

**Town of Apex
 Temporary At-Large Town Councilmember
 Written Statements Received
 Summary**

Last Name	First Name	Council Candidate	Submission Received
Chandler	Heather	Tayon Dancy	Friday, January 6, 2023 at 9:36 AM
Edwards - Carter	Thiane	Tayon Dancy	Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 10:29 PM
Evenson	Kelley	Tayon Dancy	Friday, January 6, 2023 at 7:43 AM
Hardin	Esther	Tayon Dancy	Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 9:40 PM
Harris Jr.	Willie	Tayon Dancy	Friday, January 6, 2023 at 10:13 AM
James	Virginia	Tayon Dancy	Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 8:23 PM
Keith-Moore	Andrea	Tayon Dancy	Friday, January 6, 2023 at 11:53 AM
Lowery	Prenessa	Tayon Dancy	Friday, January 6, 2023 at 11:57 AM
Shelor	Clay	Tayon Dancy	Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 10:15 PM
Smith	Kelley	Tayon Dancy	Friday, January 6, 2023 at 11:49 AM
Smith	Tasha	Tayon Dancy	Friday, January 6, 2023 at 11:46 AM
Spivey	Rhonda	Tayon Dancy	Friday, January 6, 2023 at 11:47 AM

Allen Coleman

From: Heather Chandler <heather@wholebrainscape.com>
Sent: Friday, January 6, 2023 9:36 AM
To: Public Hearing
Cc: Tayon Dancy
Subject: Council Candidate Interviews - Written Comments

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Dear Mayor and Town Councilmembers,

I was hoping to deliver my comments at Tayon Dancy in person today, but am unable to due to family schedule.

However, I am very pleased to offer my written comments to wholeheartedly endorse Tayon for the open seat on the Apex Town Council.

I first met Tayon in 2018 in the LaunchApex program. She and I were part of the first cohort. It was a pleasure getting to know Tayon in the cohort and learn from her experiences and ideas. She definitely has a passion for Apex and small business. She understands how small businesses are key to making Apex a great place to live, work, and visit.

She was extremely supportive of my efforts to open Apex's first escape room. She understood how a business that offers a fun family activity was a perfect fit for Apex and would be a nice way to attract more people to our downtown and also be a great place for Apex residents to spend time and make memories with their families . Not only did she understand our mission, but she also supported us by telling people about us and bringing her own family to play.

I've gotten to know Tayon and her family over the past 5 years, and I know how much time they spend in service to help make Apex the Peak of Good Living. Before, during, and after the pandemic she routinely participated in food drives and in other events that give back to the community, and she is very service oriented (as evidenced by her involvement with Delta). She also the community organizer for the MLK commemoration events. I really appreciate how she sees a need for something like this and follows through on making it happen. I can envision her doing this same thing as a council member.

As a small business owner, I would be very glad to have Tayon on the council as I know she cares about small businesses and making sure we are set up to thrive in Apex. She understands that small businesses are the backbone and that we need to have adequate support to continue to flourish here. I also appreciate how she is very involved in community service and puts together the MLK event each year. It is activities like this that reflect Apex's values to the rest of the Triangle.

Thank you for your time!

Heather Chandler

1821 White Dogwood Rd
Apex, NC 27502
(919)924-4338

Owner, Whole Brain Escape (410 Upchurch St, Apex, NC)

Allen Coleman

From: Thiane Edwards Carter <thianecarter@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 5, 2023 10:29 PM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: Council Candidate Interviews – Written Comments

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Thiane Edwards Carter
221 Presenteer Trail, Apex, NC 27539
(704) 458-0780

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this statement in support of my Soror and friend, Tayon Dancy. I have known Mrs. Dancy (Tayon) for approximately 8 years as we are both members of the Western Wake Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (Delta). Tayon served as the Chairperson for our Social Action Committee (also known as Social and Political Awareness) and she could not have been more suited for the role.

Tayon led our chapter through its first Candidates Forums and Get Out the Vote activities, as well as our Delta Days at the School Board initiatives. (Delta Days at the School Board is a quarterly activity, wherein Deltas visit school board meetings to show support for educators and the students that they serve). Through Tayon's leadership, we ensured that Delta was (and is) known as a local organization focused on both social and political action.

