

March 7th, 2025

Dear Bellevue City Councilmembers,

I am honored to submit my application for appointment to the Bellevue City Council. Bellevue is an extraordinary city – a thriving economic hub that is welcoming and inclusive. Having dedicated my career to urban planning, technology, and community service, I believe my experience and vision align with the needs of the city. I am eager to contribute my leadership, expertise, and passion to the continued success of Bellevue.

My Vision for Bellevue

Bellevue stands at a critical juncture in its growth. As our city continues to expand as a regional economic leader, we must ensure that prosperity reaches all residents. My vision is a Bellevue that embraces innovation, prioritizes affordability, fosters economic opportunity, and enhances the quality of life for every resident. This means sustainable urban development, smart infrastructure investments, and policies that keep our communities safe and vibrant. It also means making Bellevue a leader in technological advancements that improve transportation, public safety, and environmental sustainability.

At its core, Bellevue must remain a city that balances growth with community well-being. We should strive for a future in which our neighborhoods remain welcoming and diverse, our transportation networks keep pace with demand, and our local businesses—both large and small—continue to thrive. Bellevue must also be a city where people of all backgrounds and income levels can afford to live, work, and raise their families. To achieve this, we must focus on strategic planning and proactive policy solutions that create an equitable and resilient city for generations to come.

Why I Want to Serve on the Bellevue City Council

Bellevue deserves leadership that continues to focus on data-driven, result-oriented decision-making—not ideological approaches. Leadership that combines experience with pragmatic solutions to ensure the city thrives for all. As an immigrant, I've experienced firsthand the opportunities Bellevue offers. I built my career here, raised my family, and developed deep roots in this community. With over a decade of experience in planning and land use policy, I've addressed the complex challenges of fast-growing cities. As a technology leader, I've fostered innovation and collaboration using strategic, data-driven approaches to solve problems. I am eager to bring my knowledge and skills to the City Council to help shape Bellevue's future.

My experience includes serving on Bellevue's Planning Commission, where I contributed to the city's long-term planning efforts. The role deepened my understanding of housing policy, economic development, and infrastructure investments. I also gained deep appreciation for public engagement and the value of diverse perspectives in shaping well-informed policies. This experience has reinforced my belief that smart planning is key to managing growth that benefits everyone. Serving on the City Council, I will apply this experience on a broader scale to ensure Bellevue's policies and initiatives reflect the best interests of all residents.

My commitment to community service goes beyond policy work. Losing a close friend to mental health challenges deepened my resolve to advocate for greater support and awareness of this critical issue. As a co-founder of the *Beautiful Minds Foundation*, I have worked to advance mental health education and advocacy, strengthening my commitment to promoting equity and inclusion. Bellevue values inclusivity, and I am dedicated to ensuring our local government upholds these values by fostering a sense of belonging and engagement for all residents.

Top Priorities for the City

- 1. Affordability and Sustainable Growth.** Housing affordability is one of the most pressing issues facing Bellevue. As our city continues to attract businesses and talent, we must ensure that housing remains accessible at all income levels. Building on the City's comprehensive plan and the 'Next Right Work' initiative, I will prioritize strategies to address the middle housing gap, promote density near transit hubs, streamline permitting to encourage development, leveraging my collaborative data-drive approach to help the City accomplish this critical priority. Ensuring that people who work in Bellevue can also afford to live here is essential for maintaining a balanced and thriving community.

