

CITY OF RICHMOND

Candidate Statement of Qualifications
For Appointment to Fill City Council Vacancy
(Richmond Municipal Code, Article II, Chapter 2.16.080)

RECEIVED
CITY CLERKS OFFICE
CITY OF RICHMOND

2015 FEB -3 PM 4:49

Instructions to Candidate:

- This statement may include your name, age, occupation, and a brief description of your education and qualifications.
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- Prepare statement according to the following guidelines:

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- Statements must be in UPPER and LOWER CASE.

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STATEMENTS ARE LIMITED TO NO MORE THAN: 250 WORDS (See attached Word Count Guidelines)

My name is: Ben Choi

My age is (Optional): 43

My occupation is: Account Manager

Education and Qualifications *(Statement and word count begin below):*

As the child of immigrants who spent much of my childhood in a corner store, I truly understand the value of diversity. All kinds of people, with their distinctive histories, cultures, and native languages, came into our store to get what they needed for their families. I learned to really listen to voices unlike my own, and I came to understand that someone who doesn't look like me or sound like me still basically wants and needs the same things I do. I continue to relearn that lesson every day in Richmond.

My two years representing my neighborhood at the RNCC, along with my five years on the Richmond Planning Commission, have taught me how crucial it is that all the voices in our community are given their fair consideration. This is especially true when issues are difficult or contentious. Public discussion and community participation are the only ways to get beyond the two-dimensional thinking that sorely limits us in Richmond: "either clean air or jobs;" "either civil liberties or public safety;" "either blight and crime or gentrification and displacement;"

As a member of the Richmond City Council, I pledge to draw strength and wisdom from this great city's diversity to work past either...or thinking, and focus on shared values rather than illusory differences. Together we can make the decisions and execute the policies that will build a Richmond after our own image, a brighter future by and for us all.

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I certify under penalty of perjury that the candidate statement submitted is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated 2/3/2015

Signature of Candidate 

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My name is: Otheree Christian

My occupation is: High School Campus Security Officer

Education and Qualifications (Statement and word count begin below):

Graduate of Howard University in Washington DC with a BA in Criminal Justice and a Minor in Political Sc. Bringing team work and leadership to the City of Richmond. A Richmond resident and a product of the West Contra Costa Unified School District. I believe, I have the experience and dedication to help move our City forward.
Currently serving as President of the Iron Triangle Neighborhood Council

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Dated 2/13/15

Signature of Candidate Otheree Christian

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2015 FEB -2 PM 1:58

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My name is: Rosemary Corbin

My age is (Optional):

My occupation is: Retired

Education and Qualifications (Statement and word count begin below):

I am a known quantity having been elected by the voters of Richmond four times without corporate support.

My priorities are: public safety, environmental quality, and economic equity.

While I served as a City Council Member and Mayor I represented Richmond on The West Contra Costa Solid Waste Management Authority, The Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Commission, The East Bay Public Safety Corridor Project, and I represented the East Bay Cities on The Bay Conservation and Development Commission. I chaired the Environmental Affairs Committee of the League of California Cities, and was the Vice Chair of the Energy and Environment Committee of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

I introduced the first gun safety, recycling, and garbage rate regulation ordinances in Richmond. During my terms as mayor we reduced the murder rate from 52 to 18 thanks to our pioneering community policing program. I was also a pioneer in the "smart growth" movement.

Since retirement I have served on the Boards of the Institute for Local Government and the Bay Trail. I chair both the City of Richmond's Historic Preservation Commission and Ujima (a substance abuse treatment program for women and their children.) And, I am a docent at the Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Park.

I would like to serve on the City Council for the next two years to help further the policies that have been adopted in the last few years.

I would not seek re-election.

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Dated 2 Jan 2015 Signature of Candidate Rosemary M Corbin

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2015 FEB -3 PM 2:42

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My name is: Anthony Creer

My age is (Optional):

My occupation is: Terminal Operator

Education and Qualifications *(Statement and word count begin below):*

My name is Anthony Creer. I am a Terminal Operator for a bulk storage company here in Richmond. I am a graduate of John F. Kennedy High School (Richmond) and attended Contra Costa and Berkeley City Colleges. I would like to become a member of the Richmond City Council because I am committed to helping our City thrive. I have a vested interest in the community. Not only did I grow up here, I've raised my family here and I plan to remain living here. Teamwork and collaboration are my guiding principles when working with others. As a former Richmond business owner and entrepreneur, I am sensitive to the needs and struggles of small businesses. I also have experience working on committees which were chartered to design and implement policies, coordinate community events, or create awareness. I have strong ties to the community and an in-depth knowledge of local needs. I know I can be a contributing asset to the Richmond City Council and would love an opportunity to serve the city of Richmond in this capacity.

