

Jacob D Varn  
1501 Fernando Drive  
Tallahassee, Florida 32303

December 16, 2018

Honorable Mayor John E Dailey  
Honorable Commissioner Jeremy Matlow  
Honorable Commissioner Curtis Richardson  
Honorable Commissioner Dianne Williams-Cox

Re Application for appointment to fill vacancy on City Commission

Dear Mayor and Commissioners

The purpose of this letter is to express to each of you my sincere interest and desire in filling the Vacancy (Seat 1) on the City Commission recently created by the departure of Commissioner Maddox

I have been a resident of the City of Tallahassee for almost 40 years during which time I have always held an abiding interest in its beauty, charm, demographic complexity, and particularly how it has grown through the years. I am proud to consider it my home and have frequently told my friends that it is a great place to raise a family. I and my wife, Sheila, who recently passed away after almost 49 years of marriage, raised our children here, and now they are raising theirs here.

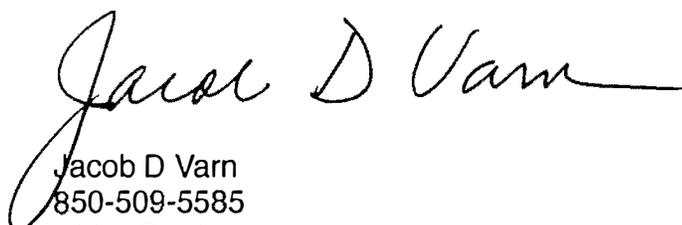
A review of my resume will reveal that in addition to having been a life-long practicing attorney, I was also a registered land surveyor for more than 50 years. Over the years I have held various high level governmental positions, including Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation (DER), Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT), and Assistant Executive Director of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). These positions involved responsibility for thousands of employees and budgets that in the case of DOT involved billions of dollars.

As a lawyer, my personal goal has always been to find effective and sensible solutions to complex problems. One of the most complex matters of which I am proud to have been involved was the ultimate resolution of the so-called "water wars" of the Tampa Bay Region, a legal battle among the city and county governments of the area and the regulatory authority of SWFWMD that had been raging since the 1960's. The solution resulted in a mutually beneficial agreement among the parties that brought affordable supplies of water for the region's future in a cooperative manner without causing permanent damages to the many waterbodies and natural systems of the region.

During my career, I have nevertheless found great enjoyment and satisfaction at being involved in my community. I coached flag football for many years even after my son became ineligible due to his age, I coached in youth basketball league for several years and also coached Little League baseball for several years. I was President of our Little League and convinced a client to build and donate a baseball complex to the County. I also served on two citizen's advisory committees appointed by the Tallahassee City Commission - one to develop a noise ordinance and the other to perform a review of the City's canopy road ordinance. Additionally, I have served as Vice-President of the Los Robles Neighborhood Association and on its Board of Directors for many years. Recently, I participated in the City's Neighborhood Leadership Academy, which was a great learning experience.

Mayor and Commissioners, I have no political ambitions beyond my interest in this appointment. My sole desire is to do my very best to make a meaningful contribution to the City I love, and I honestly believe I have the experience and knowledge to do so. I am ready to dedicate my energy and abilities in any way possible to assist you in addressing the many complex issues a modern city faces today.

Yours very truly,



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## RESUME OF JACOB "JAKE" D VARN

I currently reside at 1501 Fernando Drive, Tallahassee, Florida, 32303, which is in the Los Robles subdivision. I have lived in Los Robles for almost twenty years. I have been a resident of Tallahassee since February of 1979. Sheila, my wife of almost 49 years, passed away in July of 2016. We have a son, Craig D Varn, and a daughter, Karen V Haber. Craig is an attorney and is a shareholder/partner with the firm of Manson, Bolves, Donaldson, Varn PA in its Tallahassee office. He is married to Jessica E Varn, an Administrative Law Judge. They have one son, Jacob D Varn II, who will be graduating from Leon High School this school year. Karen is an attorney who works part-time for the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and she is married to Wes Haber, an attorney with Hopping, Green and Sams, PA. They have two children, Walt (13) and Maggie (10), both attend Holy Comforter Episcopal School. All of my family lives in the City of Tallahassee.