Perhaps most notably, Tayon spearheaded the statewide signature political event - Delta Day at the State Capital (Delta Day). Delta Day is the opportunity for Sorors of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. from across our state to meet, interact with and engage our state legislature. An event of this magnitude is made more complicated by the sensitive political climate and Tayon used her knowledge of politics and activism to orchestrate Delta Days for more than 500 Sorors each year. I could go on about Tayon's commitment to and passion for social activism and political awareness, but I will close by saying that you could not select a more accomplished, qualified candidate for the position of At-Large Board Member.

Sincerely,

Thiané

Allen Coleman

From: Kelley Evenson <kelley.evenson@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 6, 2023 7:43 AM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: Council Candidates Interviews - Written Comments

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Dear Mayor, Apex Town Council, and Apex Community Members,

My name is Kelley Evenson and I wanted to take the opportunity to share my knowledge on the character of Tayon Dancy. For the past 8 years we have been across-the-street neighbors, and we have had the privilege of sharing life's joys and trials together. Tayon is a woman of vibrant faith and a dedicated advocate for those in need. Her compassionate voice and purposeful presence enable her to succeed in her endeavors focused on improving the lives of others.

Over the years, we have watched each other raise our children through Olive Chapel Elementary, Scotts Ridge Elementary, Apex Friendship Middle School, and Apex Friendship High School; we have celebrated the births of babies and mourned the loss of family members together; and we have reflected together about the true blessings of living here in this wonderful community of Apex.

It is a great honor to share these insights on Tayon Dancy and offer support to her as a candidate for Apex Town Council.

Sincerely,
Kelley Evenson
1943 Post Rail Lane, Apex
919-280-9328

Allen Coleman

From: Esther Hardin <ehardin104@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 5, 2023 9:40 PM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: Council Candidate Interviews
Attachments: Tayon Dancy.docx

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TO: Allen Coleman, Town Clerk
Subject: Council Candidate Interviews

It is my great pleasure to submit this letter of recommendation in support of Tayon Dancy for Council Candidate for the Town of Apex Government. I have known Tayon for approximately 15 years and worked with her as North Carolina Social Action Chair for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for 5 years. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority is an international organization of college educated women committed to public service. While serving as Chair of this committee I had an opportunity to witness Tayon's dedication to excellence and her passion for serving her community.

Each year Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. travels to Washington, DC for Delta Days in the Nation's Capital. It is an opportunity to meet with the legislators from North Carolina to request support for critical needs in the communities that we represent. Tayon was always prepared to share needs from our local communities with the NC legislators and frequently served as spokesperson for the group.

Tayon, has excellent oral, written and interpersonal skills and works well with others. She is a self-starter and goes beyond what is required when given a task. I am confident without reservations that she would be an excellent fit on your Town Council. Feel free to contact me at 252-671-0924.

Best Regards,

Esther Hardin

Esther Hardin
1020 Nickelby Street
Durham, NC 27703

Allen Coleman

From: Elder Willie Harris Jr. <pastorharris@mtzioncary.org>
Sent: Friday, January 6, 2023 10:13 AM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: Council Candidate Interviews – Written Comments
Attachments: Written Statement - Tayon Dancy.pdf

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FYI

Elder Willie Harris Jr., Pastor
Mt. Zion Church
<https://mtzioncary.org>
@mtzioncary

FROM THE DESK OF

Willie Harris, Jr.

January 6, 2023

Town Clerk Allen Coleman
P.O. Box 250
Apex, NC 27502

Dear Apex Town Council,

I am delighted to submit this written statement for Tayon Dancy for her candidacy for the At-Large Seat on the Apex Town Council. I have served as her pastor for 14 years. Tayon is a committed member of Mt. Zion Church of Cary. She is an ordained minister who teaches and instructs, including our future generations. She is passionate about missions and advocates for our church to do outreach and community service. She is currently organizing and leading the effort for our church to partner with a non-profit organization to serve underserved girls.

In addition to her service at Mt. Zion, I know she is actively involved in community projects in Apex, such as events for the MLK holiday and serving as a chaplain in the South Atlantic Region of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

I have also observed Tayon persevere through personal hardships over the years. She consistently exhibits faith, patience, and steadfastness.