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Dated 1.3.15

Signature of Candidate 

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2015 FEB -3 AM 11:26

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My name is: Raquel Donoso

My age is (Optional): 40

My occupation is: Director, Mission Promise Neighborhood

Education and Qualifications *(Statement and word count begin below):*

I came to the Bay Area as a single mother 15 years ago to build a better future for my family, and now live with my husband and two sons in Richmond. I represent the fast growing demographic of families with school-age children who want the best for their families. I know Richmond can provide them with that prosperity and pride.

I am passionate about building a community that provides opportunities for youth, families, and seniors, which is why I've dedicated my career and volunteer time to numerous boards that advocate for education, health, civic engagement, environmental, youth, and women's issues in Richmond.

As a non-profit executive, I understand the importance of spending within our means and finding ways to increase economic development. I have experience with budgets and forming strategic partnerships that leverage private and public funding. As an involved parent, I will continue to promote strengthening our schools, parks, and libraries. As an environmentalist, I will protect our open space and advocate for responsible growth.

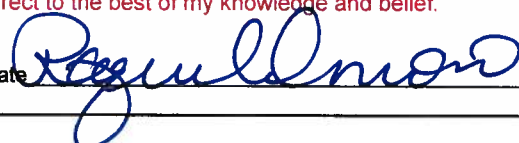
I believe in Richmond and its enormous potential. We are at a crossroads – the decisions the council makes over the next four years and how they implement the General Plan will affect our city for years to come. If appointed, I will work with my fellow Councilmembers to implement the Plan and move our city forward. I will remain open-minded and make decisions that are in the best interest for Richmond and its residents. I would be honored to represent Richmond.

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Dated Feb. 3, 2015

Signature of Candidate



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My name is: Oscar Garcia

My age is (Optional):

My occupation is: Environmental Engineer

Education and Qualifications *(Statement and word count begin below):*

Born and raised in the Iron Triangle neighborhood, my family was one of the first Latino families to establish roots in the city in the 1950s. I am a product of the West Contra Unified School District, graduating valedictorian of my class at John F. Kennedy High School and I obtained a degree in Chemical Engineering from UC Berkeley.

Over the past 10 years I have managed several environmental projects and programs in the US and throughout the world. I spent four years in Brazil on a project helping Brazilian multi-national companies implement environmental programs that were to US standards. Since November 2012, I have been employed at the Chevron Richmond refinery where I manage various aspects of air compliance.

If appointed, I would bring the following experience and skills to the Council:

- 1) Project management skills obtained leading multi-million dollar projects
- 2) An engineering background to address technical issues
- 3) A world perspective to addressing social and environmental issues
- 4) The importance of local businesses for job creation
- 5) A consensus builder that will ensure the city government works together

My appointment would also mean that the Richmond City Council would have a Latino member that is a product of Richmond, that can serve as a role model to Richmond's youth, and that can provide the perspective of residents of the Iron Triangle. My priority will be serving the youth of Richmond, particularly those in low-income areas.

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Dated 2/3/15

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My name is: Rhonda Harris

My age is (Optional):

My occupation is: Business Owner

Education and Qualifications (Statement and word count begin below):

My name is Rhonda Harris, seeking the appointment to fill the vacant City Council seat, to work to improve the quality of life of all Richmond residents, enhance education and job opportunities for youth, the unemployed and veterans.

I am invested in our City; A Richmond resident for 38 years, I am a mother and a successful business owner for 14 years, providing newly constructed and renovated properties that create jobs, training and safety. To address inequality affecting local small contractors, I established the Contractor's Alliance of Richmond, which addressed high unemployment and the lack of training in the building trades. The Richmond Community Based Employment Collaborative was founded to provide jobs to underserved youth actively involved in gangs, drugs and gun violence.

