



August 8, 2024

Dear Madam Mayor,

Please accept the attached applications for the Business Loop Community Improvement District Board of Directors. Sara Huaco has resigned and the selected applicant will serve out the remainder of her term. The eligible applicants are Maribel Torres, of Crazy Good Burritos and Mary Grupe of Hickman High School. Torres is a business owner and Grupe is the designated representative of Columbia Public Schools, the owner of the Hickman High property.

We mailed announcements to all businesses, property owners, and residents within the CID; emailed members with the application link; posted details on our website; and personally met with potential applicants. Applications were available online and paper copies were available in our office as well.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carrie Gartner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carrie Gartner
Executive Director
The Business Loop Community Improvement District

The Loop Board

Michele Batye, Chair
Flooring America

James Bayless
Fresh Start

Karen Geotz
Dive Bar

Ryan Euliss
Boone Electric

Suzi McGarvey
MACC

Jay Rader
Bus Loop 70 Properties

Maribel Torres
815 Business Loop 70 E
maribel@crazygoodburritos.com
Business owner, Crazy Good Burritos

Why do you want to serve on the Community Improvement District Board?

I would love the opportunity to serve in the community where I serve.

What experience or qualifications do you have relating to the function of the Community Improvement District?

I have been a board member of a Realtors association in the past.

What experience or qualifications do you have relating to the improvement of the Business Loop?

I have taken courses in pre-architecture in the past and also worked with many new construction companies to help them build in the past.

Please list your community service, including other Boards or Commissions on which you currently serve.

None at the moment.

Please provide the names and contact information for three references.

Realtors Association in Greensboro NC (336)854-5868

Daniel Torres +1 (757) 269-1063

Jonathan Hernandez 1 (626) 324-7046

Mary M. Grupe

4008 Quinton Ct

mgrupe@cpsk12.org

Property owner representative, Hickman High School

Why do you want to serve on the Community Improvement District Board?

I am eager to serve on the Community Improvement District Board because I am deeply committed to the growth and development of The Loop. This area holds significant personal and professional importance to me. As the proud principal and a graduate of Hickman High School, I have witnessed firsthand The Loop's impact on our community. My role as principal, overseeing a staff of 220 and a budget of \$3 million, has equipped me with the skills necessary to contribute effectively to the board's mission of planning, management, and advocacy. I am aligned with the board's mission and dedicated to its success.

The Loop's 5-Year Plan resonates with my goals for enhancing our community. I am particularly inspired by the initiatives to improve the environment, increase safety, boost the economy, support marketing and events, and advocate for inclusive policies. These align closely with my work at Hickman High School, where we strive to create a welcoming and supportive environment for over 2,100 students and staff. This role is an extension of my commitment to fostering a vibrant, safe, and inclusive community.

I love this town and our school and will be devoted to making it a place where all people are loved, seen, and supported.

What experience or qualifications do you have relating to the function of the Community Improvement District?

My extensive experience in educational leadership and administration provides a solid foundation for contributing to the Community Improvement District Board. As the principal of Hickman High School, I have:

- Developed and recommended annual budgets and work plans.
- Oversee revenue and administration of funds.
- Monitored performance and provision of services.
- Ensured assessments are utilized by legislative intent.
- Supervised the management of various programs.
- Evaluated staff and managed a large team.

These responsibilities mirror those of a board member, making me well-prepared to take on the planning, management, and advocacy tasks required by the Community Improvement District Board.

What experience or qualifications do you have relating to the improvement of the Business Loop?

My qualifications for improving the Business Loop are rooted in my professional experience and personal commitment to community development. At Hickman High School, I have successfully led initiatives to enhance our school environment, which aligns with the Loop's goals of improving safety, economy, and overall environment.

Specifically, I have:

- Worked on projects that involve infrastructure improvements, similar to the Loop Corridor Plan's recommendations.
- Implemented safety measures and programs to ensure a secure environment for students and staff.
- Advocated for and supported diverse and inclusive practices, which align with the Loop's commitment to supporting minority businesses and creating pathways for those left out of traditional funding processes.

Additionally, my background in public education allows me to bring a unique perspective to the board, particularly in understanding the needs of diverse community members and advocating for equitable development.

Please list your community service, including other Boards or Commissions on which you currently serve.

As an active community member, I have been involved in various service roles that demonstrate my commitment to public service and community improvement. While specific boards and commissions may vary, my ongoing community service includes:

- Serving as Hickman High School's principal, I work closely with students, staff, and community members to foster a positive and inclusive educational environment.
- Leading initiatives within the school to improve student attendance and promote positive hallway culture and PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports).
- Collaborating with local organizations and stakeholders to support community events and programs that benefit our students and families.

Through these roles, I have developed strong relationships with community members and a deep understanding of the needs and aspirations of our neighborhood. I am excited about the opportunity to bring this experience and passion to the Community Improvement District Board to help make The Loop a vibrant, welcoming, and thriving area for all.

Please provide the names and contact information for three references.

Dr. Adam Taylor - 573 356 2747 - District Supervisor

Juliana Blackburn - 214 903 6706 - Former Student and Mentee

Kristen Bowen - 917 334 2800 - Former HHS Parent and PTSA Leader