

Ward 2 City Council Application - Submission #12777

Date Submitted: 10/19/2017

CITY COUNCIL WARD 2 APPLICATION FORM

Applications are due October 20, 2017, at 10:00 AM.

You can submit your completed application and attachments on line, by mail or deliver it in person to the City Clerk Office addressed to:

Martha L. Rehbein, CMC, Legislative Services Director/City Clerk
City Clerk Office
435 Ryman
Missoula, MT 59802

Late applications will NOT be accepted.

Please note: All applications are included in City Council proceedings and are published on the City's website.

APPLICATION FORM

Name:*

Mirtha Becerra

Email:*

mirtha.a.becerra@gmail.com

Daytime Phone:*

(470) 388-6453

Alternate Contact Phone:

Street Address:*

1206 Phillips Street

Mailing Address (if different):

City, State:*

Missoula, MT

ZIP:*

59802

QUALIFICATIONS

If you are selected, will you have resided in Ward 2 for at least 60 days prior to being appointed?*

- Yes
- No

Are you a qualified elector registered to vote in Missoula County?*

- Yes
- No

Are you 18 years of age or older?*

- Yes
- No

Are you a citizen of the U.S. and the State of Montana?*

- Yes
- No

APPLICANT INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND WORK EXPERIENCE

How long have you resided in Ward 2*

12 years

How long immediately prior to today's date have you been a resident of the City of Missoula?*

15 years

What is your current occupation?*

Land Use and Transportation Planner

Where are you currently employed?*

NA

Briefly describe your educational background (600 character limit):*

Highschool: Colegio Paideia, Quillota, Chile.
Undergraduate Education: Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies from State University of New York at Buffalo.
Graduate Education: Master's Degree in Urban Planning with an Environmental Planning Minor from State University of New York at Buffalo.

If you would like, you may attach a resume or other documents for the City Council to consider:

Mirtha Becerra 2016.docx
(4 MB file limit)

Add a document
City Council Letter of Interest.docx

Add a document

Please list your community service experience (600 character limit):*

I worked as an intern with the National Park Service in the Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program. I worked for the City of Buffalo, NY on affordable housing issues while in graduate school. Most recently, I served as Board member and Board president for Homeword in Missoula.

What is your interest in serving on the City Council as a representative of Ward 2? (600 character limit)*

I have called Missoula my home for the past 15 year and have been a home owner in ward 2 for more than a decade. I have witnessed the changes in our community and would like to use my professional experience as a tool for guiding future development in Ward 2 and the community at large. I believe Ward 2 is a unique and diverse area that has and will continue to face issues regarding transportation, natural resource conservation, business and affordable housing development. Working more closely with the community on these issues is something I have always been interested in.

Do you have any special knowledge, interest or related experience or training that the City Council should be aware of as they consider your application for this position? (750 character limit)*

I am a Land Use and Transportation Planner and worked for 10 years in Missoula. I am knowledgeable about the Federal, State and Local regulations that govern land use and transportation development. Working as a Planner in Missoula allowed me to become familiar with the main issues regarding development in our community. I served as Board member and president of Homeword and I am aware of the issues surrounding affordable housing and the potential opportunities available to our community for approaching this challenge.

REFERENCES
Please provide two references.

Reference 1: First & Last Name*

Grant Kier

Reference 1: Daytime Phone*

[Redacted]

Reference 1: Email

[Redacted]

Reference 1: Address*

[Redacted]

Reference 1: City, State, ZIP*

Missoula, MT 59801

Reference 2: First & Last Name*

Liz Mullins

Reference 2: Daytime Phone*

[Redacted]

Reference 2: Email

[Redacted]

Reference 2: Address*

[Redacted]

Reference 2: City, State, ZIP*

Missoula, MT 59804

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the information contained in my application is true and correct in every respect and that I meet all the statutory qualifications to be appointed as the Missoula City Council representative of Ward 2.*

- Yes
- No

October 19, 2017
Missoula, MT

To: Missoula City Council.
Re: City Council Ward 2 Representation
From: Mirtha Becerra, Ward 2 Resident.

Dear members of the Missoula City Council:

I have been committed to public service for most of my adult life. I was born and raised in South America, received my college education in upstate New York, and for the past 15 years I have called Missoula my home.