As a member of a military family, I began serving homeless veterans. In honor of my father a Korean veteran, I founded the Veterans Resource Program to assist veterans with housing, applying for benefits and higher educational opportunities.

I am a visionary, with flexibility and work well with others. My vision for Richmond is to work with the council to move those goals in place and communicate to individuals in communities that are hidden and uninformed of the city's purpose for bringing unity, harmony and inclusiveness.

The City of Richmond has improved. However, I know we face challenges. I've learned that solutions arise when people work together and commit to implementation. I am a team player, and know the intricacies of bringing people together. Thank you.

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My name is: Claudia Jimenez

My age is (Optional): 36

My occupation is: Community Organizer

Education and Qualifications (Statement and word count begin below):

As an architect, an environmental planner and a community organizer, I understand the processes of city planning and the importance of working with the whole community in a participatory and respectful manner. As a Richmond resident and a mother, I believe in the need for creating opportunities for all in Richmond.

The City council is an incredible opportunity to continue the critical work of improving the environment, economy and well-being of our community. I support initiatives that create employment opportunities and prevent displacement of low income residents, and I am interested in developing inclusive and equitable policies that expand opportunity for all.

As an immigrant woman in a city with 33% immigrant residents, I am interested in continuing my work with this community to advance civic participation and to build stronger alliances with other communities in the city. The importance of addressing persistently deep inequality and exclusion along the axis of race and ethnicity has inspired me to work and serve in a city that has been constantly impacted by racial and class segregation and big money in politics.

I will bring the passion and skills from more than 14 years organizing and developing policy with marginalized communities. As a council member, I will work toward Richmond becoming a vibrant healthy community with economic development that includes and reflects the diversity of our community and offers opportunities for everyone.

With your vote I can work to continue to build the city that everyone deserves.

RECEIVED
CITY CLERKS OFFICE
CITY OF RICHMOND
2015 FEB -2 PM 4:28

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Dated 02/02/15

Signature of Candidate CATIMENEZ

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My name is: Dameion Demond King

My age is (optional) 38

My occupation Case Manager

Education and Qualifications (Statement and word count begin below):

I am a 37 year old lifelong Richmond resident, who's experienced the tragedy, turbulence, triumph, and truth that make up some of our community's rich history. While attending Contra Costa College, I majored in Health and Human Services. I've served on the Richmond Housing Authority's Advisory Committee and as the chair of Marin Clean Energy's Community Leadership advisory Group. I've served as an urban strategy consultant for several local non profits, CBO's and civic groups throughout the Bay Area. I'm also a Hard Skills Development Specialist for Rubicon Programs and the current President of The Redemption Center, a local civic organization that exists to promote social welfare within urban communities. I passionately believe our community deserves leadership that educates, equips and empowers its citizens.

Our city is in a unique period of health transition which calls for leadership that understands and appreciates the commonality of humanity, the importance of a well disserve business community, culturally competent public safety policies and adequate affordable housing for our residents. I will labor to promote tolerance, social entrepreneurship and innovative business development that will encourage profits and hard skills development for workers in the immediate community. I will work toward enriched dialogue and increased communication between community and law enforcement in addition to advocating for service enriched housing models. I, Dameion King, would like to serve the community of Richmond.

RECEIVED
Office of City Clerk
on 2/2/15 at 1:30 pm
Tam Chusti

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Dated 02/02/2015
Signature of Candidate [Signature]

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My name is: Sheryl E. Lane

My age is (Optional):

My occupation is: Nonprofit Public Policy and Alumni Engagement Director

Education and Qualifications (Statement and word count begin below):

I'm from Richmond and have lived here for most of my life. I love this City and I'm committed to helping it realize its full potential.

I'm a graduate of De Anza High School and have a master's degree in Management and Urban Policy. I worked as a policy analyst for the Mayor of San Jose, worked with organizations to engage Richmond residents in the City's general plan update process and currently manage a public policy program at a nonprofit that helps low-wage workers save.

I have served over five years on the City's Planning Commission. As its current chair I've displayed civility, respect, and openness to listening and hearing from all constituents regardless of ideology, political interest and neighborhood affiliation.

