

Statement of Interest
Qualifications for Appointment to the
Downtown Development Authority of the
City of Chamblee



The Downtown Development Authority of the City of Chamblee was established by special state legislation. It is an independent authority established for the purpose of planning, organizing, and financing projects that will revitalize and redevelop Chamblee’s downtown. The CDDA meets once per month, as needed, and are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. CDDA members must be a resident, a business owner, or a property owner in the downtown area. Members must take at least eight hours of training on downtown development and redevelopment programs within the first 12 months of their appointment to the DDA.

Interested individuals should submit an electronic version of this form, along with a resume to Ashley Youmans, Economic Development Director, ayoumans@chambleega.gov.

Name Jay Leslie, Jr Date 3/3/2025
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Phone (Home) _____ Phone (Work) [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]

Please describe the type of work that you do.

Commercial real estate brokerage specializing in land and development oriented transactions. My firm represents buyers and sellers of large and strategic land parcels. Our practice includes listing properties for sale, site selection for developers and end users. Clients include- Home Depot, S J C Ventures, Fuqua Development, Hennessy Automotive, Jim Ellis Automotive, Landmark Chrysler, Pulte Homes, Related Development, Dan Cowart, Brandsmart, Integral Group, NYSA Capital, Parkland Residential, 360 Residential, Quick Trip, Carter USA.

Please describe your educational background.

Bachelor of Arts, Economics, University of Georgia 1986
MBA, Brenau University 1996
Georgia Real Estate License 203782
Georgia Real Estate Broker's License

Please provide a brief statement of why you are interested in this appointment and of your qualifications for this appointment.

In my real estate career I have been guided by the concept of highest and best use of real estate. The evolution of uses of real estate is always interesting and is never static. My family has been involved in Chamblee via ownership, government, civic involvement, and development. My real estate brokerage experience includes the assemblage of 39 houses, a car dealership, and a Baptist church into a mixed use development. I navigated a very complex transaction that included detailed environmental issues. I have been involved with properties that had high emotional ties and family controversy. I have worked with truly motivated sellers and very aggressive purchasers. My practice necessitates an understanding of zoning, land use plans, and the permitting process. My perspective from working within the real estate development community will hopefully be an additional asset to the DDA.

Please describe your civic, charitable or volunteer activities.

Chamblee CID, Sagamore Hills Civic Association Board, Atlanta Girls School soccer, Atlanta District Amateur Soccer League, Georgia State Soccer Association. First Christian Church of Decatur.

How long have you been a resident/business owner/property owner of the City of Chamblee?

My wife, Caroline Chesnut Leslie's family has owned property in Chamblee for 7 generations. The connection to the city goes beyond her immediate family. Her uncle, Frank Berry, once owned most of what is now "downtown" Chamblee. Her aunt Pearl Chesnut Berry was the city clerk. Her father, David Chenut, started his law practice in the building that once stood at 3508 Broad Street. Her grandfather, Harvey Chesnut, owned the property located at 5480 Peachtree Rd that is under renovation into a restaurant named "The Harvey." He also owned the property located at 5388 Peachtree Blvd that we still own. Caroline and I have been following the positive changes in Chamblee. Our recent renovation of 5480 Peachtree Rd and new business "The Harvey" of which I am an investor and partner reflects