

** Applications must be received by **5:00 p.m. on January 8, 2024** via:

- (1) Email to the City of Champaign Township Clerk, at cityclerk@champaignil.gov with the subject line of "Application for Township Supervisor"; or
- (2) Physically delivered to the City Clerk at 102 N. Neil, Champaign, IL 61820.

**APPLICATION FOR
CITY OF CHAMPAIGN TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR**

(Note: Information provided by the applicant on this form may be disclosed pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, subject to applicable exemptions.)

Name: Gilson Terriberry

Home Address: 406 N State St # 10 Business Address: 70 E Washington St
 Champaign, IL 61820 Champaign, IL 61820

Home Telephone: 7(1)(b) - Personal Telephone Number Business Telephone: 217-403-6150

Cell Phone: 7(1)(b) - Personal

Email Address: 7(1)(b) - Personal Email Address

How long have you lived in the City of Champaign Township? 23 years

Please list addresses at which you have established residency within the City of Champaign Township during the past three (3) years and the dates of residency at that address:

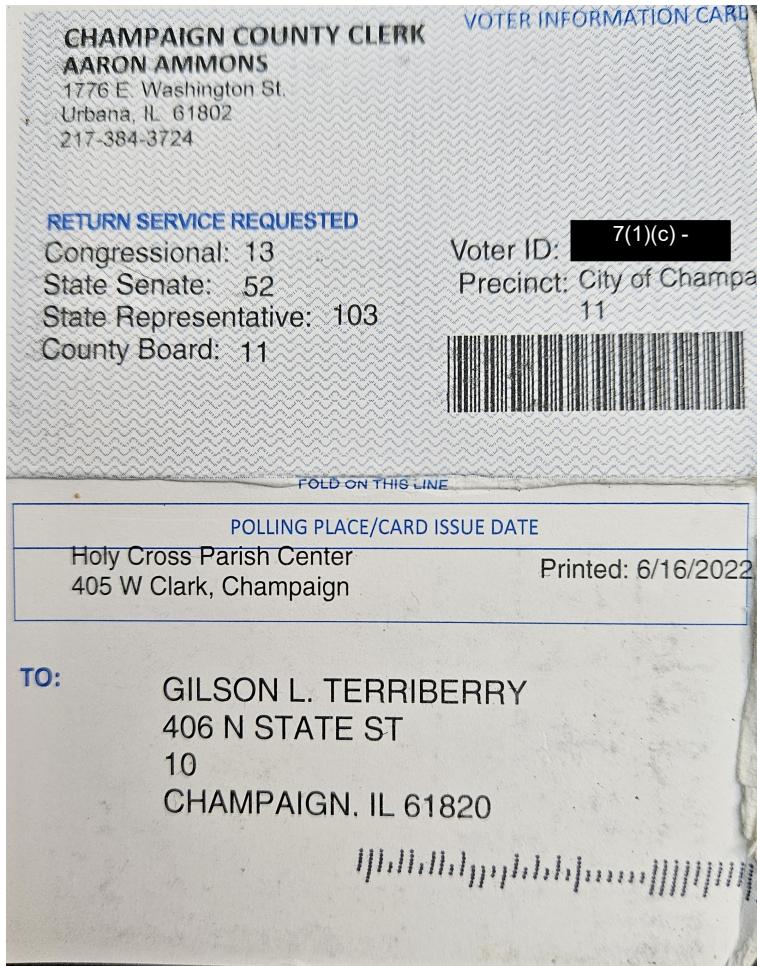
<u>Address</u> (Most recent first)	<u>Dates</u>
1. <u> 406 N State St</u>	<u> 2015-present</u>
2. <u> 7(1)(b) - Home Address</u>	
3. _____	_____

Present Occupation

Case Manager, Strides Shelter, City of Champaign Township

Voter Registration

Attach a copy of proof of voter registration.



Education and Training

Please list the formal education or training you have received. Be sure to include all training which is related in some way to preparation for serving as Township Supervisor.

