



**National Black Justice Coalition**

Post Office Box 71395

Washington, DC 20024

Office: 202.319.1552

[www.NBJC.org](http://www.NBJC.org)

Dear Mayor Hamilton and Members of the Common Council,

Subject: Request for Consideration of City Clerk Salary Adjustment

Thank you for your service. I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I write to respectfully request your careful consideration of an important matter concerning the compensation of the City Clerk position within your esteemed city.

As you are well aware, the City Clerk plays a special, important, and multifaceted role within municipal government. Serving both in a capacity outlined by the Indiana Code and entrusted with departmental responsibilities under the Bloomington Municipal Code, the position has grown and changed over several years. It is with this growth and change in mind that I implore you to review and adjust the compensation associated with the City Clerk's position within the upcoming budget cycle. Ensuring that the City Clerk is more equitably compensated for their labor will ensure that everyone in the city of Bloomington continues to thrive.

In my role as the Executive Director of the National Black Justice Coalition, I have worked with Clerk Nicole Bolden in her role as the Co-Chair of the Good Trouble Network, an organization founded for Black LGBTQ+/SGL elected officials. As I am sure you are aware, Clerk Bolden is the first and only Black queer woman to hold elected office in the state of Indiana. Her leadership is vitally important, especially when there have been more than 600 anti-LGBTQ+ bills introduced in every state across our great nation. It is with this in mind that we seek to remedy the gross disparity in pay between her role and other department heads in the city.

I am fully cognizant of the delicate nature of raising salaries, particularly for an elected official who serves in a dual role; however, I believe that a salary adjustment for the City Clerk is justifiable and imperative.

Nicole Bolden's exemplary leadership, integrity, and commitment to public service serve as a testament to the kind of elected official we should all aspire to be. Rectifying the City Clerk's compensation would be a conscientious step towards income equality, and the promotion of competent professionals seeking elected office without compromising their quality of life.

I urge you to recognize the unique blend of responsibilities of the City Clerk position, combining the roles defined by both state and local codes. The proposed adjustment is feasible, especially considering the budget increases witnessed in previous cycles. A palatable compromise would be to align the Clerk's salary with that of the council attorney.



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I hope that you will give this request the thoughtful consideration it deserves, mindful of the broader implications it holds for your community's values and the future of Bloomington's leadership.

Thank you for your time, commitment to equitable public service, and careful consideration of this humble request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Johns", written in a cursive style.

Dr. David J. Johns  
Executive Director  
National Black Justice Coalition