

RECEIVED

By Dylan Gibson at 10:44 am, Dec 27, 2022

City of Commerce City

27 December 2022

Attn: Dylan Gibson

7887 E. 60th Ave.

Commerce City, CO 80022

Good afternoon Dylan,

Please find the enclosed application to the appointment of the Ward III City Council seat. As requested, I am writing today to attest to my eligibility to serve in this capacity. I attest that I am:

- a citizen of the United States;
- greater than 18 years of age;
- a resident of Commerce City since 2019;
- a registered voter; and
- not currently serving a criminal sentence, including probation or parole, for a felony or an offense comparable to a felony in the military.

Regards,



Melinda Larson

MELINDA LARSON

Commerce City | Lindy.Larson@hotmail.com | 1 (970) 388-2176 | linkedin.com/in/LindyLarson

In a Nutshell

Seasoned and detail-oriented professional editor and writer with a passion for public service and community engagement. I bring to the table more than 20 years' experience in fundraising, community outreach, grassroots volunteering, and political engagement (on both sides of the aisle). Passionate about community service and advocacy, particularly regarding issues of human rights and dignity, environmental policy, and mental health.

DRIVEN | EXCELLENT COMMUNICATOR | COMMUNITY-FOCUSED | SELF-STARTER

Professional Experience

Quest Integrity USA, Boulder, CO

February 2022-present

Document Control Specialist

- Edit all client communication, including reports, proposals, and presentations, for correct grammar, style, layout, and formatting
- Develop and ensure compliance with QA/QC procedures across global offices

USDA Forest Service, Fort Collins, CO

May 2009-October 2015

Technical Editor and Writer II

- Edited thousands of pages of scientific manuscripts prepared by Forest Service scientists for annual publication
- Managed an annual average of 35 manuscripts, from receipt through publication, each ranging from 20 to 600 pre-production pages
- Created engaging and informative legislative briefs for Congressional leaders

Volunteer Experience

Quality Community Foundation

October 2021-present

Vice President

North Range Village Metro District Board

February 2022-present

Board Member

North Range Village Homeowner's Association

January 2018-present

Committee President

Environmental Policy Advisory Committee

August 2021-present

Committee Member

St. Baldrick's Foundation, March Fundraising Event

2013-2017

Broomfield Volunteer Coordinator

Education

MA Bioethics/2019

Trinity International University

Summa Cum Laude, 4.0 GPA

BA Technical Journalism/2009

Colorado State University

Minor in Biomedical Sciences

City of Commerce City

27 December 2022

Attn: Mayor Huseman and City Councilmembers

7887 E. 60th Ave.

Commerce City, CO 80022

Good afternoon Mayor Huseman and esteemed City Councilmembers,

Thank you for your consideration in the appointment process for the Ward III seat vacancy. Following are the requested answers to the 11 questions in “Exhibit A: Council Vacancy Application Questions” of the City Council vacancy application.

1. Why are you applying to be on the City Council?

I am passionate about *creating* a community that meets the needs of all residents, not simply those who share my neighborhood or those of a specific demographic. Commerce City is on the verge of its next big chapter and has tremendous potential to become known as a melting pot city in which each resident has a fair shake and a safe home base from which to strive for his or her greatest potential. I see a seat on the City Council as an important step to achieve these aims.

2. How is your experience and background relevant to being on the City Council?

The experience I have gained among the professional, volunteer, and academic spheres has cultivated in me the ability to collaborate with, and demonstrate sincere compassion and interest for, a wide range of stakeholders. As a lifelong learner, I recognize the value in various viewpoints and perspectives on a variety of contemporary issues. This enables me to take an informed, yet balanced, view on even the most traditionally heated topics.

3. What are your thoughts on the relationship between the Historic City and the Northern Range?

Simply put, one cannot, and should not, exist without the other. Core Commerce City is where it all began and is the root that connects us to our city’s history and demonstrates our relationship to the land. Conversely, the infusion of new viewpoints and diverse geographic lived experiences in the Northern Range brings much opportunity for growth and community collaboration.

4. What do you believe to be the three most pressing challenges or concerns in the Commerce City community?

- Environmental health, including air and water quality
- Community safety, including properly equipping the CCPD to prevent crime and effectively protect residents
- Access to mental health resources, including those targeting drug and alcohol addiction and family stability

5. What do you see as the three most pressing opportunities for Commerce City right now?

- Strengthening business and economic growth, thereby increasing revenue that supports community-focused initiatives and improvements
- Environmental policy revision and community outreach for the purpose of improving residents’ physiological and psychological quality of life

- Continued investment in our community's youth, specifically by increasing needs-based scholarships and enhancing existing collaborative commissions and partnerships with the Adams 14 and 27J school districts

6. What concerns, if any, do you have about serving on the City Council?

I have no concerns about serving on City Council. I welcome the challenges associated with serving in this capacity and trust that, if appointed, I will complement the existing Council dynamic.

7. What does Quality Community for a Lifetime mean to you?

Quality communities are not coincidental—they are intentional and are created by those who are willing to give of themselves to better the world around them. The front runners in this movement are those who are other-centric and who dedicate themselves to achieving goals that benefit the majority in their sphere of impact. Specifically, a quality community is one that prioritizes the physical and emotional well-being of its residents through an emphasis on safety, targeted public resources and programs, and tax-based services that truly meet the needs of the majority of the community for a lifetime.

8. What local government or non-profit boards or commissions have you served on?

I have served on the following non-profit boards and commissions:

- Quality Community Foundation, Vice President
- North Range Village Metro District Board, Board Member
- North Range Village Homeowner's Association, Committee President
- Environmental Policy Advisory Committee, Committee Member

9. Have you participated in the Commerce City Civics Academy?

Regrettably, my schedule was unable to accommodate the recent iteration of the Commerce City Civics Academy. However, I am an avid researcher and have devoted my tenure on the boards and committee detailed in my resume to learning all I can about Commerce City organization and operation and welcome the opportunity to learn even more.

10. How long have you resided in Commerce City?

I have lived in Commerce City since September of 2017, totaling five years at the time of this letter.

11. What is your favorite place in Commerce City?

My favorite place in Commerce City is the neighborhood park across from my house. Through a joint effort between the Metro District Board and Homeowner's Association, we refinanced our debt at a lower interest rate and secured capital improvement funds. With a portion of these, I coordinated the replacement of our aging play structure, resulting in many times more visitors to the play area this last year than the four years combined. Our park is also home to a variety of HOA-led community engagement events each year, including an Easter egg hunt and meal, summer movie nights, and a community BBQ. These spaces reflect the residents of this neighborhood who cherish our shared home and who work to create a quality community.

Regards,

Melinda Larson