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City of Seaside

COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

Cover Sheet for Letter of Interest to
Fill City Council Vacancy

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CITY OF SEASIDE
HUMAN RESOURCES

Name: Begina Mason Date: 1-2-19

Are you a registered voter? Yes No The City Clerk will verify voter registration.

Are you a resident of the City of Seaside? Yes No

Please Note: Your letter of interest and application materials are public records and will be included with the City Council's Agenda materials, posted on the City's website, and made available to the media and general public. The personal data requested on the second page of this cover sheet will be redacted.

This appointment process is to fill an unscheduled vacancy on the City of Seaside's City Council. The term of this seat is from the date of appointment to December 2020. Only City of Seaside registered voters who have submitted a letter of interest by the deadline will be considered for appointment.

To apply for this vacancy, submit this cover sheet and a letter of interest that includes a description of your ability to serve to:

Roberta Greathouse, Human Resources Director / Risk Manager, in person at City Hall (440 Harcourt Avenue), via email to rgreathouse@ci.seaside.ca.us, or via fax to (831) 718-8593.

In order to be considered for this vacancy, your letter of interest must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 2, 2019.

Please note that City Hall will be closed on December 24 & 25 as well as January 1, 2019.

BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Private Versus Public: Becoming a candidate for public office means that information about you will become a matter of public record immediately. With a few exceptions, this includes any and all documents submitted to the City during the course of the application period. As such, these documents must, by law, be available to the public for inspection and/or copying. Redacted copies of submitted applications will be available on the City's website.

Interview Process: On January 10, 2019, all applicants are invited to make a 3 minute presentation to the City Council regarding their ability to work in a team environment as a member of a governing board (if an applicant is unable to make a presentation they will still be considered to fill this vacancy.)

Term of Office for this Unscheduled Vacancy: The term of this seat will be from the day of appointment through December, 2020.

December 31, 2018

City of Seaside
440 Harcourt Street
Seaside, CA 93955
Attention: Roberta Greathouse

Solicitation of Letter of Interest to Fill City Council Vacancy

Dear Ms. Greathouse:

Please forward my letter of interest to the City Council to be considered for an appointed to the vacant seat on the Seaside City Council. If appointed I would be honored to serve as the 5th member of the City Council team to serve the residents of this great community.

Background

My history in the city of Seaside is both deep and broad. I am a lifelong resident, born in the old Fort Ord military hospital to the parents of a Seventh Infantry soldier who was also a combat veteran and a full-time working mother.

Whereas, the old Fort Ord hospital has long been remitted to the past, tremendous opportunities for the future of Seaside, which now encompasses a good portion of the former military base are abound and has the potential to enhance the quality of life in our community through responsible growth and development. These are exciting times for our city with Campus Town moving forward and the sunset of FORA. I would be honored to be a part of your dynamic team that will be charged with the responsibility of making those opportunities come to fruition.

I passionately believe that we all owe a debt of service to the communities in which we live and have put this philosophy into practice by providing community services in various capacities for well over two decades. I am the cofounder of a state-wide recognized agency, The Village Project, Inc., which is now in its 11th year and continues to provide critical clinical and other supportive services to historically underserved populations of people in Seaside and throughout Monterey County. I continue to serve this agency as a volunteer and take pride in doing so. As we are all aware, volunteers help our federal, state and local governments leverage resources to help our communities reach a greater state of well-being.

Professional Experience

I have served in the capacity of treasurer for the Commission on the Status of Women for Monterey County, Youth Advisor for the Monterey County NAACP Youth Council, founding member of the organizing committee for the Annual Youth Summits, now going into its 25th year, immediate past President of the Monterey County Branch NAACP, founder and chair of the Poor People's Campaign for Monterey County, Ambassador for the Seaside/Sand City Chamber of Commerce and as a member of the Community Foundation for Monterey County grants review committee, among others. Additionally, I serve as an advocate for many underserved families and children in need of advocacy support, whether its accompanying people to court, educational IEP meetings, parent/teacher meetings, assistance with crafting correspondence and many other advocacy needs. This has provided me with an insight into the needs of many people in our community.

Professionally, I have worked in the corporate world as well as in human services as a social worker and social work supervisor of which I am now retired. My diverse experience and skill sets can serve to complement the current city council team members and will allow me to be able to function as an effective member of the team. Like all of you, I am prepared to perform with integrity, due diligence, and with informed decision making on behalf of the great residents of Seaside.

