



Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan
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April 25, 2023

Via email: mweiss@universityheights.com

Michele Weiss, Vice Mayor

RE: City Council Vacancies

Dear Vice Mayor Weiss:

In the interest of putting residents of University Heights first and to better serve them, I am writing to you to request you make improvements to the city council vacancy appointment process:

- 1. CORRECT THE PROCESS TO REFLECT OPENLY THE NEED TO FILL TWO VACANCIES.** Not only do we need to fill the seat vacated by Justin Gould, we need to fill the seat that soon will be vacated by Council Member Barbara Blankfeld. Two separate processes in two months are not in the best interest of residents, or an effective use of anyone's time. Nor would it be appropriate to bypass a second process and return to the same application pool when the public and applicants were not aware that there are actually two positions to be filled.
- 2. OPEN THE INTERVIEW PROCESS TO THE PUBLIC.** As done elsewhere and recently in Cleveland Heights, the interviews should be public. The best disinfectant is always sunshine. The residents of University Heights should hear from those who wish to represent them on council. By holding the interviews in public, it will help assure residents and applicants that the process is open and honest, and that the outcome is not predetermined.
- 3. RESIGNATION TIMING.** It was unfortunate that Mr. Gould missed three straight council meetings plus committee meetings over the course of two months (perhaps because he had already resigned his day job a month prior and was out-of-state setting up his new home), then returned to vote on items at the April 17, 2023 meeting before resigning at the end of the meeting. It is in the best interest of the residents of University Heights not to repeat the same mistakes with departing Council Member Blankfeld. Residents are not well served by someone voting on items, much less an item of great importance like a council appointment, by someone who herself has already planned to

move out of the City in about a month. As such, Mrs. Blankfeld should resign today, and the process to fill both vacancies should begin now.

We have just begun the process to fill the first vacancy. Since we now know a second vacancy is imminent, we should be looking to fill both positions with integrity and as a matter of stability.

We should be looking to avoid further disruption of city business. We saw just yesterday a Service and Utilities Committee Meeting postponed due to the current council vacancy. Putting our residents first and moving the city forward, as a matter of good governance we should minimize the period of disruption and allow the process under the charter to begin now as to both vacancies.

At this time, I thank Barbara Blankfeld for her service. I know she loves this community and wants the best for it. By resigning today, Mrs. Blankfeld will minimize disruption to city government, instead of extending the current disruption in city council for an additional month. I urge that she submit her formal resignation to the Clerk of Council by close of business today.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter. As always, I am as near as your telephone.

Very truly yours,



Michael Dylan Brennan
Mayor

CC: Members of the University Heights City Council
Clerk of Council Kelly Thomas
Law Director Luke McConville