

From: [Heather Rodenberg](#)
To: [Council Clerk](#)
Subject: City council public comment
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Dear Mayor and members of city council,

I am writing to submit my name for consideration for our city planning commission. Because an application process hasn't been created or shared, I am sending this email. As a member of this community, who works in healthcare and is clergy, I bring a unique perspective. Our city has grown and will continue to grow in the months and years ahead. However, one thing that hasn't changed is access to healthcare. We have no healthcare facilities available between central ave's urgent care, and Marion general hospital to the north of us. This will become an issue with the Addison development that is being built north of town. And, as local residents have seen over the past year, access to PCP's is becoming limited because we have more people than our healthcare system can provide for. Residents in Delaware should be able to get the care needed in their hometown.

I admit, I don't know everything about what goes into city planning, but I am willing to learn and be creative in the process. As our city continues to grow, we will also need to be aware of the impact this will have on our local school system. The school system in Delaware is already struggling to keep up with the number of students. Parents should be able to get the education their child deserves within our city instead of venturing out to other areas like the Olentangy School District. Residents of Delaware pay their taxes for these resources and we need to be aware of how our growing city is affecting every aspect of the resources we have.

Our city is also very much in need of more affordable housing options. This is not just for new home buyers, but those who have lived in our city for decades and now live on retirement. We can't tax out those who are retired. They have been a pillar in this community and have helped this community grow. For example, a local neighbor of mine has to continue to work to afford taxes on her home that she raised her children in. The pandemic didn't help in the process of housing, we also need to be aware of those in our community that struggle to find a home to live in and are homeless. We need options for these residents. This is why I want to help in serving our city.

While our city has done amazing things over the years, it is also a time for changing of the guards, you could say. I have family that served in the military and as my father-in-law has said, if you do the same thing over and over again and it doesn't work, it's time for change. He served 9 years in Vietnam and understands. It's time for change in our city. It's time to think outside the box and I am willing to do that for our city.

Rev. Heather Rodenborg
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