

Grant Degginger

February 2, 2017

Mr. Kyle Stannert
City Clerk/Assistant City Manager
City of Bellevue
PO Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009

Re: Letter of Interest

Dear Mr. Stannert:

Pursuant to the procedures promulgated by the City Council, I write to provide this letter of interest in applying for the Position 5 seat recently vacated by Councilmember Slatter. I will address the three questions posed by the Council and then provide some closing comments.

Question One: *What is your passion for the community?*

What excites me about Bellevue is that it is such a unique and powerful success story. Few cities in the nation have the attributes found in this community—a diverse population, low crime, high levels of student achievement, a growing economy that provides well-paying jobs, great retail, cultural and recreational amenities and a legacy of strong environmental stewardship. This level of success is not an accident.--it is a reflection of character of the people who have chosen to live here and the principled and visionary stewardship of those they have entrusted to lead the city. This community continues to write an impressive story and it would be an honor to once again assist in its evolution.

Question Two: *What is your vision for the city?*

I would like to see Bellevue continue its evolution as the commercial and cultural center of the Eastside while at the same time continuing to provide an outstanding quality of life in the neighborhoods throughout the city. These outcomes necessarily will require continued progress and leadership on transportation challenges both regionally and within the city. Improving mobility is crucial to both commerce and our quality of life. The City must continue to be an effective partner in the planning and delivery of regional transportation investments.. The City must address traffic challenges in numerous parts of the city including Eastgate.. Recently, the community endorsed significant investments in public safety and neighborhood transportation improvements. The Grand Connection provides a special opportunity to connect major portions of our city in a transformational way. Completing this planning process, the Downtown Livability effort, the Wilburton plan and delivering the projects that will implement them will help make this vision a reality.

Question Three: *Why do you want to serve on the Bellevue City Council?*

I am proud of what this city has accomplished and have cherished the opportunity I had to be part of it. The challenges facing the City today are significant and the issues currently before the Council are not easy ones. Short term Council vacancies are rare. I understand the issues facing the City, understand the dynamics of working on a collaborative Council, and having served on both the Planning Commission and the City Council, I am confident that I can step in immediately as a contributing member.. Having served 12 years on the Council and having remained engaged in the issues facing our community, I believe that I can hit the ground running. I am impressed with what I have seen as a collaborative approach to problem solving on the Council and I believe that I can be helpful in assisting the Council complete its impressive work plan.

In closing, having worked at the federal, state and local levels of government, I continue to be impressed with how this City listens to its residents, delivers great service and great value to this community. It is a tribute to both the Council and the staff.

Very truly yours,

Grant S. Degginger

Bellevue City Council – John deVadoss

What is your passion for the community?

“I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.”

Albert Schweitzer

I owe a debt to my country; and to my community. I came to the USA as a 21-year old to study for my PhD, and what I am today is because of this country.

My passion stems from this core belief, and is evidenced in my work for my parish (St. Louise in Bellevue), my children's school (Interlake High in Bellevue), volunteer organizations (Northwest Harvest, Congregations for the Homeless, the Bellevue Schools Foundation), and my support (Hopelink, Kinderling etc.). Specifically, I want to call out my work for the last two+ years on the Grant-making Committee, and then as a Trustee of the Bellevue Schools Foundation, and the last three+ years on the Planning Commission for the City of Bellevue, and serving as the Chair during this year.

What is your vision for the city?

Bellevue, our City in a Park,

- 1) is a Living Community, that harmonizes the best of play, work and life, responsive to and empowering people from all walks of life to realize their potential in an environment that is safe and healthy
- 2) embraces its stewardship of the environment, building for a sustainable future, and continuing the tradition of the 'City in a Park'
- 3) leads in connecting people and neighborhoods with a network of mobility options, and in enabling local, regional and global access for individuals and businesses
- 4) is one of the global centers for digitization and commerce, with its outstanding public school systems, its vibrant ecosystem of businesses and start-ups, its platform of digital connectedness, and its economic strength built on the innovation and creativity of its residents

5) builds on its rich and diverse heritage, investing in and fostering a vibrant mix of art, culture, and performances, and attracting world-renowned artists and performances to its public places

6) is a community with a strong social fabric, one where neighborhood groups, businesses, the faith community, the city organization and citizens work together to address the needs of our community

7) is a city that works, where jurisdictions throughout the region work together effectively on the issues that matter, such as growth management, economic development, transportation, housing, environmental protection, and climate change.