As Tayon's pastor, I am very proud of her and all of her accomplishments. We have talked about her calling into the political area. She is passionate about policies that would serve all people well. I am confident that she would perform well on the Apex Town Council.

Sincerely yours,



Willie Harris, Jr.

Allen Coleman

From: Virginia James <jamesvirginia235@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 5, 2023 8:23 PM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: Council Candidate Interviews – Written Comments

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Good evening Town Clerk Allen Coleman,

As part of my support for Tayon Dancy's bid for council member, I am sending this written comment. Having Tayon Dancy fill the vacant seat would be an excellent addition to the city council. I have been fortunate to have Tayon Dancy in my life for six years. As a resident of Apex since 2018, the way she takes part in the community has been truly inspiring to me. I am confident that she will do a great job representing the city. She clearly possesses all the qualities required for this position. The commitment she has shown to Apex has been unwavering. She is committed to teamwork. She is known for her integrity and sound judgment. Her leadership qualities make her an ideal candidate for the council position. She has excellent communication and strategic thinking skills. Taking action and listening to others are two of her most valuable qualities. Clearly, she loves people and is passionate about them. Tayon has served in numerous leadership roles for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She has represented the organization well in her leadership roles and proposed solutions to any issues that arose. She is calm and patient in stressful situations. Her attention to detail goes beyond her excellent business management skills. A trailblazer for change, Tayon leads by example. If you want a people's leader to fill the vacant seat, you should vote for Tayon Dancy.

Thank you,

Virginia James
1413 Applethorn Drive
Apex, NC 27502
(919) 394-3955

Allen Coleman

From: Andrea Keith-Moore <andrea.keith.moore@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 6, 2023 11:53 AM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: Council Candidate Interviews-Written Comments

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Greetings from Andrea K. Moore. I reside at 336 Ashdale Dr, Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526 and can be reached at 985-445-7070.

I am submitting this comment in support of Ms. Tayon Dancy as the chosen appointee for your At-large Town Council member seat.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Ms. Dancy for the last 12 years via our sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and am also proud to call her a friend.

Ms. Dancy has been fully engaged in, and been the lead on, our Western Wake Chapter civic community endeavors as well as those of our region. She is a true public servant that will seek to fulfill and uphold the needs of the council that support the will of the people and be an ardent contributor for the development and delivery of evidence based policy, programs and procedures.

If you are seeking a council member to not only compliment your current structure, but help it to stretch and grow as well, Ms. Dancy is your choice.

Sincerely-

Andrea K. Moore

Allen Coleman

From: Prenessa Lowery <prenessa@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, January 6, 2023 11:57 AM
To: Public Hearing; Prenessa Lowery
Subject: Apex City Council Candidate - Tayon Dancy (Written Statement)

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Dear Mr. Allen Coleman, Apex Town Clerk,

I am Prenessa Mickens Lowery and providing the following information pertaining to Tayon DANCY, Candidate for Apex Town Council.

I have known Tayon her entire life, we are cousins.

Tayon is a strong leader with experience motivating teams through challenges to achieve common business, community, and organizational goals; driving growth in individuals through mentoring both on a business and spiritual level, and initiating changes in processes, social policies, and standards affecting the communities, non profits, or businesses she serves. She is a passionate advocate for women, children, and the communities in which she lives.

She is an experienced project/program manager with strong skills in influencing all levels of an organization, organizing complex projects/programs for the community/business, and driving significant improvements in processes or policies where necessary.

Tayon is well connected in the area of Social Advocacy and is passionate about Social justice. She gets great joy when impacting changes in policies and laws that affects her family and the people she serves.

Tayon is a community organizer, and petitioned the Town in which she lives to recognize MLK holiday weekend with more than just time off. In 2020 amongst the pandemic, she led a committee to host the first ever MLK Unity weekend in the history of Apex, NC in 2021. With her skills in technology, she was able to quickly pivot and use her knowledge to host the event virtually including a march down Salem St. by drone. She has chaired the committee each year since, and is preparing to host the 3rd event for 2023 adding an official National Day of Service. She was awarded the Town of Apex citizen award of the year, given her vision and execution of MLK in the Town of Apex,

Tayon served as the State of NC chair for the Social Action Committee of Delta Sigma Theta. Planning events such as Delta Day at the NC General Assembly, and Divine 9 Legislative Day at the NC General Assembly advocating for policy/law changes, conducting social advocacy workshops at the state and regional level (Census 2020, Voter Education/Mobilization, Human Trafficking, Running for Office, Medicaid Expansion, Politics & Pulpits, Real ID, and much more), and driving policy changes.