<u>Dates of Study</u>	<u>Name, Type of School or Instructor</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Degree/Certificate</u>
<u>1967-1971</u>	<u>Davidson College</u>	<u>Political Science</u>	<u>BS</u>

Continuing Professional Education:

1. 60 hours of courses at the College of William and Mary in Federal Government Contracts.
2. Over 150 hours of Income tax courses including personal, investment, rental, depreciation, small business, retirement planning, sole proprietor and more. IRS certified Enrolled Agent.
3. Over 100 hours of Real Estate courses as an ongoing license requirement covering residential, investment, ethics, agency and contracts.
4. 30 hours of training to be certified as a Pre-Purchase Home Ownership Education instructor.
5. 250+ hours Continuing Education, Mental Health First Aid, Substance Abuse and Mental Health, Focus on Homelessness, conflict deescalation and resolution courses concentration on Low Barrier Homeless Shelter issues. Passed IL CADDC certification test in 2021, did not pursue certificate.

Experience

Beginning with your most recent employment, volunteer work, or life experience, please state your previous experience. Be sure to include all experiences which are related to preparation for serving as Township Supervisor.

1. Company/Employer and Type of Business or Area of Experience: _____
City of Champaign Township, Strides Shelter. Low Barrier homeless shelter. Shelter guests range from individuals experiencing a variety of mental, emotional and physical issues as well as profound drug and alcohol addictions all the way to those that are homeless by circumstance, job loss, family and relationship issues, rent increases, evictions, discrimination and such. One group may never secure permanent housing for any substantial period while the other may only experience homelessness once in their lifetime. I interact with guests, listening and working to understand their situations, helping them formulate plans for successfully achieving stable housing, recognizing the barriers that may impede or prevent success and referring to resources, sources of assistance including all of the agencies and organizations that participate in the regions continuum of care and homelessness management. _____

Position: Case Manager _____

Dates of Employment/Experiences: From: 11/2022 To: present _____

2. Company/Employer and Type of Business or Area of Experience: _____
Prairie Center/Rosecrance Inc. Documented whereabouts and activities of Federal Bureau of Prisons clients living independently and in the Residential Reentry Center (halfway house) at the Prairie Center while transitioning from prison to civilian life. As the RRC was closing down I moved to working with clients in treatment for Alcohol and Substance Abuse leading educational and motivational groups as well as monitoring clients living on the units, first at Prairie Center and then at the Rosecrance Moreland Facility. Finished as a recovery specialist in the Moreland recovery home, a 6 month program following treatment where clients maintained sobriety and were assisted in getting jobs and ultimately moving back into the community. _____

Position: Unit Specialist, Recovery Specialist _____

Dates of Employment/Experiences: From: 2016 To: 2022 _____

3. Company/Employer and Type of Business or Area of Experience: _____
Salvation Army Supportive Services for Veterans Families contract. First year of a Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) grant from the Veterans Administration administered by the Salvation Army in Champaign IL and covering central Illinois including Peoria, Bloomington, Springfield, Decatur, Champaign and Danville. The grant provided subsidies for homeless and at risk veterans covering security deposits and up to four months rental costs. I identified and inspected potential properties, met and negotiated with owners and landlords and worked with eligible veterans to help maintain existing housing or place them in new housing within the service area. Documented services provided in HMIS. _____

Position: Housing Specialist _____

Dates of Employment/Experiences: From: 2012 To: 2013 _____

Earlier professional experience

TAX ADVISOR – H&R Block, 2004-2017

Prepared individual tax filings during the season and amended tax filings and appeals as needed throughout the year. Achieved certification as an Enrolled Agent empowered to negotiate for and represent individual taxpayers in IRS administrative hearings.

REALTOR® - Coldwell Banker, 2004-2016

As an advisor and consultant as well as facilitator through what is usually a stressful event, I assisted individuals and families in a major decision and commitment they will make only a few times in a lifetime, the purchase or sale of their home. As the designated agent representing either the buyer or seller in a real estate transaction, I worked to make certain that my clients fully understood and were comfortable throughout the process and that all of the activities involved in taking the transaction from offer through financing and closing were handled in a coordinated and timely fashion.

