

**News Release**  
**November 3, 2009**

**ERWIN JACKSON SEEKS SEAT 5 ON CITY COMMISSION**  
**“Promises to Create Jobs for Tallahassee Citizens”**

I am here today to announce my intention to run for a seat on the City Commission – seat 5. This seat became available after the resignation of Alan Katz. Unfortunately, our City Commission chose to put a large bow on seat 5 and gift it to their friend Gil Ziffer. Call me old fashion, but I still believe that a person should earn the right to be an incumbent.

I am beginning this journey because I, like most Tallahassee citizens, am tired of politics as usual! My goal between now and August 24, 2010 is to allow the citizens of Tallahassee to get to know me and the new direction I plan to take our city.

Too many of our neighbors are facing bankruptcy or foreclosure. Tallahassee citizens are not seeking a federal bailout but rather a job. Three of the biggest road blocks to creating jobs in our community are outrageous utility bills, excessive property taxes, and adversarial government regulation.

Tallahassee utility rates are an anchor around the necks of every citizen. Senior citizens, individuals on fixed income, students and entrepreneurs struggling to create a job must often select between paying for their utility bill, food, or medicine.

Our City Commissioners are out of touch with its citizens. This commission has just passed a 2010 budget that will continue to over tax its citizens. This commission is acting more like Washington politicians than local leaders. Family income between 2000 and 2009 increased 29%, city government spending increased 100%!

In the face of difficult economic times our commissioners have decided our citizens need more taxes. This commission raised property taxes 15%, increased building inspection fees, doubled the cost to park downtown, and implemented a red light camera program that will extract \$1,000,000 annually in fines from our citizens. Another fee, another fine, another tax.

I will work to create a city budget that protects our core services while eliminating waste and duplication. Any fiscally sound budget must also consider the economic limitations of our families and small businesses. I will also work to develop a city workforce that will be a partner with the business community. We cannot afford a government that has an adversarial regulatory attitude. Our government should facilitate issuance of permits by advising and educating our citizens.

Finally, I am disappointed that our City Commissioners have acquired a misguided sense of entitlement. Most offensive, is the fact that commissioners use their elected position for their personal financial gain. Our Mayor, who ignores a salary cap of \$72,010 found in our City Charter, creates a golden benefit package for himself worth an additional \$55,509 resulting in a total compensation of \$122,519. City Commissioners make a money grab of \$22,000 annually per commissioner in compensation in violation of our City Charter. Finally, it has become common place for commissioners to seek contracts for their personal financial gain from businesses that appear before the City Commission. It is time the bar of ethics be raised from “barely legal” to a

standard based on honesty and integrity. I believe this commission has been operating as a private club for too long and membership must change.

Tallahassee citizens are angry over many of the decisions made by this Commission. They are frustrated because they feel ignored and unheard. They question whether they can actually change the “politics as usual”. I want to remind those citizens who are uncertain and disheartened that our City Commissioners can only cast 5 votes in our next election. WE THE PEOPLE have 175,000 potential voters – the odds are in our favor. We The People Can, We The People Must, and We The People Will regain a seat on the City Commission.

I pledge to be a public servant – not a self servant! I will guard and treasure the public trust if given to me. The public’s best interest will always be at the center of each decision I make.

Personal Information:

Erwin and his wife Stefanie have lived in Tallahassee since 1974 and have two college aged sons Brad and Brian. He earned a doctorate in counseling psychology in 1977 from Florida State University. He worked until 1982 as a counseling psychologist where he assisted veterans with personal and educational issues as they returned from active duty. During the next ten years he worked for the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee for the Florida Legislature. Dr. Jackson has been investing in real estate for the past 33 years. He is currently President of Jackson Properties Inc. and 6 affiliated corporations that specialize in the acquisitions, remodeling and leasing of properties. Specifically he has focused on purchasing and remodeling smaller homes in economically depressed inner city areas. His efforts have resulted in improving several depressed neighborhoods by increasing the quality and availability of rental properties. These actions resulted in a significant reduction in crime and a significant increase in the property value and subsequent property taxes enjoyed by the City of Tallahassee. Dr. Jackson’s actions have been praised by the City of Tallahassee Commission and recognized nationally by urban planners and real estate associations.

**NOW IT’S YOUR TURN!**

I have shared my concerns with you and now it is time for me to listen! Please e-mail me your thoughts, ideas, and suggested changes regarding our City Commission. Encourage your friends to share their ideas with me.

Thank you,  
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