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90 West Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215
www.columbuscitycouncil.org
614/645-7380
FAX 614/645-6164



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL

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To: Michael B. Coleman, Mayor

From: Matt Habash, President, Columbus City Council

CC: Council Members
Dru Garland, Appointment Coordinator, Mayor's Office
Gary Cavin, Deputy Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office

Date: March 23, 2004

Subject: *Appointment of Jack W. Decker to serve as Council's designee on the Victorian Village Commission*

By virtue of CCC 3331.01 which states:

*The Victorian Village commission, consisting of nine (9) members, is hereby established. All members shall be appointed by the mayor and shall serve without compensation. Council recommends that appointments to the Victorian Village commission be made from professions and individuals, such as, but not limited to, one (1) architect; one (1) business person from the commercial area located in or adjacent to the district; **one (1) designee of council**; one (1) member of the administrative staff of the mayor; and five (5) members recommended by the Victorian Village Society, all five (5) of whom reside in, own a business with a building in, or own property in the Victorian Village.*

City Council would like to recommend the appointment of **Jack W. Decker** to serve on the **Victorian Village Commission** replacing David Neubauer with a new term expiration date of 6/30/2006. Mr. Decker's cover letter and resume is attached for your review.

Thank you for your consideration.

JACK W. DECKER

(614) 291-6584

Attorney at Law

1077 Neil Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43201-3438

August 4, 2003

Rob Pettit, President
Victorian Village Society
P.O. Box 10792
Columbus OH 43201
Re: Victorian Village Commission

Dear Rob:

I am writing to express my interest in serving on the Victorian Village Commission.

As a homeowner in the neighborhood since 1980, I have had numerous opportunities to appear before the Commission and have often considered seeking a seat on it myself. Unfortunately, I have usually had conflicting commitments on many Thursday nights, but these will permanently end this month.

In a long career as a lawyer in the public sector, representing State regulatory agencies, I have had the opportunity to observe and participate in how government should (and on occasion, should not) work. The Victorian Village Commission fulfills an important role in our neighborhood, not only in assuring that improvements are historically appropriate and protecting the appearance of the neighborhood, but also in serving as one of the most frequent points of contact between Victorian Village residents and the City. It goes without saying that if the Commission is to expect residents to adhere to guidelines when renovating their own properties, then residents have the right to expect their Commissioners to be prompt, prepared and attentive to their concerns. While occasional conflicts with unreasonable residents cannot be avoided, Commissioners should strive to maintain a helpful, rather than adversarial, relationship with their neighbors.

If nominated and appointed, I would be guided by these principles in serving our neighborhood. Thank you for your assistance and consideration.

Very truly yours,

JACK W. DECKER

RESUME

JACK W. DECKER

1077 Neil Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43201
(H) (614) 291-6584; (O) (614) 466-6975

Victorian Village homeowner since 1980 (and resident intermittently 1974-80), with a long history of neighborhood commitment and involvement, including:

- Victorian Village Society – Member since early 1980's, active in numerous Society activities.
- Spring-Sandusky Interchange Improvement Traffic Task Force – On behalf of the Victorian Village Society, helped to negotiate Overall Traffic Management Plan with the Columbus Public Service Department, Transportation Division, containing street improvements and other measures to address impact of Spring-Sandusky Interchange on Victorian Village and surrounding historic neighborhoods. Agreement resolved decade of unproductive, occasionally acrimonious, relationship between City and neighborhood regarding traffic issues.
- Brickstreet Arts Association – Treasurer – Association has erected sculpture in Harrison West neighborhood near Third Avenue, is developing public art for pocket parks along High Street in the Short North, and supports other public art projects.
- Volunteer Activities – Numerous volunteer activities in support of neighborhood events such as the Victorian Village Society Tour of Homes and Doo-Dah Parade (since 1984).
- Home Restoration – Restored one home in Victorian Village and have nearly completed renovation of current residence.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE:

Assistant Attorney General

Ohio Attorney General's Office
140 East Town Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6001

October 1989 to present

Accomplished and creative attorney with broad experience representing State regulatory agencies. Outstanding record of success in employment, civil rights and

general litigation at trial and appellate levels in diverse forums. Among first to be **certified as Specialist in Labor and Employment Law** by the Labor and Employment Law Specialty Board of the Ohio State Bar Association, effective January 1, 2002. Additional responsibilities have included:

Principal Assistant Attorney General, Employment Law Section. July 1996 to present. Functionally supervise less experienced Assistant Attorneys General in selected employment litigation in federal and state courts. Maintain own caseload and assist attorneys from other sections upon request. Organize and present continuing legal education seminars for State-Federal Relations Working Group.

Coordinator, Collective Bargaining Unit, Employment Law Section, October 1991 to July 1996. Litigated employment-related and other matters, primarily in federal courts. Conducted or supervised all litigation for Ohio Office of Collective Bargaining affecting the Ohio Public Employee Collective Bargaining Act before State Employment Relations Board and in state and federal courts.

Chief, Mental Health/Retardation Unit, Federal Litigation Section, April 1991 to October 1991 when section was disbanded. Oversaw all litigation on behalf of Ohio Departments of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Youth Services, and supervised 14 part-time attorneys general conducting commitment hearings.

Federal Litigation Section, October 1989 to April 1991.

Department Counsel

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Transportation Department
180 East Broad Street, 5th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

May 1986 to September 1989

Staff Counsel

Communications Workers of
America/Council of Public Workers
50 West Broad Street, 2nd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

January 1983 to August 1985

General Practitioner

November 1978 to May 1986

LEGAL EDUCATION:

Capital University Law School
Columbus, Ohio 43206

Juris Doctor
May 1978

HONORS AND ACTIVITIES:

Executive Notes Editor, Capital University Law Review. Final responsibility for editing and production of all student writing for the Review, 1977-78. **Staff**, 1976-77.

Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, 1975-78. **Justice** (President), Hayes Chapter, 1976-77.

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION:

Marietta College
Marietta, Ohio 45750

B.A., Psychology
May 1971

Haverford College
Haverford, Pennsylvania 19041

September 1967 to
January 1969

SECONDARY EDUCATION:

Marietta High School
Marietta, Ohio 45750

H.S. Diploma
Valedictorian, Class of 1967

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS:

Federal, Ohio and Columbus Bar Associations

Columbus Bar Association Lawyers' League Softball - Manager

Civil War and Nineteenth Century American History

REFERENCES are available upon request