Marketing and Sales - Direct Contact marketing Group (DCMG), Owner and Principal

Founded DCMG with partners as a business-to-business list brokerage and market consulting firm and later bought out the partners. DCMG created and executed targeted direct mail campaigns for clients as diverse as the National Association of Broadcasters, Association for Information and Image Management, Wang Computers, Washington Gas, Bell Atlantic and others. As e-mail became more prevalent, I was invited to participate on a working panel organized by the Federal Trade Commission to present information and make recommendations with regard to FTC regulation of internet marketing and e-mail SPAM. Founded the Business-to-Business Special Interest Group of the Direct Marketing Association of Washington and was the first list broker to offer on-line access and ordering of postal mailing lists through a dedicated internet web site.

Federal Government - US General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service (GSA, PBS), Program Manager and Contracting Officer

Following the Viet Nam conflict there was a backlog of Federal Office Buildings and courthouses that had been authorized by Congress but never funded. As a **Program Manager**, I was a member of the 5 person team that shepherded legislation through Congress, providing briefing materials and justification, authorizing the use of a deferred purchase contract approach to financing the approximately \$1,500,000,000 unfunded backlog. By securitizing the pay off of the contracts over a 20 year period, the team managed to put the entire backlog under contract in less than three years without encumbering the Federal budget. As a **Contracting Officer's Representative**, I worked in the field negotiating contract changes to maintain program momentum. Later, helped arrange take out financing on single projects as construction completed on the earlier buildings and worked with investment banking firms to market the securities derived from the contract pay off amounts on multiple contracts.

Boards and Commissions

Please list any boards, commissions or task forces on which you currently serve by appointment of the Mayor or City Council of the City of Champaign.

None

Public Office

Please list any public offices currently held by appointment or election of the governing body of a unit of local government, school district, State constitutional officer or Illinois General Assembly.

None

Community Involvement

Please list volunteer organizations that you are involved with locally:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Dates</u>
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Champaign

Board Member and Chair, Board of Directors, Fellowship Circle in Champaign IL Non-Profit organization providing space for 12 step recovery meetings, NA, AA, OA, Al-Anon, etc. 2004-2012

District Committee Member and Chair, AA District 12. Represented East Central Illinois at Southern Illinois Delegate Area 21 Assembly meetings. 2008

Member of the signage committee, Champaign Sesquicentennial Neighborhood Association 2006-2008

Member of the Champaign Art Theater Cooperative 2015-2017

President, Board of Directors for the Dodson Building Corporation, a cooperative building. 2021-present

Prior to Champaign

Member and chair, Board of Directors for Arlington Community residences, a non-profit corporation that owned, managed and provided services in over 24 group residences and the Mental Health Clubhouse in Arlington Virginia. 1982-1990

Member and Chair, Community Services Board appointed by the Arlington County Board to oversee the provision of Mental Health and Substance Abuse services in the county. 1990-1996

Delegate, Virginia Democratic Convention 1984.

Honors, Awards, Recognition

Please list any honors, awards or recognition which you have received:

None

Potential Conflict of Interest

Can you think of any relationship or other reason which might possibly constitute a conflict of interest if you are selected to serve as Township Supervisor? (This question is not meant to disqualify you; it is only intended to provide information.)

None

Have you been convicted of any infamous crime, bribery, perjury, or other felony? If so, please list the offense, date and court of conviction. 60 ILCS 1/55-6.

None

Personal Statement

Please write a brief statement concerning why you are interested in serving Township Supervisor.

To start out with, in 2016 I considered retirement. I didn't like it so I turned to an occupation that fulfilled my desire to feel useful and return something to the community I live in and I have been in the business of encouraging recovery and helping guide those who need assistance back into productive lives in their various communities.

I had volunteer experience in Virginia on the board of a non-profit provider of housing and services for mentally ill and challenged persons followed by an appointed position on the Arlington County Community Services Board. Community services boards (CSBs) are the single points of entry into publicly funded mental health, developmental, and substance abuse services in Virginia. I was heavily involved during the early 1980s in the community education and consensus building efforts that led to Arlingtons first shelter and transitional housing facility involving funding through the Arlington Department of Human Services..