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

- 1) I want Bellevue to scale new heights as an **Economic Engine**, and to become an **Innovation Hub** in the Northwest. A prosperous Bellevue is one that enables us to do more for our citizens, and our neighbors in the Northwest.
- 2) I want Bellevue to be a **Living Community**; for our neighborhoods to be strong, to be vibrant, and for our communities to be healthy, and to be active.
- 3) And I want Bellevue to be an Example for **High Performance Government**; where we aim high, set aspirational goals, and deliver timely outcomes that make a difference.

I am your best candidate because I am passionate about making a difference; because of my core conviction to give back to my community; and because I am committed, as evidenced by my serving on the Planning Commission for the last 3+ years, and now as the Chair.

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February 2, 2017

Mayor Stokes & Council
c/o City Clerk
cityclerk@bellevuewa.gov

Re: Application for Appointment to City Council Position 5

Dear Mayor Stokes & Councilmembers,

I hope this finds each of you and yours well! Before I share with you my passion for our community, my vision for our City and my desire to serve with you, I'd like to thank you each for your own long-standing service. As you all know, it is a privilege to serve, but the privilege is earned through selflessness and sacrifice of time, talent and treasure and upholding one's commitments. Thank you for doing just that.

My passion for our community finds its roots in my upbringing. As a child, my Mom ran a daycare in our home during the day and worked as a convenience store clerk in the evenings. Somehow she found (made) time to volunteer in our school, lead grassroots community fundraising efforts for neighbors in need and even co-organize the local, annual Walk for Mankind. My Mom wasn't shy about enlisting me in such efforts, and I spent hundreds of hours knocking on doors, stuffing envelopes and encouraging others to join various causes. Through such experiences, I developed a strong sense of the importance of community, serving others and the need to participate.

From childhood through adolescence and into my adult years, my community passion has been to serve others, particularly those most vulnerable or in need. In high school, I led our Key Club's initiative to serve the homeless. In college, I volunteered for several years at the Martineztown House of Neighborly Service, providing tutoring and mentoring for predominantly non-English speaking children of Mexican immigrants. For the past several years, I've served as a board member and coach for the non-profit Bellevue United Football Club (formerly Bellevue Youth Soccer Club), organizing and managing the Micro program for preschool through first grade-aged kids. I find particular joy in working with children and in bringing families together.

My vision for Bellevue is an inclusive, vibrant, safe community in which residents and visitors alike feel welcome. This is especially important to me, given Bellevue's rich and growing cultural diversity and my family's experiences as one of Bellevue's many multicultural families. Our nation and Bellevue in particular have benefited greatly from the mix of ideas, values and experiences brought and shared by immigrants. My children and I are personally enriched by my wife Pranika's immigration to the U.S. in the early 1990s. Her experiences have given me a special insight into the challenges and opportunities we face in striving to ensure

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that Bellevue is, as our Comprehensive Plan states, “a vibrant international center for innovation and commerce with safe, attractive neighborhoods that feature some of America’s finest schools.”

My vision for Bellevue is not my own. Rather, it is a shared vision derived from my own experiences and preferences as well as from collaborating with others in the community as a Planning Commissioner, community volunteer, and engaged citizen. My vision for Bellevue includes thoughtful approaches to addressing affordable housing needs throughout the City, preserving and enhancing our natural environment, protecting the livability of our neighborhoods and ensuring that Bellevue continues to grow as a regional economic and cultural center. And, as I’ve learned since childhood, I believe that increased citizen engagement in our community is key to seeing this shared vision succeed.

