

## **Candidate Statements 2019 HICKORY RIDGE VILLAGE ELECTIONS**

### **VILLAGE BOARD CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS - Five candidates for five seats**

#### **SKYE ANDERSON (Clary's Forest)**

Last year at this time, I said I would work to increase village participation by residents of our apartments, condos and townhouses, starting with those in Clarys Forest where I have lived for 30 years. I have reached out to many of them and started additional personal communication with residents. I also have attended village events that I had not attended in the past or for a while (story hour, BINGO night) and attended my regular events like the pool party and luncheon. The Board now has business cards to give out so you can reach us more easily and I would like board members to be recognized when we attend village functions for us to become more approachable.

If re-elected, I will continue my village activities (I am retired) and continue to educate myself and my neighbors on village issues. Please exercise your right to vote.

#### **LATONYA BLAND (Hawthorn)**

My name is LaTonya Bland and I have been a member of the village board for two years. My family and I have lived in Hickory Ridge for several years and plan on being here for many more. I work in the community management field and understand that one of the top priorities of every homeowner is to protect the value of his or her home.

My goal is to maintain the desirability of Hickory Ridge as a coveted and appealing community to live and raise a family. I will accomplish this by thoughtful consideration of each decision that the Board makes and will fairly and appropriately represent all residents. A focus for me are the issues and actions that will have the impact of preserving and hopefully increasing the values of our homes in this booming neighborhood. I would appreciate your vote. Thank you.

#### **JESSAMINE DUVALL (Clemens Crossing)**

Columbia residents are witnessing a pivotal period in our town's history. Fifty years after Columbia's birth as a "New City," we are finally seeing the conclusion of its planned development. The significant construction happening in Downtown Columbia will certainly have an indirect impact on our village. Meanwhile, we are facing our own changes with the proposed redevelopment of our beloved Hickory Ridge shopping center.

If re-elected to the Village Board, I will do everything I can to ensure that Hickory Ridge remains a community of choice for decades to come while also working to retain the charm that has drawn residents to our village for the past 40+ years. This is challenging, important work, and it would be a privilege to continue to serve in this volunteer role for another year.

**FRED JOHNSTON (Clemens Crossing)**

My name is Fred Johnston and I have been a Hickory Ridge resident for over 15 years. My family and I moved to this village because it has the best of what Columbia offers - quiet tree lined streets and paths, good schools, a diverse population, parks and pools. Redevelopment of the Hickory Ridge Village Center remains a central challenge for Hickory Ridge. The development of the Brightview Senior Living community and all of the ongoing changes to Town Center will have a significant impact on life in Hickory Ridge. If re-elected to the Village Board, I will continue do all I can to ensure that our village not only survives the changes, but thrives in the years to come.

**ALLISON SULTAN (Clemens Crossing)**

For the past three years it has been my privilege to serve as a member of the Hickory Ridge Village Board and see the spirit of our community in action. Together, we are tackling a very important question – what we want Hickory Ridge to look like 5, 10, even 20 years from now. It is a question that has brought out the best of our village – residents who care deeply. We’ve not always agreed with one another, but I have tried at all times to conduct myself and our meetings in a respectful, open, and efficient way. And beyond the matter of redevelopment I have especially enjoyed working to bring engaging events, services, support, and opportunities to our residents. I truly believe that Hickory Ridge is the gem of Columbia and I ask for your vote to continue my service on the village board. Thank you.

**COLUMBIA COUNCIL CANDIDATE’S STATEMENT – One candidate for one seat**

**RAFIA SIDDIQUI (Clary’s Forest)**

I am a longtime Hickory Ridge homeowner and a certified public accountant (CPA) with over 30 years of service to the Columbia Association (CA), to include serving as Vice President of Administration and Chief Financial Officer from 1995 to 2011. I helped CA achieve milestones that included obtaining an AA bond rating, paying off \$90 million in bond debt and establishing a self-insurance trust that saves CA millions of dollars in insurance premiums. I have also served on the boards of numerous non-profit organizations, in Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer capacities.

I would be honored to have the opportunity to represent our Village’s interests on the CA Board of Directors. I will listen to our Village members’ concerns and bring my wealth of knowledge and experience to the CA Board of Directors to benefit our Village and Columbia.

Rafia Siddiqui

Hickory Ridge lien payer since 1985