I also have personal experience with Alcohol and Substance abuse and have been a sober member of AA for over 20 years.

While working as a Realtor in Champaign I came to know Melany Jackson as she was starting CU at Home and I wholeheartedly support her original vision of housing the most vulnerable and most difficult among the homeless.

I was excited when I learned of the Township plan to open a low barrier shelter and proud to be on board and involved in the opening of Strides a little over a year ago.

Over the course of the first year I've come to learn the breadth and depth of the homeless problem in Champaign and east central Illinois and it is far greater than I realized. I believe that the Township, under its constitutional charge to provide general assistance, is uniquely positioned to play a vital role in the effort to put an end to homelessness in Champaign and the surrounding area.

As Supervisor I believe I can bring both perspective and experience to the Township in this area and I want the opportunity to help guide the efforts to provide safety, security and shelter to the most vulnerable among our citizens and enhance the contributions of all the various supportive services being brought to bear on the effort to eradicate homelessness.

Finally, I am well aware that Strides shelter is not the only thing the Township does. However, it is the driver that more than quadrupled the number of employees and tripled the budget.

Supplemental Questions

1. What do you see as the most pressing need in the City of Champaign Township? Why?

The Township needs to clarify and expand the meaning of “general assistance to the indigent”. In the face of an affordable housing crisis and an exploding homeless population the Township has found itself in the shelter business. In the low barrier shelter business that includes shelter guests that may have severe mental and emotional health issues as well as profound substance addictions. It means some guests that face barriers to housing that are so high they may never leave the shelter. There is an opportunity here to provide more than just a roof and a bed but that means wrapping supportive services around the location, a much more complex endeavor than just providing shelter.

Low barrier shelters are the last stop for many guests before jail because there are not adequate mental health and substance abuse services and housing for these populations.. Low barrier shelters are in danger of becoming society's default mental health warehouses... without the resources and skills to deal with this population.

2. Prior to learning about the Township Supervisor vacancy, have you ever been to a Town Board meeting or City Council meeting? If yes, what was the topic or topics you were interested in?

Yes, but some years ago when CU at Home was just beginning.

Also a couple of land use issues and during the time when the downtown YMCA was considering and ultimately moved out to Staley Road. As a neighbor and patron I was intensely interested in anything that could have been done to keep the facility downtown.

I've learned over the years that when trying to influence change one does what one can and accepts the result, whatever it may be.

3. What in your qualifications or background make you the right person for this appointment?

A lifetime of experience in a wide variety of roles, some successful and some less so. An open mind and curiosity coupled with the willingness to work within the constraints` of whatever situation I find myself in.

4. What are some of your long-range objectives for the City of Champaign Township?

I'd like to see it in a leadership role in the provision of services to those who need them most, i.e. “general assistance to qualifying residents”. I believe the Assessor's shop is well fixed and the focus of the Supervisor should be clearly in the assistance to the indigent and, particularly those who need assistance in achieving and maintaining housing.

5. What do you see as successful qualities of a Township Supervisor?

Formost, the ability to listen and negotiate effective compromise. I have a vision for the Township's role in providing services but I am also a pragmatist and understand that for anything to be accomplished the Township will have to work within budget and with the resources available. It is an executive as well as leadership position.

6. What is the role of a Township Supervisor?

To set direction, goals and aspirations for the Township and to use and trust staff to effectively execute the actions necessary to achieve as much as possible. To be the community face of the Township.