Ensuring the success of this shared vision is the reason that I would like to serve with you on the City Council. I am eager to help the Tateuchi Center come to fruition and excited to see the growth of Bellevue College. I support Bellevue’s Vision Zero and neighborhood investment programs that improve safety and livability while facilitating multimodal mobility throughout the City. I am an advocate for improved water quality standards and other environmental stewardship efforts. I am excited about the opportunity to work with you to implement the recently adopted Comprehensive Plan.

If selected, I will bring the same collaborative “community-first” approach to the Council that I have brought to the Planning Commission, my role as the Co-Chair to the Downtown Livability Initiative Citizen Advisory Committee, the Bellevue Transit Master Plan planning process and my roles as a neighborhood leader and non-profit board member. I am passionate about Bellevue and its continued growth and success.

In closing, I’d like to share with you one of my happiest moments. Just over five years ago, the Council appointed me to the Planning Commission. In confirming my appointment, Mayor Stokes (in one of his first acts as a newly-elected Councilmember) commented, “I welcome him into public service, and I look forward to his serving well.” Soon after, my Mom was able to attend my first meeting as a Planning Commissioner. As Pranika and I raise our children, I am honored to have opportunities to serve our community and to set an example for them about the importance of public service. I welcome the opportunity to continue to serve our community in a new role as your colleague on the City Council.

Respectfully yours,



Aaron M. Laing

Enclosure (CV)

Scott Lampe – City Council Candidate

What is your passion for the community?

My passion is to continue to build upon and to enhance the already excellent quality of life experienced by Bellevue residents. When my family moved here twenty years ago it was obvious the desirability of the area would continue to attract people and businesses that prioritize this high quality of life as a reason to locate in Bellevue. With success also comes challenges; three areas that I have focused on improving are transportation, education and the arts. As evidence of my commitment, I have served as board chair for the Bellevue Transportation Commission, Bellevue Christian School and the Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra. Recently I was appointed to Sound Transit's Citizen Oversight Panel and look forward to contributing to this regional agency's critically important role both in both Bellevue and the broader region.

The other area I am passionate about is affordable housing. Given the unique geography of the area and well-intentioned but further constraining restrictions due to the Growth Management Act, affordability has become more critical to address. This limited affordability has a direct link to transportation as employees are required to move farther away from job centers. With virtually no new areas available for development of traditional single family housing, more innovative strategies and solutions will be necessary such as increased transit oriented development and partnerships such as occurred with Highland Village between the city and the King County Housing Authority. I believe providing affordable, high-quality housing will continue to be an extremely challenging issue for Bellevue and the region.

What is your vision for the city?

Bellevue should continue on its current trajectory of becoming a world-class city while maintaining the outstanding quality of life for its residents. This is accomplished through effective planning, both near term as well as longer term for future generations.

Two near term areas of importance that are being addressed are the development of a vibrant waterfront and enhanced cultural opportunities, the former being initiated through the Meydenbauer Bay Park plan and the latter by the Tateuchi Center project.

Longer term, the well-planned additional build out of the downtown area, guided by the Downtown Livability Initiative, as well as the landmark Bel-Red redevelopment initiative, will provide the necessary commercial capacity and, to a lesser extent, residential capacity to achieve the world class city vision. There will be challenges in providing adequate infrastructure, particularly in the areas of transportation and housing, in realizing this vision. Cooperation and partnerships with other Eastside cities as well as other state and regional agencies will be of critical importance. While transit planning is progressing well with East Link and the Bellevue Transit Master Plan, ongoing coordination with both Sound Transit

and WSDOT for a robust BRT network and completion of the I-405 Master Plan are necessary to provide internal and external mobility for those living and/or working in Bellevue.

Further, the cultural diversity of Bellevue is a tremendous asset that fosters the environment necessary for achieving world-class status for the city and this attribute should continue to be emphasized as an integral part of the vision. The fact that the Global Innovation Exchange chose Bel-Red for its campus was a landmark step that validates both the city's planning effort as well as its competitiveness globally.