I believe that I can effectively contribute to policy decision making and efforts that can help Richmond fulfill its promise for a city that: promotes economic development that contributes to our tax base, alleviates poverty, and develops a strong workforce; meets a range of housing needs that is inclusive of low-to-moderate working families; revitalizes core neighborhoods and commercial areas with a vibrant downtown that promotes and nurtures local community entrepreneurship opportunities; supports youth enrichment and better educational quality by what the City can do for youth before school, after school and around schools; champions diverse efforts to keep our neighborhoods safe; and fosters fiscal responsibility and active civic engagement in government processes.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve our city and its residents on the City Council.

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Signature of Candidate [Handwritten Signature]

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My name is: Vinay Pimple

My age is (Optional):

My occupation is: Attorney

Education and Qualifications (Statement and word count begin below):

Current Profession

Attorney: JD, UC Berkeley (BoaltHall)

Past Professions

Software Engineer: (Verizon, NY)

Teacher: Subject, English (Rutgers University, NJ and Mithibai Junior College, Mumbai)

Community Volunteering Qualifications

Richmond Trees

We've planted around 400 trees since 2011.

- Regular member of the tree planting and tree care crews.
Attend meetings and workshops as a core member.
Code tree care software.

Writer Coach Connection

We go into local high schools (Kennedy High and Richmond High) and coach students 1 on 1 with their writing assignments.

- Upped to a Double shift this year at Richmond High.
Volunteer in other ways as needed.

LEAP: Literacy for Every Adult Program

- Tutor and teach Math to adults studying for their GED
Code volunteer tracking software.

Other

- Mentor for at risk youth (RPAL).
Organize safety patrols, neighborhood group meetings, election nights, and block parties.

Goals in Council

- Respect all other council members, and understand that we all want very similar things for the people of Richmond.
Work with the school district and other groups to implement solutions for improving student results.
Create more jobs with better outreach to businesses.
Use sound reasoning skills to craft laws that address the concerns of all council members whenever possible.
Use my legal and quantitative analysis skills to ensure that our actions are practical and effective.
Use data analysis to exercise proper financial oversight, and increase efficiency of city government.
Use software and technology to improve performance, transparency, and accountability.

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I certify under penalty of perjury that the candidate statement submitted is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated 02/02/2015

Signature of Candidate [Handwritten Signature]

CITY OF RICHMOND

Candidate Statement of Qualifications
For Appointment to Fill City Council Vacancy
(Richmond Municipal Code, Article II, Chapter 2.16.080)

Instructions to Candidate:

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THE DEADLINE TO FILE YOUR STATEMENT IS 5:00 P.M., Tuesday, February 3, 2015.

STATEMENTS ARE LIMITED TO NO MORE THAN: 250 WORDS (See attached Word Count Guidelines)

My name is: Samuel L. Pooler, Esq.

My age is (Optional): 43

My occupation is: Attorney/Small Business Owner

Education and Qualifications:

Undergraduate: San Diego State University, B.A. in Political Science;

Law School: California Western School of Law, Juris Doctor

My name is Samuel L. Pooler, and I have been a resident of Richmond for the past four years. I decided to make Richmond my home after my research on the city revealed that it has the potential to be a model for growth and economic development for the Bay Area and the country as a whole. In the four years I have lived here, I have witnessed first-hand how the city has begun to move beyond the negative reputation that has plagued it into a vibrant, thriving community that I am proud to call home. There is still room for improvement; the city has an abundance of talented people, businesses and a city government that want nothing but the best for Richmond.

Using the skills I learned in the U.S.M.C., and as both an attorney and small business owner, I want to ensure that the city continues to grow and develop. One of my objectives would be to help foster a more cooperative relationship between the existing business community and the City Council whereby we all work towards undertaking efforts to further the growth and economic development of this wonderful city. Additionally, I'd like to see a renewed focus on balancing environmental concerns with that growth and economic development. Richmond has the foundation of a world-class city: let's build upon it!