She also has instituted several initiatives across the state of NC including local Delta Days at the school board, Delta Day at the County Commission, Delta Day at the Student Government, and Delta Day at the local Town Halls. Tayon also leads the NC delegation of Deltas at the Federal Government in Washington DC each year to advocate for federal laws affecting her constituency in the state of NC.

Board Member: WakeUp Wake County Local Organization & Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated

Received Sexual Assault Certification from the State of North Carolina to assist with education on sexual assault and support victims.

It is with great pride that I recommend Tayon Dancy as the next Apex City Council member.

Sincerely,

Prenessa Mickens Lowery

Allen Coleman

From: Clay Shelor <jcshelor@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 5, 2023 10:15 PM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: Council Candidate Interviews – Written Comments (on Tayon Dancy)

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To whom it may concern,

It is with honor that I write to comment on Tayon Dancy's candidacy for the vacated seat on the Apex Town Council to fill the unexpired term vacated by former Apex Councilmember Cheryl Stallings.

We met Tayon in 2020. With the tumultuous public events of that year, we were seeking to have conversations with people from a variety ethnic backgrounds to listen, learn and to grow toward greater understanding in our community. Tayon's church, Mt Zion Church in Cary, put me in contact with Tayon. We organized group book discussions together to facilitate conversations between white, African American and Asian American people to seek understanding, to build friendships and to serve our communities together.

Tayon showed herself as one extremely gifted in connecting with people, listening to people from a variety of viewpoints and responding graciously and truthfully in ways that grew understanding and built bridges.

We have seen Tayon's leadership gifts at work in her career, church family, her sorority, her community and her family. One amazing event that Tayon dreamed of, petitioned the town for, chaired and organized was the Town of Apex Martin Luther King Jr commemoration weekend for the past three years that brought together people from multiple backgrounds to lift up the dream of building a society with justice, equality, understanding and unity.

So with great enthusiasm I wholeheartedly recommend Tayon Dancy for the vacated seat on the Apex Town Council. Her hard work, grace, leadership skills would make her ideal for a leadership role with the Town of Apex.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Clay Shelor
109 Oxpens Rd, Cary, NC 27513
919-656-7690

Allen Coleman

From: Kelly Smith <kas3312@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 6, 2023 11:49 AM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: Fwd: Council Candidate Interviews - Written Comments

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On Behalf of Tayon Dancy:

First Name: Kelly

Last Name: Smith

Address: [114 Forthview Way Apex, NC 27502](#)

Phone Number: 919-389-1965

To Whom It May Concern:

Tayon and I first met in 2010 at our local church, Mt. Zion (Cary, NC). We were both involved in the same ministry and that is how we had grown to know each other.

In the beginning of getting to know Tayon we were just “participants” in the same ministry. Tayon was a woman who knew what she wanted for herself, and her family, and so it was important for her to make sure her family was taken care of. I believe this is how Tayon’s progression over the years in growing not just as a “participate” in ministry at church, but to being in leadership. She has now taken the role as Minister and is on the Missions committee: She makes sure that not just her family is taking care of, but the people amongst her influence as well.

Also in Tayon’s growth over the years is not just seen in leadership at church, but in the community as well. Her knowledge from her leadership role and in the community helps to make sure all are aware of what’s going on around us so that no one is left without knowing. Her community participation in Corral Riding, the MLK walk and I’m sure countless others, is no surprise because Tayon has a big heart.

Tayon would be an asset to this vacated seat ‘At-Large Town Councilmember’ because she will care for the people. Her contributions at church and in the community will allow her to grow more, not just as a candidate in a seat, but for a voice that can speak to the everyone.

Please elect her for this seat.