In summary, my vision for Bellevue is to be a city that welcomes the world and is a thriving center for commerce and entertainment, a leader in innovation and a model for growth.

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

I am extremely proud to be a resident of Bellevue and grateful for the opportunity to raise my family in such a wonderful place. As evidenced by my prior service, I am fortunate to have the time and resources to be able to contribute to the causes I am passionate about. These experiences have prepared me to take the next growth step in public service. I have enjoyed following the city's great progress during the past twenty years and am confident my leadership skills and ability to work collaboratively will make me an effective council member.

Thank you for this opportunity to be considered for this important position and for the contributions each of you provide to make Bellevue a great place to live.

Jared Nieuwenhuis

February 1, 2017

Mayor John Stokes
Deputy Mayor John Chelminiak
Councilmembers: Lee, Robertson, Robinson, Wallace

RE: Letter of Interest

Dear Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Councilmembers:

Please see below my answers to the three questions put forth to prospective candidates interested in filling the Position 5 seat vacated by Vandana Slatter's resignation.

Question: What is your passion for the community?

My passion is for the wonderful people that make up this amazing city. More specifically, my passion for this community is ensuring that no one must sleep outside nor be the victim of domestic violence. I have dedicated a significant portion of my time and efforts to addressing the issue of homelessness and the safety of women and minorities in Bellevue and the greater Eastside.

As a board member of LifeWire, I see the daily struggles of women from all over the world that not only need a domestic violence advocate but an immediate place to live while providing a safe space for their children. Our advocates partner with survivors on their unique and individual journeys to gaining renewed strength and empowerment. We take the time to listen to survivors' needs and help them identify resources that will enable them to build safer lives. By tailoring our support to each survivor, we can truly respond to survivors' unique barriers, challenges, and goals.

As a board member at The Sophia Way, I saw firsthand our most vulnerable citizens lose hope due to being unable to afford or maintain a stable housing option for themselves. Hence, my dedication to The Sophia Way which seeks to end homelessness for adult women in King County by providing shelter, life skills training, social services and supportive permanent housing; thus, offering a path from homelessness to stable, independent living.

At the end of the day, what makes Bellevue great is its people. Be it seniors, millennials, families or children, our citizens make up the wonderful fabric that is our community; one rich in diversity and inclusivity. It is vital that all our residents can thrive here and have access to

the basic needs of housing and be free of the threat of violence. My passion for this community is one in which we care for everyone's basic needs. I am committed to making sure that our city remains focused on finding solutions for those who are experiencing homelessness. That we support those that need legal assistance and an advocate when they extract themselves from a violent relationship. If selected, I would use my voice to facilitate solutions which provide housing options and support effective programs for these vulnerable residents.

Question: What is your vision for the city?

My vision for the City of Bellevue is to be a safe, vibrant and healthy place to live, work, learn and play. That Bellevue is a place where:

- Diversity and inclusivity is valued;
- Neighborhoods are healthy, connected and engaged;
- An economy is prosperous and thriving;
- Parks are vibrant, sustainable and preserved;
- Communities are culturally rich and active;
- Freedom of expression is encouraged and protected;
- Everyone has the opportunity to realize his/her full potential.

I believe this vision parallels the mission of the City of Bellevue to provide exceptional customer service, uphold the public interest and advance the community vision. Additionally, I believe this vision is in line with the Diversity Advantage plan that is intended to help the city respond to dramatic shifts in the age, race, and place of birth of residents in Bellevue.

Question: Why do you want to serve on the Bellevue City Council?

Ironically, Vandana Slatter and I were both born in British Columbia, Canada. I am the son of Dutch immigrants who eventually made their way to the greater Seattle area. I am a first-generation American who understands the immigrant experience. I'm the product of parents who showed me the importance of a strong work ethic as well as a strong dedication to family and community. I'm the proud son of an immigrant who wants to give back to the community that has given me so much.

