

Mr. Peterson, Mayor Tomita, Vice-Mayor Brock, Dr. Fowler, & Mr. Wise,

This is not an easy letter to write, as Ralph was a close friend, and two weeks after he passed it's still hard to believe he's not here. Ralph was also a mentor, and I know he would want me to put my name in for the remaining two years of his term.

But there is more to my interest than my relationship with Ralph. I have always had an interest in public service, but with my focus on raising two kids mostly by myself, I did not get really active until I ran for the Johnson City Board of Education in the spring of 2013. I attended most School Board meetings for four years before being elected to the School Board in 2016, and I am currently the Vice-Chairman. I started serving on the Johnson City Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in 2015, and I am currently the Chairman. I have been on numerous committees for both boards, met a number of times with our local legislators both here and in Nashville, and participated in a number of joint meetings between the Parks and Recreation Board and the Board of Commissioners, including leading one of those meetings.

With all of that experience, attending numerous Commission meetings, numerous meetings and conversations with current Commissioners and our City Manager, and of course countless conversations with Ralph covering everything from city to schools to family, I have a much broader perspective than just schools and Parks and Recreation. One of the reasons Ralph and I connected so quickly and so well was that we were both very analytical and detail oriented. (Although I've still yet to meet anyone that researched the details as thoroughly as Ralph did.)

I am an independent software developer and computer consultant, so I analyze systems and issues on a regular basis and find and implement solutions. I have a great relationship with my fellow School Board members and Superintendent, and we work well together. I know I can work well with our City Commissioners and City Manager.

I am also very active in the community. I am an Elder and Budget Team Chairman at Lone Oak Christian Church, I am the current and past President of the Tri-Cities Road Club, and I have helped promote and run numerous cycling races and events in the area. I am a member of the Chamber of Commerce through my Norris Bicycles shop, which also adds to my relationships and knowledge of local businesses.

I have lived in Johnson City since coming to Milligan College in 1984, and I plan to stay in this beautiful city. This is where my late wife and I decided to raise our family. I would love to continue to see Johnson City keep moving forward. The city has made great strides in downtown, and that momentum is moving to areas connecting to downtown. We need to keep that progress going with all of Johnson City, and work with others in our region to promote our entire region. Promoting Johnson City and promoting our region are not mutually exclusive – they work together, and can only help each other.

I realize that if I am appointed that I will have to step down from the Board of Education. That was a difficult part of my decision to submit this letter, as I thoroughly enjoy serving on the School Board, and I believe I have been very effective in that role. I am confident that I can fulfill the role of City Commissioner, and I know first-hand that serving as a Commissioner does not preclude making decisions about Johnson City Schools. I look forward to the opportunity to meet with the City Commission to explore my comments and answer any questions in more detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Kinnick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "K".

Jonathan Kinnick