2. **Public Safety and Community Well-Being.** Ensuring Bellevue remains a safe and welcoming city is paramount. This means continuing to invest in law enforcement while also expanding mental health resources and crisis response teams to address issues proactively. Public safety is foundational not just to keep Bellevue a thriving and vibrant city, but also to drive economic development. Public safety also extends to preparing for climate-related challenges, ensuring disaster preparedness, and enhancing the resilience of our infrastructure.
3. **Economic Development and Innovation.** Bellevue's economy thrives on a dynamic mix of established corporations, startups, and small businesses. Supporting economic growth requires policies that foster innovation, streamline regulations, and create job opportunities. Investing in workforce development and educational partnerships will equip Bellevue's residents with the skills needed to succeed in a changing job market. I will support initiatives that promote small business growth, prevent displacement, and ensure Bellevue's economy remains diverse and resilient.
4. **Addressing Homelessness and Preventing Further Crisis.** Homelessness is a growing concern in the region. We must invest in long-term solutions that address the root causes. Preventing homelessness before it begins by improving affordability and access to mental health support must be a priority. Providing supportive housing, employment programs, and fostering regional partnerships that deliver comprehensive services are essential to ensure Bellevue remains a place where everyone can succeed.

If appointed, I will support and advance the Council's vision by bringing a pragmatic, solutions-driven approach to governance. I believe in collaborative leadership, where diverse perspectives come together to shape policies that serve the entire community. I will uphold Bellevue's tradition of responsible budgeting, advocate for smart growth, and foster inclusive dialogue among residents, businesses, and city officials. Committed to transparency and community engagement, I will ensure that Bellevue's residents have a voice in shaping the decisions that impact their lives.

I am excited to serve Bellevue and bring my knowledge, dedication, and passion to the City Council. I look forward to collaborating with fellow council members to build a stronger, more resilient Bellevue. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Vishal Bhargava

March 6th, 2025

Attn: Charmaine Arredondo
City Clerk's Office
City of Bellevue
PO Box 90012
Bellevue, WA, 98009-9012
Email: cityclerk@bellevuewa.gov

RE: Application for Bellevue City Council Position 5

Dear Bellevue City Council Members,

As a dedicated Bellevue resident of over twenty years and a public servant with more than three decades of leadership experience, I am honored to submit my application for the Bellevue City Council Position 5 seat. My passion for effective community service, governance, communication, and collaborative problem-solving has been the foundation of my career. I am eager to bring my expertise in policy, public safety, and municipal operations to serve the City of Bellevue in an even greater capacity.

Vision for the Community - Bellevue is a vibrant, diverse, and forward-thinking city that continues to evolve as an economic and cultural hub in the Pacific Northwest. My vision for Bellevue is a community where residents, businesses, and government work collaboratively to foster economic opportunity, public safety, environmental sustainability, and social inclusivity. By embracing data-driven policies, innovative solutions, and transparent governance, we can ensure that Bellevue remains a model city for residents and businesses.

Why I Want to Serve on the Bellevue City Council - My experience serving as Chief of Police for the Tukwila community has allowed me to engage deeply in municipal operations, budgeting, and public policy. I have worked extensively with regional, state, and federal partners, city leadership, and community organizations to address complex civic challenges, from public safety reform to community engagement initiatives.

Beyond law enforcement, my role as Co-Chair of the Office of Independent Investigations Advisory Board has leveraged my expertise to navigate governance structures, improve accountability, and ensure transparent decision-making. Serving as Board President for the Pediatric Interim Care Center has further developed my advocacy skills in public health, child welfare, and tackling drug dependency. These experiences have fueled my commitment to civic leadership and my passion for service to the community. I am confident that my background in policy implementation, fiscal management, and community-driven solutions will be an asset to the Council and Community.

Simply put, my motivation to join the Bellevue City Council is derived from my sincere desire to serve the community that I live in. My family is proud of the community we have chosen as our home, and we believe in supporting our neighbors who make the same choice.

