

To My District 8 Family (Belview Heights, Bush Hills, Central Park, College Hills, Ensley, Ensley Highlands, Fairview, Graymont, Thomas, Rising West-Princeton, Tuxedo, Tuxedo Heights),

Firstly, I want to thank each of you for supporting District 8 and calling our community home. From Belview to Tuxedo Heights, your gifts and perspectives are as unique and diverse as each neighborhood's history and beautiful architectural design.

As you know, every four years, men and women, such as me, canvas District 8 in hopes of representing you within our city government. Campaign promises of cleaner and safer neighborhoods, economic development, and opportunity fall short. My research suggests that this may stem from a lack of our representative's limited authority.

Now, here I am, Jonathan Hatten, a fresh face, offering you a fresh start. I empathize with the feeling that your concerns and vision for District 8 appear to have fallen on deaf ears, which may lead to you becoming jaded or uninterested in the political process in our community.

District 8, I will not waste your time making empty promises; the role of city council representative under the current Birmingham City Mayor-Council Act won't allow me to keep. I will, however, work to earn your vote over the next three months by listening, canvassing, and cleaning up your areas while we get to know one another. I will also provide you with information through my weekly eight-minute podcast so you will learn more about the mayor-council act. Lastly, as a campaign fundraiser and community initiative, I will run a community rideshare program one day a week to get to know the people of District 8 better and provide a beneficial service.

If you entrust me to represent District 8 on your behalf, I guarantee I will,

I. Communicate effectively, providing timely and pertinent information that impacts your quality of life.

II. Spawn innovation, providing fresh new perspectives that will begin with us, as a collective, working together to help ourselves by addressing some of the root causes of the problems we face in District 8 as well as city, state, and nationwide related to crime and economic opportunity by,

- Organizing quarterly neighborhood clean-up initiatives involving every neighborhood, street, and block addressing my home, then yours, then cite areas, homes, and businesses that can better represent our home and assist those who need help in this area.

Lastly, I will,

- Work in partnership with you and various other organizations (for-profit and non-profit) to ensure we are at our best mentally and physically. I want our neighbors to feel safe enjoying a book on their porch on a beautiful summer's day. I want my family and yours to have a clean, safe park to exercise or simply enjoy nature. I also want to equip District 8 with community resources to help all of us navigate life's challenges positively.

Before a person pulls out a gun to unalive an individual (mental health, conflict resolution, economics), throws out a bag of garbage (self-esteem, community pride), or mentally gives up (sense of community belonging), we must address the root causes of our problems. We won't solve it in a day, a year, or four years, but we can start Fresh today. If we change one life, stop one killing, or clean and maintain one block, aren't we better than when we first started?

III. Lastly, I encourage us to look within and help ourselves. Together, we can develop a non-profit organization to support us and our vision for District 8, opening us up for more grant opportunities and strategic partnerships.

At this time, I ask you to reimagine District 8 with me so that together, we can live, work, and play in a community we are proud to call home.

I ask you to vote for me, Jonathan Lee Hatten, without the rhetorical campaign promises I cannot deliver on, but with the guarantees of communication, collaboration, innovative thinking, education, and prioritization for all 12 neighborhoods that make up District 8.

Thank you for your time and vote consideration.

Respectfully,

Jonathan Lee Hatten

Jonathan Lee Hatten, Hatten for 8 Campaign, District 8.