

My name is Aaron Smith, I'm the president of the Noblesville City Council, and on behalf of the 71,000 people who call the 9th largest city in the state of Indiana home, I'm elated to have you in Noblesville and introduce a dear friend of mine today.

I live downtown, just a few blocks north of the square, with my wife, Bronwen, and our kids. Having a young family is one of the many similarities that Chris Jensen and I have. He and Julie have four kids, we have two.

Neither one of us were born into political families but got our starts working for good people in politics — Chris' first job was holding a purse for Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman and my first job was answering the phones in the United States Senate for Dan Coats. Dan and Becky are two people in the arena, as Teddy Roosevelt would say, for the right reasons.

It's those foundational principles — strong families, good mentors, and kids still young enough that you have to change poopy diapers — that guide our work and keep us eager to take on any challenge that's thrown our way.

I was at the Noblesville Main Street farmers market three years ago when we were trying to potty train our oldest. That's where a more passionate constituent of mine found me. Her conversations are never short and always touch on every single one of the hot button issues in Noblesville — parking on the square, development downtown, or the latest rumor swirling on Facebook.

Mid-conversation, I started to feel a warm puddle pooling on my pants. Yes, you guessed it, our toddler missed the bathroom. So not only had we failed at potty training, but I was now in public, defending the latest initiative of Chris Jensen while it looked like I was the one who peed my pants.

Don't ever say I didn't do anything for you, Chris.

In all seriousness though, it's been an honor to walk alongside the mayor and bring Noblesville into its next chapter.

Working with 9 councilors is no easy feat. I'm convinced that we've been able to move so swiftly here precisely because our mayor goes against the grain, he reaches out to people who don't agree with him and does it with humility and grace. There's no question, no phone call, no email or text that he won't answer. And in case you want to test it yourself, his number is 317-509-3134.

This mayor and administration make it easy to be on the same team, even if that means that we don't always agree.

And as long as you don't read Noblesville Chatter, you'll see that there is a lot of good happening in Noblesville.

Working alongside Mayor Chris Jensen, we have paved roads on the west side, built roundabouts on the east side, and preserved brick streets downtown.

Working alongside Mayor Chris Jensen, we've doubled down on the people of Noblesville — talking openly about mental health and advocating for those with disabilities.

Working alongside Mayor Chris Jensen, we've made our city safer with record investment in the men and women who serve and protect us each and every day.

And working alongside Mayor Chris Jensen, we've seen more than 1 billion, that's a billion with a B, dollars' worth of private investment in our city.

We've bet on Noblesville in the past four years — and I know Chris is just getting started.