Top Priorities for Bellevue - I plan to serve my community, regardless of the outcome of the appointment decision, by focusing on the following areas that I believe to be priorities for our beautiful city:

1. *Public Safety & Community Trust*: Ensure Bellevue remains a leader in progressive, community-centered public safety strategies, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and proactive engagement between law enforcement and residents. Bellevue PD, partnered with the other departments in the city, have been doing a fantastic job of this; however, we must continue to prioritize nurturing community trust and being innovative with how we provide public safety services.
2. *Fiscal Responsibility & Smart Growth*: Support sustainable budgeting practices that balance economic development, infrastructure investment, and community needs. My experience managing multi-million-dollar municipal budgets will be instrumental in ensuring efficient allocation of taxpayer funds while advancing key city projects. As we make decisions on these key projects, it is essential to incorporate community input as part of our budgetary planning to truly meet the needs of our community.
3. *Housing & Infrastructure Development*: Advocate for affordable housing solutions and responsible urban planning that accommodate Bellevue's growth while preserving neighborhood character. As the city grows, so does the need for affordable housing and transportation. I will work to enhance transportation systems and improve accessibility for all residents.
4. *Equity & Civic Engagement*: Promote initiatives that foster inclusion and representation across all sectors of Bellevue's diverse population. Strengthening community partnerships and engaging underrepresented voices will be central to my approach.
5. *World Cup 2026*: Plan for the impacts of the World Cup coming next year. Although the events established by FIFA are not in Bellevue, this is one of the largest events in the world, and Bellevue will be directly impacted. Preparation for public safety and transportation will be necessary. It will also be a prime opportunity to take advantage of economic gain while providing unique experiences for our community.

I am excited about the opportunity to bring my leadership, policy expertise, and deep community commitment to the Bellevue City Council. Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome the chance to further discuss my qualifications and how I can contribute to Bellevue's continued success.

Sincerely,

Eric Drever
Bellevue Resident

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Letter of Interest: Bellevue City Council – Position 5

Dear Members of the Bellevue City Council,

I am writing to express my interest in filling the Position 5 vacancy on the Bellevue City Council. As a proud Bellevue resident, I am deeply committed to this city and its diverse community. Bellevue is my home, where my son was born, where my family lives, where my community lends support, where we make a living, a place that has given so much, and I am eager to contribute so it continues to grow and flourish as a city, a community, and a culture that welcomes everyone.

Vision for the Community

I see Bellevue on a journey to become an ever more sustainable and inclusive community that works for all its residents and workers. The Bellevue I see is one where every resident feels heard, valued, and empowered. Bellevue is where diversity is celebrated and all residents, long-time or newcomers, of all walks of life, wherever they descend from, and whatever their aspirations, that they all have the opportunities and conditions they need to thrive. Bellevue is where progress, growth, and development are pursued, balanced with nurturing a supportive culture. Bellevue is a community that future generations including my child, and everyone else's will cherish.

Why I Want to Serve on the Bellevue City Council

I want to serve on the Bellevue City Council because I am deeply committed to this city and its continued growth. Having lived here for years eager to give back and contribute by ensuring that all voices are represented in the decision-making process. Through my involvement with the Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network (BDAN) and other community organizations, I've seen firsthand how local leadership can drive positive change. Serving on the City Council would allow me to use my skills in community-building, problem-solving, and advocacy to make a lasting impact on my home.

Top Priorities for the City

As Bellevue continues to grow, I see several priorities that are essential to ensuring the city remains a vibrant, equitable place for all residents.

First, maintaining a focus on sustainable growth is crucial. Finding the right balance of development with environmental responsibility will allow Bellevue to stay ahead of the challenges that come with rapid population expansion and an ever-shifting economic landscape.

Second, fostering inclusivity and engagement within our diverse community must be at the forefront of city initiatives. Ensuring that everyone feels heard and valued will strengthen the connections that make Bellevue such a great place to live.

Lastly, investing in affordable housing and addressing transportation infrastructure will help Bellevue remain accessible for people of all incomes and backgrounds, enabling residents to thrive in a growing city.

Thank you for considering my application. I am excited about the possibilities ahead of us and about the prospect of working alongside the Council for an ever-better Bellevue.