When I made the decision to put in the hard work and countless hours to run for City Council in the past election, it was because of my long history of community service which I believe will allow me to bring an added perspective in the representation of the residents of the community. During my campaign, I was tremendously humbled to have had the opportunity to receive direct input from cross sections of the community and better understand the issues that impact their daily lives as well as their hopes and dreams. This invaluable experience made clear to me that everyday hardworking residents are looking toward the future for themselves, their children, aging parents and the community as a whole. Many residents wonder what Seaside is going to look like in the future, if they will be represented, if they will be cost out of the housing market or incorporated into a grand plan that works for everyone. Depending on the neighborhoods I canvased, different residents had different needs and desires but one thing they all had in common is their love for our community and their desire to live the American dream. And I would be remiss if I did not mention the overwhelming number of individuals who expressed a desire to be listened to and have the ideas of the community included and acted upon in city government.

Additionally, as a former social worker, I can provide a social worker's insight in helping with our most vulnerable populations of people to include the homeless, mentally ill as well as youth and families.

Diversity

One of the main strengths in our community is the diversity of cultures and people. I would like to join the team of the current council to help build on our strengths. Working together, we are stronger and have many opportunities to grow our community in the business sector, with jobs for our residents, especially our youth and housing that is inclusive of our workforce and at affordable prices. Working with our local educational institutions to ensure our youth are educated in the jobs of tomorrow in areas such as technology, health care, business, research and development and environmental sustainability is essential in order to ensure the future prosperity of our incredible city. With a well thought out plan for land use, the city will have a unique opportunity to engage the business sector in ways that it never has before, but it will take hard work, dedication and vision to accomplish such goals.

Teamwork

I have a long history and a good deal of experience working with various teams of people and, in reflecting upon those occasions, I cannot recall a single accomplishment that was achieved by only one member of a team. I find value and inspiration in the African proverb that reads, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." To me, this proverb exemplifies the importance of working together judiciously and diligently for the good of the residents of our community. It makes clear the city government is not about a single individual or a single idea but is instead an informed body of individuals entrusted by the people to do the people's work. This does not suggest that there won't be differences of opinion on a given issue. However, once opinions and views have been expressed, there is an obligation to resolve differences by a vote of the body. The majority vote then becomes the position of the entire body. Team members then have the responsibility of carrying out the will of the body and, by virtue, the will of the people. This is an example of how I will function as a member of the

team and I am willing to roll up my sleeves and get to work immediately should I have the good fortune of being selected for the Seaside City Council.

Blueprint for Growth

A city's General Plan is the blueprint for future growth and development of a city. Our GP was due to be finalized in the summer of 2018. The plan provides for input from members of the community and is the template for our future growth. We can use the plan to help inform our decisions related to growth and make amendments as needed. We have many opportunities to look at our existing resources and to build from them. These resources include the golf course, Fort Ord Monument, CSUMB, Monterey College of Law, and we live near the Marine Sanctuary. All of these existing resources provide our city with opportunities to attract tourism dollars.

I have provided below a list of awards I received for my years of community service and demonstrated results. All of these awards were received as a member of teams of people working to make our communities better.

Education

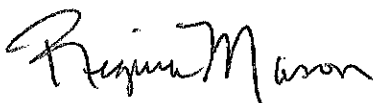
Master's Degree, Social Work, Concentration, Child Welfare, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA
Bachelor's Degree, Business Administration, Concentration, Business Management, Saint Mary's College, Moraga, CA
Associates of Arts Degree, General Studies, Monterey Peninsula College

Awards

- 2018 MPC President's Award for Community Service and Outstanding Alumni.
- 2018 NAACP California State Conference Lulan Sapp-McGriff Award for Courageous Leadership
- 2017 MPC Lobo Hall of Fame Outstanding Alumni Award
- 2017 Democratic Women for Monterey County Visionary Award
- 2015 Leadership Monterey Peninsula Award for Service to Community
- 2013 Jefferson Award for Community Service and selected to represent the Central Coast in Washington, DC
- 2013 Village Project Board of Directors Vision Award
- 2010 California State Legislator Women of the Year for Outstanding Service and Leadership to the Community
- 2009 Community Partnership for Youth for Those Honoring Youth Award
- 2004 Christian Memorial COGIC Outstanding Service Award
- 2003 Outstanding Social Worker Award
- 1999 Outstanding Woman of Monterey County by the Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women

In closing, I would like to reiterate my strong desire to join your team. I am prepared to fully fulfill the obligations of this position. I appreciate and am grateful for your sincere consideration of this request.

Respectfully Submitted,



Regina Mason