I'm applying for the Bellevue City Council because I believe in our city and I know my unique perspective will serve our city well as we face ongoing opportunities and unique challenges.

So, who am I?

I'm the husband and father of an amazing wife and daughter.

I'm a board member of the Parks & Community Services Board for the City of Bellevue who is working to maintain and enhance our wonderful parks and open spaces.

I'm a businessman in the technology sector who wants to see Bellevue's economy continue to grow and thrive.

I am a community volunteer who has served on numerous boards and commissions, including LifeWire, Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, The Sophia Way, Lake Hills Neighborhood Association, Special Olympics of Washington and Washington Women in Need.

I'm a cyclist and member of the Cascade Bicycle Club that believes there is a place for cycling across our great city.

Most importantly, I am an informed, engaged and independent leader who actively listens and works to effect change.

I have an accomplished record of leadership, as well as influential civic and volunteer activity throughout the community and state. The basis of that leadership can be credited to completing the **Advance Bellevue (now Leadership Eastside)** Leadership Development Program and the **Bellevue Essentials** Civic Leadership Program by the City of Bellevue.

With the experience, fortitude and courage necessary to help lead this city into the future, I am prepared to work hard with my fellow councilmembers and on behalf of the citizens of Bellevue, to improve the lives of our neighbors while still being fiscally responsible. Bellevue residents have good reason to be proud of their community. I want the same feelings of pride to resonate with my daughter and future grandchildren.

I know the value of teamwork and believe as a community we need to work together towards an even brighter future for Bellevue. I will bring this optimism and determination to our City Council.

Thank you for considering my application for Position 5 on the Bellevue City Council.

Sincerely,

Jared M. Nieuwenhuis

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Thank you for this wonderful opportunity. **Let me start with why I want this job.** In short, I believe that I can bring a unique set of experiences, background, and knowledge to the city of Bellevue. I believe it is better to engage than to complain. It is better to assist in seeking solutions than to sit idly and watch others do the heavy lifting. That every citizen has a view that contributes to making our city a much better place to live, work, and enjoy, and that those views need to be actively sought out! Finally, I believe that every citizen has a responsibility to contribute to making our city a better place for all.

I am a Hispanic immigrant. I understand what it feels like to be a child, and the family spokesperson because your parents don't speak English. I saw my parents worry about paying the rent, medical bills, and other costs of living. Of not understanding the system that determines the winners and losers in life. Of being the first person in your family to graduate from college.

We all live in a community with increasing house values, and with those increasing values we see increasing tax bills. I know the importance of balancing the need for fiscally responsibility, and continuing to improve and upgrade our city. I live in a neighborhood that could easily lose its character, as well as be overrun with traffic, noise, and crime.

I am a business person who is the COO/CFO of a small company managing multiple locations that employs over 700 people, and who deals with all the intricacies of managing a business in a vibrant economic environment.

I believe my philosophies, attitudes, experiences, and beliefs reflect those of my fellow Bellevue citizens.

One of my strengths is that I am solutions driven. I believe the best solutions come from listening and understanding the needs before embarking on the solution. I know that leaders sometimes must make difficult decisions, and if the decision is wrong, it is equally important to admit it quickly, and move on to a better solution. I believe that my temperament, background and experience can benefit the city as it continues to grow and evolve.

What is my passion for the community?

Like all great cities, Bellevue is made up of many smaller communities. As Bellevue continues to grow, evolve and become more crowded, there will be competition for existing funds and resources. It is natural for neighborhoods to be concerned with continued development, and for our city centers to be concerned with having the necessary infrastructure to make sure business continues to thrive. My passion is to see

Bellevue continue to be an outstanding place to live, play, and work. This passion starts with making sure that citizens can get to the park, to school, to work; wherever they need to go, without having to spend inordinate amounts of time sitting in their cars! It continues with making sure all parts of the city get their fair share of city resources, and it finishes with making sure we continue to provide a safe and secure environment for all citizens. Great neighborhoods make great cities, and I believe passionately that we need to be guided by the vision of the people who live in those neighborhoods – same for our city centers. My passion is to keep the lines of communication open, and to recognize and address potential problems before they arise.