Sincerely,

Diala Ezzeddine

March 5, 2025

Jaskaran Singh Sarao

1. What is your vision for the community?

My vision for Bellevue is a safe, thriving, and well-managed city where residents enjoy a high quality of life, access excellent education, and can afford to live and work. Public safety must remain a top priority, ensuring that families, businesses, and individuals feel secure in their daily lives. As a parent of two children, I want to strengthen partnerships between schools and communities to ensure our neighborhoods and schools remain safe environments for learning and growth.

Affordability is another key issue as the cost of living continues to rise. I believe in responsible tax policies that support residents, businesses and essential services, fostering economic growth while keeping Bellevue competitive. Housing policies must be balanced to increase availability and affordability while protecting the interests of homeowners and renters. Finally, Bellevue should be a city where all residents feel heard and engaged in shaping its future through transparent and accountable governance.

2. Why do you want to serve on the Bellevue City Council?

I want to serve on the Bellevue City Council because I care deeply about the future of our city and the well-being of its residents, guided by my Sikh principles of selfless service. With a strong background in technology and a history of community service and engagement, I bring the skills necessary to address complex issues with practical, data-driven solutions.

As a parent with children in Bellevue public schools, I am invested in strengthening education to provide students with the best opportunities for success. I also want to address the rising cost of living, ensuring that Bellevue remains a competitive and welcoming place for families, professionals, and businesses. Most importantly, I believe in balanced, common-sense policies that put the needs of residents first and enhance the overall quality of life in our community.

3. What do you see as the top priorities for the city and why?

1. **Public Safety:** Bellevue must remain a safe place to live, work, and enjoy outdoor recreation. With rising crime rates in Washington, we must ensure that law enforcement has the resources and support necessary to keep our neighborhoods secure. At the same time, we should invest in community programs that address the root causes of crime and promote long-term safety.

2. **Affordability:** Rising costs for gas, groceries, and housing are putting pressure on families across Bellevue. I will advocate for smart financial policies that reduce unnecessary tax burdens while ensuring transparency and efficiency in city spending. It is critical to prioritize infrastructure and essential services such as fire, police, parks, and transportation to maintain Bellevue's high standard of living.

3. **Housing:** Bellevue needs balanced housing policies that increase supply without creating unintended consequences. We must find practical solutions that support both homeowners and renters while ensuring an adequate housing inventory to meet demand. This includes promoting affordable housing options while preserving the character of our neighborhoods.

4. **Community Engagement and Responsible Governance:** Residents deserve a local government that listens to their concerns and acts in their best interests. I am committed to fostering transparent decision-making, engaging with the community, and ensuring that policies reflect the needs and values of Bellevue's residents.

Claire Sumadiwirya



March 4, 2025

City of Bellevue
Attn: Mayor Robinson and City Council
450 110th AVE NE
Bellevue WA 98004

Dear Mayor Robinson and City Council Members:

As a proud Bellevue resident for over 30 years and a dedicated community builder, I am writing to express my interest in serving on the Bellevue City Council. My candidacy represents a commitment to collaborative leadership that will elevate Bellevue's standing as a global city while ensuring our growth is rooted in strong local support and inclusive community processes.

My Vision for the Community

I envision Bellevue as a global city with a local heart—a community that leverages its international connections and economic strength while preserving the neighborhood character that makes our city special. This vision brings diverse stakeholders to the table as we navigate our city's transformation.

In this vision, Bellevue becomes a model for achieving global prominence while ensuring prosperity across all communities:

Collaborative governance drives inclusive decision-making: By creating robust processes for community input that reach beyond the usual voices, we can ensure policy decisions reflect our entire community's needs. This means intentional outreach to historically marginalized communities and creating accessible pathways for civic participation. I'm committed to demystifying local government and showing residents that civic engagement is for everyone, not just policy experts.

Housing affordability through creative partnerships: By uniting developers, community organizations, and residents, we can create housing solutions that meet diverse needs while preserving neighborhood identities. I will champion innovative public-private partnerships and inclusive housing policies that prevent displacement of vulnerable populations.