RECEIVED
Office of City Clerk
on 1/29/15 at 4:00 pm
Sam Christy, Deputy

I have reviewed the above candidate statement, I understand no corrections or changes are allowed after it has been filed, and it will be printed as filed with the City Clerk. I understand I am limited to a recitation of my own personal background and qualifications and shall not in any way make reference to other candidates or to another candidate's qualifications, character, or activities.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the candidate statement submitted is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief

Dated 01/29/15

Signature of Candidate

Handwritten signature of Samuel L. Pooler

CITY OF RICHMOND

Candidate Statement of Qualifications
For Appointment to Fill City Council Vacancy
(Richmond Municipal Code, Article II, Chapter 2.16.080)

RECEIVED
CITY CLERKS OFFICE
CITY OF RICHMOND

2015 FEB -3 AM 9:18

Instructions to Candidate:

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My name is: Jim Rogers

My age is (Optional): 59

My occupation is: Retired Councilmember

Education and Qualifications (Statement and word count begin below):

I'm applying for the Council vacancy because I've been part of Richmond's remarkable progress. Although Chevron neither supported nor attacked me, I was runner up to 3 candidates who benefitted from a tidal wave of voter revulsion at Chevron's hit pieces.

Likewise all Chevron's supported candidates were rejected. November 2014's vote was about sending a message to Chevron. The replacement vote is about selecting the best candidate.

My record shows I am that candidate:

While the Great Recession and State tax grabs forced other cities into bankruptcy, firing police and closing schools, Richmond crime's down, employments up, and schools are open.

I led the fight to:

- pass Measure U
hire more and better police
put new anticrime outreach workers on the streets
improve pothole repair
Save Our Schools from closing (Kennedy, Grant, Olinda)

As past CC Times editorials said: "to his credit, Rogers has proven he can work with his colleagues on the Council...Rogers is a man of his convictions."

It's all about issues, not political friends and enemies.

I don't bicker, politick or grandstand at Council meetings.

Like Congressman George Miller and Councilmember Tom Butt, I opposed Chevron's 2008 Modernization Project, but supported the 2014 Modernization Project, because Chevron made serious, costly concessions on safety, pollution emissions, and Greenhouse Gas reductions.

Tom Butt, Jael Myrick and I negotiated a \$90,000,000 Chevron Community benefits package, including Myrick's "Richmond Promise" \$35,000,000 program to give all Richmond high school graduates full college scholarships.

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Dated 2/3/15

Signature of Candidate Jim Rogers

CITY OF RICHMOND

Candidate Statement of Qualifications
For Appointment to Fill City Council Vacancy
(Richmond Municipal Code, Article II, Chapter 2.16.080)

RECEIVED
CITY CLERKS OFFICE
CITY OF RICHMOND

2015 FEB -2 PM 12: 15

Instructions to Candidate:

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STATEMENTS ARE LIMITED TO NO MORE THAN: 250 WORDS (See attached Word Count Guidelines)

My name is: **David Schoenthal**

My age is (Optional): **47**

My occupation is: **Entrepreneur**

Education and Qualifications *(Statement and word count begin below):*

I have been a resident of Richmond for over 13 years and have three degrees in speech communication. I have been actively involved as a volunteer in the community as president of the Point Richmond Business Association, Commission of the Richmond Economic Development Commission, President of the Washington Elementary Dad's Club, and PTA Member at Washington Elementary. I worked hard to keep the local Farmers Market in 2013, organized multiple fundraising events at Washington Elementary as well as chaired and organized the Annual Picnic in the Point event for the past 3 years, raising over \$40,000 for local charities. Recently, I have been working to bring the community together to increase safety by working with Richmond Police Department and community groups to build collaborative relationships. When I am asked why I do so much, I selfishly say that I want my daughter to be able to say later in life what a wonderful place she grew up in. My appreciation of and hope for Richmond has grown over the years through my experience in our every evolving city. Richmond has incredible people and unique resources to be an even better place to live and work in the near future. It is my belief that Richmond is poised for great things. The real Richmond is the sum of all of its various parts and people. I would be proud to represent all of Richmond and work together with you to keep Richmond moving forward.