I have spent the past 20+ years focused on contributing toward making Bellevue the best place it can be. Starting with working on various Bellevue Chamber committees ranging from ad hoc committees that reviewed Bellevue city budgets and provided feedback to the city, to being a long-time chair of the Bellevue chamber transportation committee. From there I moved on to the city of Bellevue transportation commission for 8 years. I am currently serving on the city's Civil Service commission. During my time on the transportation commission I was privileged to serve as co-chair of the Bellevue Downtown development committee. It was a wonderful experience that allowed us to interact and deal directly with the public.

Years ago, I quite conscientiously chose to focus on transportation because I believe that an effective transportation system is at the heart of all great cities and regions. Over the years, I have learned a lot about transportation issues and how to effectively address those issues. I believe that in the coming years transportation will be one of the primary concerns, that if addressed proactively will keep Bellevue at the top of the list of best places to live and work. I believe that my background in business, financial knowledge, and hands-on experiences with transportation and development has prepared me to be a knowledgeable, and effective member of the city council who is ready to hit the ground running.

What is my vision for the city?

Diversity will continue to be our strength. Our reputation for being a “Best Place to Live” will be even stronger. Our neighborhoods will continue to have their own identities, be vibrant, safe, and well maintained. Our smaller neighborhood retail centers will reflect their neighborhood. Our major retail centers that provide a robust commercial and retail environment that will make Bellevue the Eastside anchor city. Our transportation needs will continue to grow, evolve and be more diverse in methods of movement. Our city will have a robust light rail system that moves thousands of people per day. Yet, we will still be very reliant on personal vehicles for fulfilling our daily activities. Personal vehicles will take many shapes, sizes, forms and use patterns. Many personal vehicles will be rented, or shared rather than owned, and everyone will be able to address their needs while

moving about the city in a reasonable timeframe. There will be more elderly people living in their own homes and moving about the city because of self-driving vehicles. Bellevue will be a lot like it is today, only better!

Stephanie Walter

February 1, 2017

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Bellevue, WA 98007

Kyle Stannert

City Clerk/Assistant City Manager, City of Bellevue

P.O. Box 90012

Bellevue, WA 98009

To Those Responsible for the Decision Making regarding the Open Bellevue City Council
Position Number 5;

This is my Letter of Serious Interest in Bellevue's City Council.

What is your passion for the community?

For nearly thirty years, I have enjoyed living with my family in Bellevue. I didn't, however, fully appreciate what went into the creation of this award-winning city.

My perspective changed in 2013 when I collaborated with the City to bring about an ordinance that would ban individual room rentals in single family neighborhoods. This practice had sprung up in my neighborhood and throughout the City. While highly profitable for the business enterprise, it violated the spirit of the land use code for single family neighborhoods. The practice had reduced the number of affordable homes in single family neighborhoods at a time when more affordable homes were needed.

To remedy this, I led a group of civic-minded neighbors to persuade City Council to develop an ordinance that would protect quality of life in single-family neighborhoods in Bellevue. During my investigation, I discovered that student housing was needed in the area surrounding Bellevue College and that future institutions of higher education would have the same need. The issue of student housing and the policies relating to it were incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan as a result of this effort. The new room rental ordinance has also been used to prevent the use of Air B&B and VRBO (Vacation Rental by Owner) in single family neighborhoods, again helping prevent upward pressure on housing costs in single family neighborhoods.

This firsthand experience in what it takes to make a change to Bellevue policies and laws has given me inspiration to do more to help Bellevue continue to be a world-class city.

As a member and current Vice Chair of the Planning Commission, I have been involved in the following activities that have prepared me for a position on the City Council...