I was born in Brooksville, Florida, on August 20, 1942. On August 19, 1967, I married the former Sheila Sansbury of West Palm Beach and we were happily married until her death in July of 2016. I was raised in Brooksville, Florida, where I attended the public schools and graduated from Hernando High School in 1960. I graduated number one in my class of 52. In high school I lettered three years in football, basketball and baseball. After high school, I attended the University of Florida from 1960 through 1967 where I earned a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering (BSCE) and completed one year of law school. While attending the University of Florida I was a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha (social fraternity) and served in numerous capacities, including President. Sheila and I were married in the summer of 1967. Shortly after our marriage I worked as a teacher and coach for the school year of 1967-68. In June of 1968 I returned to work at the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), where I had worked during my summer and Christmas vacations since 1962. During this time I worked as an Assistant District Engineer, assistant to the Executive Director and the first member of SWFWMD (Regulatory), the first ground water regulatory district created pursuant to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes. The need for the creation of the SWFWMD (Regulatory) was brought about because of the "water wars" among the local governments in the Tampa Bay area.

I returned to the University of Florida to finish law school in the fall of 1969, after my wife graduated with her degree in Elementary Education. While attending law school, I assisted Dean Frank Maloney, who was the leading expert in the United States on Eastern Water Law, in writing the Model Water Code, which was used as the foundation for the Florida Water Resources Act of 1972 (Chapter 373, Florida Statutes). I graduated from law school in 1971 and committed to returning to SWFWMD to serve as its first in-house General Counsel. In addition to serving as General Counsel I also served as the Assistant Executive Director.

In June of 1973 I joined the law firm of Carlton, Fields, Ward, Emmanuel, Smith and Cutler, PA (CFW) in Tampa, Florida. While at CFW I represented Pasco County in resolving the "water war" in the Tampa Bay area. I remained at CFW

until February of 1979 when Governor Bob Graham appointed me as Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation (DER) During my years at DER we were successful in naming the Suwannee River as the first Outstanding Florida Water (OFW), moving DER into the regulation of ground water quality, fostering a closer working relationship with the water management districts and adopting the first water policy for the State of Florida

In February of 1981 Governor Graham appointed me as the Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) During my tenure at DOT we were able to get the construction of I-75 back on schedule, establish funding for I-595, which was the last element in the Interstate System, and select a consultant and secure funding for the new Sunshine Skyway Bridge

Following my tenure at DOT I returned to CFW and became head of the Tallahassee office In 1982 I was appointed as Chairman of a Blue Ribbon Committee to make recommendations for new funding for DOT and local governments Our Committee was composed of prominent business and governmental leaders from around the State, including Tampa Mayor Bob Martinez, who succeeded Governor Graham Our recommendations were taken up in a Special Session and new funding was provided to DOT and local governments, which was the first increase in funding since the 1940's Also, in 1982 I was selected as a member of the first class of the Florida Chamber's Leadership Florida and at the end of the class I was selected as the President of our class That year I also served on the first Executive Committee of the Florida Bar's Environmental Law Committee

Until early 1997 I remained with CFW in the Tallahassee office During that time I served in many management positions, including being on the Executive Committee and serving as the President My law practice included the areas of water law, environmental law, land use law, administrative law and transportation law In addition to my law practice, I served on a number of committees appointed by governors and the Legislature to make recommendations on a variety of subjects including, water law, land use law, environmental law and governmental re-organization I was also appointed to serve on the American Bar's Standing Committee on Environmental Law for three years

In early 1997 I left CFW I left CFW and spent one year in the Tallahassee office of the Steel, Hector and Davis law firm In 1998 I joined the Fowler White law firm in its Tallahassee office I remained at Fowler White and its successor, Buchanan, Ingersol, Rooney until June of 2016 when I semi-retired and joined Manson Bolves Manson, Bolves recently elected two new shareholders and became Manson, Bolves, Donaldson, Varn P A The Varn in the firm name is my son and I am Of Counsel to the Firm

I have an "AV" Preeminent distinction rating, which is the highest available mark for professional excellence from Martindale-Hubbell's Peer Review Ratings I have been selected as a Florida Super Lawyer and Florida Legal Elite by Florida Trend magazine I have also been named one of the "Best Lawyers in America" since 2006 and have been listed as a leading Environmental Lawyer in Florida by Chambers USA In 2016 and 2018 I was named Tallahassee's "Water Lawyer of the Year" I have lectured at over 100 environmental programs, including programs conducted by the Florida