

INIE Candidate Questionnaire - Spring 2020

The Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence (INIE) is a non-profit management support organization. The mission of INIE is to strengthen the capacity and impact of the nonprofit sector through education, collaboration and advocacy. We are comprised of over 180 members with a reach of over 2,400 registered nonprofit organizations.

Collaboration with all sectors is vital to having a vibrant community and a thriving nonprofit ecosystem that is prepared to serve the needs of all residents in the Tallahassee and surrounding area.

Please complete and submit this questionnaire to provide YOUR VOICE regarding the nonprofit sector. We ask that this questionnaire be SUBMITTED by FEBRUARY 21st. We will release candidates' responses, including "no response", to our members and the public on Friday, February 28th.

We commend you for your desire to serve our community and look forward to hearing YOUR VOICE. Thank you.

Email address *

Cabaide@aol.com

Candidate Name *

Curtis Richardson

Name of desired commission seat and/or position. *

City Commission, Seat 2

1. Please describe how you have been personally involved in, supported, or been affected by the nonprofit sector. *

The nonprofit sector plays a critical role in our community. Most often short-staffed and under-funded, the organizations in this sector play a vital role in improving the quality of life of individuals, families and groups in our community. These organizations provide assistance in a wide variety of areas including healthcare, housing, nutrition, childcare, education, employment training and many others. In order for them to be successful to helping those in need they depend upon the assistance of those willing to contribute to their cause(s). My family and I have been involved in many of these organizations in several capacities. We have donated thousands of dollars in support to a number of nonprofit organizations. My wife and I have served on the Board of Directors of a variety of nonprofits helping to shape policy and the direction of the organization. In addition, we volunteer countless hours to the various projects and services offered by nonprofits in the community. We owe to our neighbors in need to support those organizations that charged with providing services to them and improving their quality of life.

2. There are over 2,400 nonprofit organizations registered in Tallahassee and they have an economic impact of \$3.1 Billion in Revenue. How do you plan to ensure that the nonprofit sector has a voice in the decisions being made in the commission? *

The City Commission has made it a priority to include the community in the decision making process of city government. Whenever we make important decisions affecting the community, we reach out to the community in a variety of ways to offer feedback and input on those issues facing us as a commission. We have opportunities for individuals and groups to be involved on advisory task forces and committees that help to shape policy including the fiscal decisions of government. An prime example of that is the nonprofit's sector's involvement with Community Human Services Partnership (CHSP). Those involved in the nonprofit sector help us to decide how millions of dollars provided by the city will be distributed to those organizations that provide services to those in need in the community.

3. How would you use the nonprofit sector to advance the vitality of our community? *

The nonprofit sector has to be a major partner in advancing the vitality of our community of our community. Local government is limited in what it can provide to its residents and the funding we can allocate to meet their needs. The nonprofit sector, in partnership with government, can help to improve the quality of life of those in need in the community. Working together we can address the challenges facing our community and make it a better place to live for all who call Tallahassee home and those who choose to visit our "All America" city. We can work together to improve ever sector of our city and make those areas and neighborhood safe, attractive and vibrant places to live and work.

4. What suggestions do you have to improve the financial deficit that exists among nonprofits to serve the needs of our community? *

Unfortunately the needs of many of those in the community continue to grow almost exponentially and the costs of addressing those needs rise at an even faster pace. Thus, many nonprofits see themselves looking for various sources of funding to serve their clients. The city has played a major role in this through the funding we provide through the CHSP funding. We have increased the allocation for the CHSP by millions of dollars and even funded some nonprofits that are not eligible for the CHSP. We must be active participants in helping our nonprofits to find the funding they need to be successful. Each of us must make a personal commitment to donate to these organizations and volunteer our time and effort to their causes and projects. We are always open and receptive to ideas from the nonprofit sector as how we can assist garnering more funding for them. Encouraging private sector financial support is one of those ways.

5. 1 in 10 jobs in Tallahassee are in the nonprofit sector. If our community is concerned about retaining and attracting talent, how would you encourage government leaders to assist in growing the workforce in the social sector? *

One way we can grow the workforce in the social sector is to introduce students to the opportunities for employment in that sector. This can be done by partnering with our educational institutions to get students involved in the activities of our nonprofit agencies and expose them to the needs that exist. Job fairs and trade shows such as Leon Works is one example of how this is working in our community. The City of Tallahassee provides opportunities for students to be involved in the nonprofit sector through our Tallahassee Future Leaders Academy(TFLA). We can also provide internship opportunities for students who might be interested in a career in the social sector to give them experience and a birds eye view of how rewarding work in this sector can be.

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