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Dated 2-2-15

Signature of Candidate 

CITY OF RICHMOND

Candidate Statement of Qualifications
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STATEMENTS ARE LIMITED TO NO MORE THAN: 250 WORDS (See attached Word Count Guidelines)

My name is: Kathryn Sibley

My age is (Optional):

My occupation is: Executive Assistant, Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission

Education and Qualifications (Statement and word count begin below):

Upon moving to Richmond in 2003, I found my home and my community, and believe it is time to bring my commitment to Richmond to a new level. My first community involvement in Richmond was to represent Contra Costa County on the 2003 Macdonald Avenue Revitalization Program. I served two terms on the Richmond Arts & Culture Commission, subsequently becoming a member of the Public Art Advisory Committee, where I still serve. In 2007 I was appointed by Mayor McLaughlin to the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Advisory Committee. These experiences have deepened my commitment to Richmond's future. My professional experience spans management and administration in community-based nonprofits including symphony orchestras, museums, and with the world-renowned Telluride Film Festival. I was the first executive director of the Western Museums Association. Additionally, I founded and was dean of the educational programs of the Telluride Film Festival for 25 years. For the past 12 years I have worked in local government, currently with the Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission. My professional experiences and personal volunteer work have given me the foundation to create and build community with a diversity of people. My life has been one of service and commitment, and now I hope to use this experience in Richmond, the most important community I can invest my time and energy in. I am excited by the prospect and the challenge of helping to shape our city's future in collaboration with the dedicated public servants on the Richmond City Council.

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
CITY OF RICHMOND
2015 FEB - 3 AM 8:34

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I certify under penalty of perjury that the candidate statement submitted is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated February 3, 2015

Signature of Candidate Kathryn S. Sibley

CITY OF RICHMOND

Candidate Statement of Qualifications
For Appointment to Fill City Council Vacancy
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CITY OF RICHMOND

2015 FEB -3 AM 9:47

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My name is: Marilyn Langlois

My age is (Optional): 64

My occupation is: retired community advocate and mediator

Education and Qualifications (Statement and word count begin below):

Richmond voters sent a clear message last November: keep moving our city in a healthy and just direction. To maintain the positive momentum and address important challenges that remain, I offer you my qualifications and service. I am firmly grounded in social values; I have experience in city government; I can relate well with all sectors of the community; and I have a mandate from the voters.

In 2012, I ran for city council and received 8,610 votes, more votes than eight of the nine full-term city council candidates in 2014. Richmond residents from throughout the city have urged me to apply for the current vacancy.

I welcome encounters with people of differing perspectives, backgrounds and personal circumstances, recognizing that better solutions evolve through respectful dialog with multiple voices.

My four and a half years working on the Mayor's staff and these past two years serving on Richmond's Planning Commission have equipped me with the contextual knowledge and practical skills needed to craft optimal policies beneficial to residents, local businesses and the environment.

I feel the joy and the pain of people in Richmond. Pain that comes from job insecurity; housing loss; chronic illness; violence; racial stereotyping. Joy that comes from financial stability; contributing to the community; living in safe and attractive neighborhoods; feeling supported, heard and appreciated. If appointed, my energy and focus will be directed to alleviating sources of pain and expanding our collective joy.

www.marilynlanglois.net

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Dated Feb. 3, 2015

Signature of Candidate Marilyn Langlois

CITY OF RICHMOND

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
CITY OF RICHMOND

2015 FEB -3 AM 11:35

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My name is: Uche J. Uwahemu

My age is (Optional): 42

My occupation is: Business Owner

Education and Qualifications (Statement and word count begin below):

I share in President Obama's State of the Union address, "Will we accept an economy where only a few of us do spectacularly well? Or will we commit ourselves to an economy that generates rising incomes and chances for everyone who makes the effort?" I believe that a healthy Richmond is when we provide opportunity for our residents who are willing to work. I bring with me over 20 years of business experience in nonprofit and private sectors. Through my nonprofit and private work, I have been able to build a strong community by creating opportunity for all, including new business development and housing for underprivileged people.

If appointed to the council, my goal will be to work with other elected officials to create a robust smart economy in Richmond. This economy will provide residents with the opportunity to create a future for themselves and their family. I would focus on attracting new businesses, building skills for our youth and adults looking to return to workforce, and creating a sustainable environment.

We owe a duty to the residents of Richmond to create a conducive environment where success is inevitable. I truly believe that we can build a strong dynamic economy in Richmond while maintaining a strong environmental policies. I promise to work diligently to accomplish these goals.

I will be honored to serve the people of Richmond.

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Dated 2/2/15

Signature of Candidate Uche Uwahemu