- Updating the 2015 Comprehensive Plan
- Downtown Livability Analysis and Discussion
- Eastgate I-90 Transportation Master Planning

- Low Impact Development Principles
- Marijuana Land Use Recommendations
- Comprehensive Plan Amendments
- Land Use Review and Code Updates
- Public Hearings

My involvement in issues that impact the quality of life in the city I love has inspired me to want to be of more service to Bellevue.

What is your vision for the City?

My vision for Bellevue is one of growing inclusion - where every resident feels significant and every visitor is welcome. Bellevue embraces the varied and diverse values, backgrounds, interests, and capabilities of all its residents. A feeling of safety and security is fostered through robust emergency services, social services, infrastructure and neighborhood activities.

We move to our future by building on the solid foundation of our past.

Bellevue residents are engaged in regional issues impacting Bellevue. Leveraging the brain trust that is held in the Bellevue resident leads to significant outcomes.

Long-term residents continue to be valued and integrated into the fabric of Bellevue. New residents are quickly welcomed and woven into the rich fabric that is Bellevue. Every resident and neighborhood has parity when seeking a high quality of life for themselves, their families and their community.

Economic opportunities, large and small, are fostered throughout the City in new as well as established areas.

Transportation and mobility throughout Bellevue is safe, efficient, and responsive. New technologies are evaluated, incorporated and leveraged to keep Bellevue moving.

Human scale of built environment is aspirational, inspirational, safe, and fosters interaction between people. Open spaces are designed for use year-round by all abilities and interests.

The arts enrich the lives of people in Bellevue and enhance the livability of communities. The arts reflect Bellevue's rich and diverse heritage and provide a window to the world. (Inspired by the mission statement of the National Endowment for the Arts Vision statement.)

Bellevue's parks are inspired and guided by the words of John Muir – "Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike."

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

I would like to put my experience, work ethic and fair-minded approach to work for the residents, visitors and employees of Bellevue. I am an...

- **independent thinker** - I would bring a new perspective to the City Council. I think outside the box but draw inside the lines.
- **analytical thinker** - I would fully explore emerging assumptions using data and input from subject matter experts to move toward the ideal plan for Bellevue and the surrounding area.

- **empathetic person** - I would work to take the interests of all those living, working and recreating in Bellevue into account when enacting either popular or necessary yet unpopular policies. I would work to tailor policies to respond to concerns voiced by the public while adhering to County, State and Federal regulations.

As a communicator, I believe open and frequent dialogue is the key to positive relationships and outcomes. Communicating effectively, we can better understand each other and move to mutually beneficial agreements and outcomes. People are more willing accept changes if we understand the intention and origin.

As a collaborator, I will engage with other Council Members, Boards and Commissions, City Staff and the public in a manner of respect and conviction to seek the best results.

As a tenacious person, I will work tirelessly with and for the people of Bellevue, the Council, the Boards and Commissions, and the City Staff.

I hope this in addition to my record with the City will persuade you to grant me an interview for the position.

Very truly yours,

Stephanie P Walter

Janice Zahn

February 2, 2017

Bellevue Mayor and City Council:

I would be honored to serve with you on the Bellevue City Council, working on behalf of the people of our diverse, innovative and fast-growing community.

My critical thinking skills, broad experience (including more than a decade managing complex infrastructure projects at the Port of Seattle), diverse network of community and professional relationships, education in public policy and administration, and desire to improve opportunity for residents makes me uniquely qualified to be our next Bellevue City Councilmember.

I've chosen to make Bellevue my home and raise my family. We have fond memories of experiences throughout the city; Snowflake Lane, Newcastle Beach Park playground, soccer games at Lewis Creek, sheep shearing at Kelsey Creek, exploring the Bellevue Art Fair, Aquatic Center lessons, my daughter performing Schoolhouse Rock at the Bellevue Youth Theater to name a few. I feel blessed that city leaders were visionary and created these wonderful spaces.

