

Dear Mayor Lewis and City Council

My name is Justin Passick, and I would like to put myself in the running for the open seat on the city council. I have lived in Charlotte for all of my 32 years and have seen the town undertake both positive and negative changes through the years. Frankly I'm at a point where I'd like to have a greater influence over the future of our home and hopefully make it a far more interesting place to live and work.

I've held many different positions throughout the local area. For years now I have done contract work with Siren Shelter which allows me to interact with some of our least-privileged citizens. I spent a season working for Sensations Memory Care helping to improve the lives of those with a horrifying illness. For over a year I was a security guard watching over the abandoned O-I glass factory. I've helped at the local game store making acquaintances with a people from all walks of life. I write on both my own website and professional outlets about local celebrations and even involved myself in some of those events like the Freakshow Film Fest which later evolved into the Threadbare Mitten Film Festival. On a few occasions I've worked directly under people, caring for pets or lawns. I've even hosted a few programs on our own cable access channel. Suffice to say I've been everywhere and seen some of the best and worst of what this town has to offer.

There are a variety of elements I'd like to see improved around Charlotte. Some are fairly simplistic, while others could have major lasting effects on the community. I'd like to list a few ideas.

1. Create a studio room in one of our buildings, perhaps the historic courthouse for citizens to rent in order to film content for their Youtube channels or our own cable access station. The rental fees could be used to help maintain those historic sites.
2. Possibly build a raised crossing on Cochran Ave from Tirrell Hwy. As it currently stands, the last marked pedestrian crossing on the south end of Cochran is at 4<sup>th</sup> Street, and it is an incredibly dangerous spot to cross during the day. Since the city already owns the armory property, that could be used as a building site for a raised crossing giving people more options to reach Bennett Park and the fairgrounds safely .
3. A common complaint among people my age is the lack of better eating choices in town. A good deal of our restaurants are lacking in healthy options, decent menus, and service for anyone who doesn't strictly live the standard 9-5 lifestyle. Even attracting something as basic as a Denny's franchise would be a vast improvement on our current offerings.
4. Our city services far more than the local populace. People from surrounding communities like Olivet, Vermontville, Bellevue, and Eaton Rapids come here to work and shop. In some cases we have a surplus of options to meet the demand. Currently We have four or five automotive stores, at least five cell-phone retailers, yet we only have two proper grocery stores which are frequently low on stock. There should be an effort to encourage or attract more useful businesses.
5. Probably the biggest improvement I'd like to see in Charlotte is a good major employer. Far too many of the jobs available within city limits are low-earning, part-time service positions with little future. Anything more lucrative such as Spartan Motors has a lousy reputation among the populace. Attracting anything that could give our people decent jobs in town would be a revelation.

It would be an honor to have so much as a chance at accomplishing anything that would make Charlotte a stronger community. I hope to get such an opportunity.

Justin D. Passick