

BEN ADAMS

Ohio City Incorporated Board of Trustees Application

Personal Statement for Ben Adams

April 11, 2021

1) *Why do you wish to serve on the Ohio City Incorporated Board of Trustees?*

As a resident of Ohio City for the past 6 years, I have fallen in love with the spirit of the neighborhood and its people. The growth and investment in the neighborhood, spurred in large part due to the work of Ohio City Incorporated, is a key part of Cleveland's ongoing urban revival. As Cleveland looks to attract new residents and investments, Ohio City will continue to be of central importance to our city's overall growth. I am motivated to do my part to ensure that this growth is equitable for all community members. At this critical juncture as our city looks to rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic fallout, and grapple with racial injustice and inequities, the Ohio City neighborhood is uniquely positioned to be 'the tip of the spear' in confronting these issues. I hope to lend my passion for the neighborhood and my professional experience to the Ohio City Incorporated Board of Trustees as it works to create a more safe, equitable, and inclusive community.

2) *In what ways do you feel your strengths, knowledge, skills, and experience will help Ohio City Incorporated further its mission?*

Throughout my career I have consistently looked for ways to connect my profession with my passion for civic engagement and the betterment of our city. I am Director of Marketing & Communications for the Cleveland Monsters and Cavaliers Franchise Properties at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse. In this role I have prioritized giving back to the community. I oversee the development and initiatives of the Monsters Community Foundation and serve as a committee co-chair with the Cavaliers I.D.E.A.L. Team (Inclusion, Diversity, Engagement, Awareness, Leadership). I am involved with work in support of voter registration and access on behalf of the Cavaliers organization, among many other community initiatives that have helped me create valuable community connections. This experience in community engagement, paired with my knowledge of marketing, communications, and event planning could be of use to the Ohio City Incorporated Board of Trustees.

3) *Describe your involvement in Ohio City and/or non-Ohio City neighborhood organizations. Include Ohio City Incorporated sponsored committees, projects, or block clubs if applicable.*

I have been involved with a number of Cleveland and Ohio City based organizations both personally and professionally. In my job I have helped organize volunteering outings and initiatives in support of the St. Herman House, Malachi House, and Providence House. Outside of work I have volunteered for NOVA (Northeast Ohio Voter Advocates) to register voters, volunteered with local political campaigns, and served as a poll worker in Cuyahoga County. I look forward to finding additional ways to get involved within Ohio City.