7. Give us an example of a time you solved a difficult problem or issue,

Lets step back some time to when I was doing marketing consulting. I had a client that manufactured thread sold wholesale to major furniture and automotive manufacturers. As an aside, they were also the only maker of the large wicks that are burnt alongside railroad tracks so that the rails can be bent. They hired me to research and develop marketing lists to be used to test the feasibility of producing smaller packages of thread for sale to furniture and upholstery repair shops. I did the market research and developed the lists, but I also analysed the production, marketing and delivery plans that went along with their scheme. My analysis found that scaling up a new division to do this work and breaking their product down to retail quantities, warehousing, packaging and fulfilling orders and so forth would actually distract from their core business, thread spools that were delivered on railroad cars, would require a complete revision of their accounting systems and would actually produce less profit than their core business. What at a casual glance looked like an easy way to extend their reach simply wasn't and I advised that they drop the project, which would have been a nice revenue producer for my company but not in their best interest. They thanked me, paid a quit fee and recommended me to other businesses in need of my services.

8. How would you support the Strides shelter? What are your ideas for long term funding and hiring and retention of employees for the shelter?

Ouch! Grant funds will run out. Additional grants and donations can be solicited but this will ultimately require taxpayer participation and the ongoing need for this shelter will have to be sold to the community.

One alternative that might be worth exploring would be the sale of beds on a contract basis to other service providers like hospitals, rehabs, law enforcement, jails and prisons as a safe haven on release. The Salvation Army had a percentage of their beds under contract to the Vererans Administration when they were operating the Stepping Stones shelter at their North Market location. The issue with this approach is that low barrier may not be acceptable to the organizations that might contract beds.

Shelter staff is a frustrating, demanding, difficult and sometimes dirty job. No guest wants to be in a shelter and the tension level is always there. Almost all homeless persons suffer from PTSD and most have other mental or emotional issues. Their world is not the same as ours. Impatience and angry outbursts are just part of every day and staff are always being tested on their deescalation skills. While the few successful transitions to housing are rewarding the larger number of failures is depressing – and some will die in or around the shelter. Shelter staff in a low barrier setting may be one of the hardest jobs in public social service,

I believe recruiting has to be absolutely rigorously honest and there are some people who should not work in the field. Pay is not an issue, the shelters pay scales are very competitive. Burnout is the issue. Shelter staff need to take advantage of counseling services. There is an EAP but few staff seem aware of it and fewer take advantage. Staff shortfalls and absenteeism burden everyone.

More staff to cover the gaps might help. Visible, committed leadership might also, but in a 24X7 setting that means management will have to put in a lot of hours at all hours of the day and night. To my knowledge no one has complete answers so we just keep trying.

References

* Current City of Champaign Town Board/City Council Members should not be included below.

Name: Robin Hall Occupation: retired

Address: Mahomet Home Phone: 7(1)(b) - Personal Telephone Number

Business Phone:

Name: Anatoliy Sedov Occupation: Program Manager, Substance Use Services
Heritage Behavioral Health Center

Address: Monticello Home Phone: 7(1)(b) - Personal Telephone Number

Business Phone: 217-362-6262

Name: Patricia Richardson Occupation: Case Manager, Strides

Address: Urbana Home Phone: 7(1)(b) - Personal Telephone Number

Business Phone: 217-403-6150

Public Records Exemptions

The following information explains the factual basis for the redactions applied to the responsive records provided to you, pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/7 *et al.*

Reason	Description	Pages
7(1)(b) - Personal Telephone Number	7(1)(b) Private information, unless disclosure is required by another provision of this Act, a State or federal law or a court order	1, 9
7(1)(b) - Personal Email Address	7(1)(b) Private information, unless disclosure is required by another provision of this Act, a State or federal law or a court order	1
7(1)(b) - Home Address	7(1)(b) Private information, unless disclosure is required by another provision of this Act, a State or federal law or a court order	1
7(1)(c) - Invasion of Personal Privacy	7(1)(c) Personal information contained within public records, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, unless the disclosure is consented to in writing by the individual subjects of the information. "Unwarranted invasion of personal privacy" means the disclosure of information that is highly personal or objectionable to a reasonable person and in which the subject's right to privacy outweighs any legitimate public interest in obtaining the information. The disclosure of information that bears on the public duties of public employees and officials shall not be considered an invasion of personal privacy	2
7(1)(b) - Signature	7(1)(b) Private information, unless disclosure is required by another provision of this Act, a State or federal law or a court order	10