As a 23-year Bellevue resident, mother of 2 daughters who attended Bellevue Public Schools, an Immigrant and someone who has devoted many years to community service, I am intimately familiar with the complex issues facing our community. I believe the City Council has done a great job shaping the future of this city and help our working families meet the challenges they face every day. I see a continued need to address challenges with:

Growth

We have a thriving economy, excellent schools, and high quality of life, yet our rapid growth could jeopardize the very qualities that drove us to make Bellevue our home. I want to put my years of experience as an innovative and collaborative problem-solver to work in addressing the increasing tension between livability and economic vitality.

Transportation

The transportation challenges ahead of us are staggering. To address them we need leaders who can reconcile the divergent interests of various stakeholders and build coalitions for implementing innovative solutions. Adequate funding will continue to be a challenge and I applaud the Council for taking the bold step with the TIFIA loan and the transportation levy. It takes visionary and caring leadership to make the tough choices to address the funding shortfalls.

As a member of the Bellevue Transportation Commission, I pushed to bring our meetings to the neighborhoods we serve. I believe we need to engage our neighborhoods to relieve the transportation pain points citywide and ensure mobility for all. We need to shift to a multi-modal level of service thinking that looks at our transportation infrastructure from a Complete Streets and Vision Zero lens.

Affordable Housing

Bellevue is an incredibly vibrant and attractive city blessed with excellent amenities and outstanding public schools. Unfortunately, the very qualities that make Bellevue so attractive have resulted in skyrocketing housing costs, putting the city out of reach for many families and middle class workers, including retail and service employees and civil servants. Children who grew up in Bellevue cannot afford to return and live here as adults. I am committed to finding ways to make housing more affordable for all who want to live, work, and play in our wonderful city. I believe my background and experience would be an asset working with developers, property managers, and non-profit housing providers to create more affordable housing stock.

Diversity

Understanding and honoring the diversity of our community and unique character of our neighborhoods is critical to our sense of community and place. In 2014, we declared that “Bellevue welcomes the world and Diversity is our strength.” I want to make sure we continue to live up to the spirit of that declaration and challenge ourselves to be more inclusive and celebrate the richness of our collective culture and heritage. I think that begins with talking about how we bring planning back to the neighborhood level and leverage the diversity of our residents and their culture, wants, and needs. I attended the Becoming and Belonging event yesterday at City Hall and felt energized by the stories and the work of Bellevue and Cultural Conversations. I am excited to explore ways the city can extend even more for community connections, understanding and celebration. What exciting opportunities ahead!

As a professional engineer, I can build physical infrastructure that last for years. More importantly, I can build partnerships to positively affect Bellevue for generations. I will work collaboratively with every Councilmember to ensure Bellevue continues to be an award-winning city where everyone feels a sense of community and personal fulfillment.

My vision for Bellevue

I am eager to serve on the City Council to build bridges for Bellevue’s future. My vision includes:

1. Make the City more strategic and innovative. Our policies must work both short-term as well as decades into the future. Planning must be forward-thinking and we must be willing to be bold, celebrates our diverse community, welcomes businesses big and small, and embraces technology to deliver services at the best value.
2. Become even more regional in our thinking. Many issues such as transportation, livability, economic growth, and community services are larger than our city limits. Solutions to these challenges cannot come solely from Bellevue. Our ability to engage with regional partners and advocate for Bellevue’s concerns will be of paramount importance. The City Council plays a key role in this engagement.

3. Commit to effective and timely communication. When communicating with our citizens we need to articulate what the city is doing and why, and be clear about our intentions and expected outcomes. It's important to establish, nurture, and expand the city's relationships within the many neighborhoods, communities and businesses that live, work, and play in Bellevue.

City government is hard work and City Councilmembers have the important responsibility of ensuring the city enriches the lives of its residents, where everyone has the opportunity to live a safe, healthy, and productive life. If I have the honor of serving on the Bellevue City Council, I will work every day to address the challenges and create opportunities, in partnership with my fellow City Councilmembers.

Respectful submitted,

Janice Zahn