

Commissioner Edward “Ted” Terry
DeKalb County Board of Commissioners
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, GA 30030

September 23, 2024

Dear Commissioner Terry,

I am Juaney A. Lynn-Rigsby. I live in the Bouldercrest Overlay at which is in District 3-6, unincorporated DeKalb County. I would appreciate your appointing me to the DeKalb County Zoning Board of Appeals. Although, I have been a resident of DeKalb County for a relatively short period of time, approximately six years, I have been involved in the community the entire time starting when my neighbors and I began working to stop the rezoning of the illegal businesses operating on East Conley Rd. That experience introduced me to many of the rules, regulations, and procedures for zoning in DeKalb County, as well as many of the processes of the Planning and Sustainability Department. Before coming to DeKalb I was an active community member in Clayton County and was appointed to one of its task forces by the Chair of the Board of Commissioners.

I learned to be involved in my community through my parents in Detroit Michigan. My parents were block club presidents and community council presidents. My mother eventually became a member of “New Detroit,” a civic business, resident and government organization founded after the Detroit riots. My father decided to become a real estate developer after retiring from the Ford Motor Company. I learned advocacy and balance very early.

My premise, communities are made up of people. People need houses, retail store, recreation and entertainment venues, services like hospitals, fire stations and places of employment. But these entities are sometimes in

conflict with each other due to the very nature of their activities, especially when they abut each other. The Zoning Board of Appeals is the last arbiter and decides the future of a community with every decision.

I have a Bachelor of Science in Education from Eastern Michigan University, an MBA from Emory University, and a Doctorate in Law and Policy from Northeastern University. I am a National Training Laboratory certified Organizational Development Specialist and a certified Episcopal Eucharistic minister. Prior to retirement, I spent thirty plus years as an advocate for educators as a National Education Association field staff member working in over thirty states across the country with very diverse populations as a negotiator, arbitration advocate, trainer, political and community organizing consultant, staff manager and Executive Director. Good schools are also a passion of mine.

Although I am not now, nor will I ever be interested in being an elected public official, I do understand politics. I believe my skills, experience, respect for law and overall viewpoint would be a great benefit to the Zoning Board of Appeals and DeKalb County. I respectfully request this appointment. If you have questions about my viewpoint or background, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Juaney a. Lynn-Rigsby