

October 5, 2020

U.S. Mail and E-Mail
meyers@cityofnewportrichey.org

Judy Meyers, CMC
City Clerk
5919 Main Street
New Port Richey, FL 34652

Dear Judy,

Enclosed please find my Letter of Interest for the anticipated vacancy at City Council. If additional information is required, please contact me at:

7210 Jasmin Drive
New Port Richey, FL 34652
727 836 0640
jnh@elderlawcenter.com

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan".

Joan Nelson Hook, Esq.

Encls.

LETTER OF INTEREST IN CITY COUNCIL VACANCY

Joan Nelson Hook, Esq.

RESIDENT OF THE CITY

I have lived in the New Port Richey area since moving to Florida from Delaware in 1993 and in the City of New Port Richey since 2005. I am a registered voter and have participated in every election since I became a Florida resident. I have volunteered as a poll worker. Several years ago I ran as a candidate for the position of City Council and gathered the third highest number of votes in that election.

WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF THE CITY

As a homeowner and as a landlord I have applied for several permits to rezone, modify or build structures and have a citizen's view of the Permitting department. I attend City Council meetings as frequently as possible as I am fascinated at the workings of local government. In the city I serve as Chair of the Library Advisory Board (LAB). I am a member of the Board of Trustees at NorthBay hospital and in that capacity I am Co-chair of the Community's Advisory Committee (CAC). The purpose of this committee is to bring together the mission of the hospital with the needs of the community. As Co-chair I have added three city employees to the volunteer based CAC, one each from the Library, the Police Department and Parks and Recreation.

DEMONSTRATED ABILITY TO WORK EFFECTIVELY AS A MEMBER OF A DECISION MAKING TEAM

I think I work effectively with groups and clubs of which I am a member. When a matter may be in dispute, I make an effort to listen to different ideas and attempt to incorporate congruent ideas with the goal of making a better solution. I have served as President of the West Pasco Bar Association, where there were many decisions to be considered. I was chosen as Queen Chasco in 2006, an honor that I cherish. As you well know, the King and Queen are chosen each year for their ability to positively contribute to the betterment of the city and county. In my profession, I have served in many leadership roles; President of Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys (AFELA) and recipient of the Charlotte Brayer award for public service, President of the Florida State Guardianship Association (FSGA) and all the while growing my elder law practice.

ABILITY TO BUILD A CONSENSUS ON ISSUES

Recently, when the City decided to refurbish Jasmin Park, I brought together a group of residents, who had definite ideas with the Park and Recreation staff designs. By meeting on site and at the recreation center, we came to a mutual agreement about the scope and sequence of the changes. I think through discussions we were able to save the city some money and achieve the benefit of the upgrades to the park the citizens desired.

INTEREST IN CONTINUED ADVANCEMENT OF THE CITY

The City Council has made much progress in improving the downtown area; the completion of Main Street Landing, the newly planned parking garage, the Central residences on Orange Lake, the recently begun Keiser college construction. The Hacienda will soon be open as will the Gloria Swanson parking

lot. But, I'm very concerned about the possible development of the former Altman property across the street from the Hacienda. If the development there is dense, I have concerns that it will spoil the ambiance of the hotel.

In advancement of the city we must remember that the downtown is not the only part of our city that needs to be advanced. There are many dilapidated 2 and 3 family homes that could be renovated to provide safer and more attractive living spaces. With increased home value, property taxes grow. I was pleased to learn of the Residential Revitalization program Councilman Altman described at the last meeting. This program sounds like a great opportunity to provide a win- win situation for the landlord, renter, and community. Residential revitalization will do much to meet the needs of residents who live outside the downtown foot print .

BASIS OF INTEREST IN PUBLIC SERVICE

I suppose I began public service as a Camp Fire girl in elementary school. Each year we sold doughnuts to benefit our community projects. I went on to become a public school teacher receiving a Bachelor of Science from the University of Maryland, and then a Master of Education from the American University. When I changed my career to law, I chose to practice Elder Law as it is more transactional and less argumentative.

Currently, I serve on the Board at Gulfside Health Services, Morton Plant Mease Women in Philanthropy, the New Port Richey Public Library Advisory Board. I have served with the Seven Springs Rotary receiving the Paul Harris award, the Good Samaritan Clinic, Lighthouse for the Blind, a Lifetime member of the New Port Richey Historical Society and I am a major sponsor of the New Port Richey Loquat Festival.

DESCRIPTION OF REASONS I AM WELL SUITED OF SERVE THE CITY IN THIS CAPACITY

I have a genuine interest in working with the City Council to see the city become a hometown everyone can be proud of. I have lived in several multi-cultural societies, Germany, the Caribbean, and Washington, D.C. I think the recent racial charges against the City and the Police Department, need to be addressed through thoughtful, reasoned dialogue. I have some training in mediation, and I believe I could make a contribution in this endeavor.

I have the time and the energy to serve the City. The city has shown to expect high standards in all aspects of city government. I would expect to uphold these high standards and make a positive contribution.