

## **Colonial Hills - Advocates Together (CHAT) | CANDIDATE SURVEY**

Below are four questions our newly formed group, CHAT (Colonial Hills - Advocates Together) would like you to answer. CHAT's mission is empowering neighbors to act on issues that are important to the health, vitality, and safety of our community.

Colonial Hills has about 700 residences with maybe twice that number of voters. While CHAT will not be endorsing candidates in this election, we will share your responses with the Colonial Hills Community as we receive them.

Please respond in about 600 characters (more if you have important relevant details to share, less if it is all general platitudes) with actionable suggestions.

### **Yes or no, do you agree that there should be no significant new traffic introduced into the Colonial Hills neighborhood? How will you ensure this in the future?**

Absolutely, I agree. I grew up in Worthington so I understand the concern. If elected, I will oppose connecting Route 161 with Indianola Avenue. This is the only way to stop the new traffic.

### **What improvements to Colonial Hills do you propose?**

First, less train noise for residents. If elected, I will work to get the train companies to stop blasting their horns through Colonial Hills along Indianola Avenue. This will require new railroad crossings that could be funded with state and federal grants. Council considered this years ago, but dropped the idea. Why did they give up?

Second, we can make our parks a little better. Park Boulevard Park - making the sledding hill safer, smoother and a better ride, possibly adding steps to help kids/parents get back to the top after a ride; Selby Park - possibly building a new shelter house with Colonial Hills residents advising on design; and Indianola Park - just keeping it nice and functional for its normal uses - tennis and playground activities.

### **How do you propose to upgrade the water system in Worthington?**

I would work with the State of Ohio and our congressional representatives to seek grant funding, including the Ohio Water Development Authority. Most of the candidates running this year do not know where to look for funding to fix these frustrating problems. I do. In addition, I can help give us the best chance we've got. Ultimately, we need a city council that prioritizes this rather than spending \$3M on McCord Park - a worthwhile project but not nearly as important as fixing our water system in Colonial Hills.

### **How would you diversify and stabilize the revenue stream in the City of Worthington?**

Cities in Ohio collect income tax where jobs exist and not where people live. This means that \*offices\* generate tax revenue for the city, but generally speaking, housing and apartments \*do not\* generate money. Some members of city council don't seem to realize this for whatever reason.

In fact, housing/apartment developments are likely to \*lose\* money for the city after you consider the various services they require - police, fire, EMS service and other city services - while paying little to nothing in taxes.

Unfortunately, some of our city leaders act like building a mini-Easton or Grandview Yard at UMCH would be the answer - when in reality housing/apartments and even retail don't generate much for the city.

Voters should therefore support candidates who understand city economics and who support building \*primarily offices\* and parks at locations like UMCH, Harding Hospital and on Wilson Bridge. These are the least likely to exacerbate overcrowding in our schools (offices don't generate students) and create less traffic.

Voters should \*not\* support candidates who are easily swayed to support developers who want to build apartments at UMCH. If that happened, the city would lose money while the developers make money. Of course, it is obvious why developers think this is a good idea and work hard to sell it to residents.

If you want proof, ask the city what they collect from you on income tax (if you live in a house or apartment). The correct answer in most cases is technically "nothing" because most residents work in Columbus and Worthington does not receive any shared income tax revenue with Columbus. The small amount of property tax the city collects from housing is not enough to pay the bills.