Economic development for businesses of all sizes: Bellevue should continue attracting global companies while ensuring small businesses—particularly those owned by immigrants, women, and people of color—have resources to thrive alongside them. By connecting large corporations with smaller enterprises, we can build an economic ecosystem that lifts all participants.

Transportation planning that balances global and local: As we develop infrastructure, we must adapt successful global models to our community context. For example, before implementing

bike lanes inspired by Copenhagen, we should host community workshops where residents can shape a system addressing their specific transportation challenges.

Cultural diversity as our defining strength: As one of Washington's most diverse cities, Bellevue should leverage its multicultural identity in everything from economic strategies to cultural celebrations. Our diversity is our competitive advantage globally and the foundation of our resilience. We can achieve this by creating multilingual business supports and ensuring cultural perspectives shape our public spaces.

Environmental leadership reflecting global standards and local values: Our approach to sustainability should incorporate international best practices while honoring our community's connection to the natural environment. By uniting diverse stakeholders around shared environmental goals, we can create solutions unique to our context.

Why I Want to Serve on the Bellevue City Council

My desire to serve stems from a deep commitment to collaborative community building at a pivotal moment in Bellevue's development. Through founding Bellden Cafe, I've created a space where community connections flourish across differences, showing me the power of bringing people together while honoring diverse perspectives.

As Bellevue grows into its global identity, we need leadership that facilitates meaningful collaboration between established institutions and emerging voices. My experience bridging different worlds—as an immigrant entrepreneur, nonprofit leader, business owner, and single mother of three—has prepared me to create inclusive processes to guide our city's evolution.

I've seen firsthand how communities in Bellevue often remain disconnected from decisions that directly impact their lives. On the council, I will prioritize creating accessible pathways for these communities to shape our city's future. This isn't just about equity—it's about creating better, more durable solutions through diverse perspectives.

Top Priorities for the City

1. Supporting collaborative governance: balancing growth with community needs. As a council member, I will:

- Partner with the City Manager to ensure policies reflect both economic vitality and community wellbeing
- Build consensus on initiatives supporting Bellevue's economic success while preserving neighborhood character
- Foster dialogue between business leaders and community advocates for balanced solutions
- Ensure marginalized communities have meaningful input through accessible engagement

2. Enhancing public safety during growth. Working with city management and fellow councilmembers to:

- Support environmental design in new developments for crime prevention

- Advocate for community policing initiatives building relationships across diverse neighborhoods
- Ensure equitable emergency service delivery citywide
- Prioritize pedestrian safety in new development plans

3. *Strengthening our economic ecosystem for businesses of all sizes.* By working as a team to:

- Create connections between global corporations and local small businesses
- Establish incubator spaces for immigrant and minority entrepreneurs
- Connect all communities to growing economic sectors through workforce development
- Support local, diverse businesses through procurement policies

4. *Guiding balanced housing development.* By fostering council consensus on:

- Community-centered development processes incorporating diverse resident input
- Incentives encouraging developers to exceed affordability requirements
- Anti-displacement strategies protecting vulnerable residents
- Housing solutions for essential workers, seniors, and families

5. *Directing inclusive transportation improvements* By working with city staff to:

- Create multi-stakeholder processes for transit-oriented development
- Implement complete streets policies accommodating various transportation needs
- Develop last-mile solutions connecting neighborhoods to transit
- Ensure equitable mobility access across all communities

These interconnected priorities require collaborative approaches bringing diverse stakeholders together. By emphasizing process-building and teamwork, we can address complex challenges while strengthening community bonds.

My experience has taught me that progress comes through finding common ground and creating structures supporting ongoing collaboration. If selected, I commit to fostering this collaborative spirit in everything from policy development to implementation.

I will be honored to help guide Bellevue's evolution into a truly global city with a strong local foundation, where prosperity is shared across all communities and where every resident helps shape our collective future.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to discussing my collaborative vision for Bellevue further.

Sincerely,

Claire Sumadiwirya