Thank you,

Kelly Smith

--
Gratefully His,
Kelly Smith

"Kneeling at His Feet, Submitting to His Will"

41 And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and *began* to pray, 42 saying, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done." (Luke 22:41-42)

Allen Coleman

From: Tasha Smith <tnsmith0074@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, January 6, 2023 11:46 AM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: Council Candidate Interviews – Written Comments

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Good morning everyone,

My name is Tasha Smith, and I am a good friend and sister in Christ to council member nominee, Tayon Dancy. I have known Tayon for over 10 years. We attend the same church, Mt. Zion Church in Cary, where she is an evangelist. During this time, I have come to know her as a woman of God, who demonstrates great character, compassion, and strength. She has a passion for service and people. Tayon is a crusader for those who have mental health struggles. We took a course together that was geared toward helping churches learn how to create a peer ministry to provide those struggling with mental health issues with the support needed in day-to-day struggles, as well as guide them to clinician mental health services if needed.

Tayon takes her role of evangelist seriously and is not afraid to bring The Gospel to any space that she is standing in. As a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, she serves as Regional Chaplain. She volunteers at multiple organizations, past and present, in Wake County being a servant to people. She leads the charge by connecting masses of people to be of service to those in need. As many of you may know that is not an easy task, but she does it with a smile, determination, and grit!

I am sure you are already aware of all of the great things that Tayon does, and has accomplished. I want to make you aware of what a beautiful and wonderful friend she is to me. She has helped me get through difficult times in my life, always willing to listen, to help me brainstorm, and problem-solve. She is devoted to her family. Our children grew up together and I know my children can count on her for love, wisdom, and direction.

I believe that Tayon would be a wonderful addition to the Apex Town Council. She is invested in the community that she lives in and is supportive of your endeavors. Tayon demonstrates great leadership skills and has the gift of moving people to action. It is my hope that she is appointed to help with the great work Apex is doing with its residents.

If anyone has additional questions, please feel free to contact me with the information provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Tasha N. Smith, MSW, LCSWA
706 Pierside Dr.
Cary, NC 27519
919.279.5581

Allen Coleman

From: Rhonda Spivey <mommyw2grls@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 6, 2023 11:47 AM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: Council Candidate Interviews – Written Comments
Attachments: TDancy (06Jan2023).pdf

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Town Clerk Allen Coleman,

Please accept the attached written statement in support of Tayon Dancy.

Thank you,

Rhonda Spivey
1101 Oak Park Drive
Durham, NC 27703
(919) 949-3420

January 6, 2023

[Via Email \(public.hearing@apexnc.org\)](mailto:public.hearing@apexnc.org)

Apex City Council
P.O. Box 250
Apex, NC 27502

Re: Tayon Dancy – Candidate for At-Large Town Councilmember

Dear Mayor Gilbert and Apex Councilmembers:

I am writing in support of Tayon Dancy's candidacy for the At-Large Town Councilmember. I believe that Tayon is an exceptional candidate for this opportunity because of her passion for people and her compassion for equitable opportunities.

Tayon is extremely passionate about the welfare of others. She is particularly attentive to the well-being of our children and their future. With two children of her own, she understands the situations that our young people are approaching and desires to help steer our youth and young adults in a way that is positive for them and their communities. A few years ago, Tayon took the initiative of petitioning the Town of Apex to approve an entire Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) weekend which would, (among many other things), include various opportunities for our youth to express themselves in a positive fashion. After a unanimous vote, the Inaugural MLK weekend occurred in 2021 in the Town of Apex.

Moreover, Tayon has compassion for equitable treatment and opportunities for all mankind. This is not rhetoric for her. This is her life. Tayon strives to ensure equity by being a participant and a voice on various boards and committees within her workplace and community. She collaborates with several community groups to gain insight and develop ideas for future generational growth.

I believe the saying *"If you're absent from the conversation, it will happen without you"* is the spirit of Tayon. I am confident that Tayon will exceed your expectations in this role and will add extreme value to your Town Council.

For these reasons, I strongly support selecting Tayon Dancy as the At-Large Town Councilmember.

Sincerely,



Rhonda Spivey
1101 Oak Park Drive
Durham, NC 27703
(919) 949-3420