and boost investment earnings.

I also would seek opportunities to leverage Asheville's abundance of public-spirited citizens and volunteers to fill resource gaps, as well as opportunities to collaborate at the county level on expense controls and at the state level to develop new revenue sources.