While attending college I worked as an intern for the National Park Service in Washington D.C. where I learned about the important benefits of natural resource conservation to our communities. Later, during Graduate school I worked with the City of Buffalo, New York on a program that assessed the quantity and quality of affordable housing in areas primarily populated by low income families. I later moved to Missoula, where I was employed as a Land Use and Transportation Planner for the City of Missoula and Missoula County for 10 years. During that time I came to appreciate the delicate balance between growth and conservation, and the undeniable relationship that exists between housing, transportation and environmental quality.

For over 3 years I volunteered as member and president of the Board of Directors for Homeword. As part of the Board I helped the organization to continue to look for creative and environmentally sound solutions to affordable housing in Missoula and Montana.

As a community we will continue to be faced with these issues. I would like to utilize my professional experience and dedication to community service on the City Council as we, Missoula residents, work on how to best approach these and other challenges.

I hope you will consider me for this position.

Sincerely,

Mirtha Becerra

Mirtha Becerra

1206 Phillips Street

Missoula, MT 59802

Ph. #(470) 388-6453 E-Mail: mirtha.a.becerra@gmail.com

WORK EXPERIENCE

Transportation Planner- Missoula Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) 2008-2013 Office of Planning and Grants, Missoula, MT.

- Responsible for coordinating the development of transportation projects in Missoula urban areas.
- Responsible for coordinating inter-agency development of regulatory transportation documents.
- Responsible for the update of Federally mandated transportation documents and Plans
- Responsible for conducting community outreach regarding urban growth and transportation projects.
- Responsible for presenting transportation projects to local and State authorities
- Collaborated in the development of the Missoula Non Motorized Transportation Plan
- Collaborated in the update of Federally mandated Long Range Transportation Plans for the Missoula Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Land Use Planner

2003- 2008

Office of Planning and Grants, Missoula, MT.

- Responsible for reviewing land use projects within Missoula County
- Wrote land use and Growth Policy compliance recommendation letters to developers and local and state governing bodies/agencies
- Collaborated in the development of neighborhood plans
- Collaborated in the development of the Missoula Long Range Plan and the Missoula Urban Growth Policy
- Responsible for presenting diverse issues to the Governing bodies
- Responsible for community outreach regarding neighborhood and regional development plans

Graduate Assistant

2000-2002

Center for Urban Studies, State University of New York at Buffalo

- Conducted research on minimum housing standards, Community Development Block Grants and progressive economic development strategies for the City of Buffalo.
- Facilitated meetings in diverse communities in the City of Buffalo.
- Provided assistance to community organizations in the drafting of strategic plans to expand affordable housing, create jobs, strengthen local economies, fight housing discrimination, and increase homeownership.
- Assisted in an international workshop on community development in Havana, Cuba.

Conservation Associate**1999-2000**

National Park Service, Washington DC

- Contributed to the development of an annotated bibliography on the economic benefits of river conservation for the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program.
- Helped update the Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI)
- Helped facilitate meetings with diverse community based organizations in the Northeast region.

Research Assistant**1998-1999**

CONAMA- Comision Nacional del Medio Ambiente (National Commission of the Environment), Santiago, Chile

- Assisted in the development of environmental impact assessments for projects along the Bio-Bio River in Chile.
- Worked with Indigenous communities throughout the socio-economic and environmental analysis conducted for several projects along the Bio-Bio River in Chile.

Volunteer Work**2010-2013**

Homeward Missoula- President Board of Directors and Board Member

- Homeward is a non-profit organization committed to providing safe, affordable housing to those most in need.
- As a Board member and president of the Board of Directors I helped ensure the organization had policies in place to efficiently and comprehensively meet it's goals and annual expectations.

EDUCATION**MUP- Masters in Urban Planning**

Environmental and Physical Planning

State University of New York, Buffalo, N.Y

B.A Environmental Studies

Environmental Design Minor

State University of New York, Buffalo, N.Y

PUBLICATIONS

- 2012 Long Range Transportation Plan
- 2011 Missoula Active Transportation Plan
- 2010 Missoula Missoula Planning Organization Public Transportation Plan
- 2005 Missoula Wye City-County Plan
- 2003 Missoula Urban Growth Update
- 2002. Globalization, Trade and the Environment: The Free Trade Area of the Americas and the Mining Industry in Chile (Masters In Urban Planning- Thesis)
- 2001 The economic benefits of Conserved Rivers: An Annotated Bibliography. Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, National Park Service

Skills

- Fluent in English and Spanish,
- Basic knowledge of GIS
- Basic knowledge of web design
- Advanced command of Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint
- Public speaking
- Conflict Resolution
- Meeting Facilitation

* References upon request.