

Gardner, Teresa

From: Andrea Tavener <andrea.tavener@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 12:39 PM
To: Gardner, Teresa
Subject: Ward 3 Sparks City Council Seat

CITY OF SPARKS

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CITY CLERK

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Current Registered Voter in Washoe County: YES

November 16, 2018

Dear Honorable Mayor Smith:

Thank you for accepting my application for the Ward 3, Sparks City Council seat. As a resident of the great City of Sparks for well over 47 years, I believe I am uniquely qualified to fill this position. I have several decades of experience working with residents in Nevada, and have performed multiple roles in both County and State governments including involvement in the legislative process.

I have extensive experience in regards to accounting, finance, policy development and oversight while employed with both the State of Nevada and Washoe County. This allowed me the opportunity to interact and represent people of all ages, with a variety of socio-economic and diverse backgrounds, and introduced me to a passion for public service. Being assigned to various special projects during my tenure, I contributed research to the development of the newly passed welfare reform act, mandated managed care program and several important policies and changes that are still relevant today, such as the training center for Nevada State Welfare, and the Job Connect offices. I was awarded several commendations including the Governor's Award for Team Building. This developmental experience introduced me to the complexities of the legislative process, and reinforced the importance of thorough policy research. During this time, I also served as volunteer President Elect for the National Eligibility Workers Association, and was actively involved in testifying before the legislation for workers' rights and for programs related to Health and Human Services.

My employment with Washoe County allowed me to help people with various backgrounds and ethnicity, as I taught English as a Second Language for non-native English speakers, and adult General Education Classes for the Library System. I was able to identify, understand and help resolve life struggles for individuals less fortunate in our community. During this time I received the Silver Star Award for Literate Community from Truckee Meadows Tomorrow, Outstanding Community Partnership from Community Service Agency, Head Start, and Excellence in Team Building from the Washoe County Manager's Office.

I was also able to work in Public and Community Relations with the Washoe County Manager's Office. I had direct oversight of 12 Citizen Advisory Boards spanning all of Washoe County, and as the direct assistant to the Commission. This allowed me to become well versed in Nevada Open Meeting Law, and Commission meetings and agendas. My passion has always been in serving the public and in problem solving. This position allowed me to really find out the concerns and issues that were important to all residents of Washoe County, and to recommend solutions

that impact our community. I worked closely with all County departments to identify or resolve issues and concerns. That included working with regional entities and other jurisdictions. This position also helped me to understand all the inner workings of local government.

I understand the value of constituent input and the importance of having an open door to advocates from all sides. As I experienced, often the best policy is the product of long discussion and compromise among opposing sides. I know the importance of respecting diverse perspectives, seeking input from all stakeholders, and finding common ground which are skills I would take with me to the Council.

I believe in giving back to our community. I have served as a volunteer Sunday School Teacher, worked for Red Cross, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and have been elected to serve as both Association President, and as an appointed Board of Directors for nonprofits and associations. Currently, I am the Chair and serve at the pleasure of the Council on the Sparks Parks and Recreation Commission. All of my volunteer and employment history have helped me to better understand our community and our residents' concerns. I have compassion for people, and appreciate differing opinions, all of which have helped me develop a course of action that has the greatest benefit to all involved, and am open to dialogue on topics that are important.

Once appointed to serve the residents in Ward 3, my experience and communication style will minimize the learning curve and enable me to be an effective member of the Council on day one. My personal interests are in redevelopment of certain areas of Sparks, and in managing growth and development in a sustainable manner. Seeing my family struggle as small independent business owners, I would like to encourage and promote businesses coming to our area and ensure that process is seamless. I understand the importance of having a sound infrastructure, in regards to flood prone areas, water, and the current sewer system, and of course, the issue of traffic and congestion. I would also strengthen funding for public safety in our city.

Having grown up here, and raised my family in Sparks, I have a strong commitment to the residents and have seen all of the challenges the City has faced over the years with blight, flooding, and the recession. I am proud of the leadership in our city, and in calling Sparks my home. I would be honored to help shape the future for generations to come.

I appreciate the difficult task you have in finding the best candidate to fill this important position. I would be honored to represent Ward 3 and look forward to participating in your selection process. Thank you again for consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrea Tavener