

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO MERCER ISLAND CITY COUNCIL POSITION #1

Applicant Information

(Please type or print)

Applicant Name Aaron Kornblum

Residence Address 2278 72nd Ave SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040

Home Phone (206) 324-1726 Work Phone (425) 882-8080

E-Mail aaron@aaronkornblum.com

Cover Letter & Resume

Please attach a one page cover letter and a resume of no more than two pages to this application.

Supplemental Questions

Please respond to the following questions regarding your interest in the position of Councilmember for the City of Mercer Island on separate pages using no more than 3 pages total:

1. Why are you interested in serving as a Mercer Island City Councilmember?
2. What strength would you bring to the Council?
3. What are the three highest priorities and/or issues you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?
4. Explain your current and past community involvement and/or service on city, nonprofit, or public boards, committees, task forces, or commissions and how this has contributed to the Mercer Island community. Address its relevance to the position of Mercer Island City Councilmember.
5. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as a Mercer Island City Councilmember?
6. What is your vision for our City and community?
7. Is there anything else that you may wish to add that would help us get to know you a little better?

Please return this form, your cover letter, resume and answers to the supplemental questions to the City Clerk at Mercer Island City Hall (9611 SE 36th Street) **no later than 5:00 pm on Thursday, December 30, 2010.** Applications received after 5:00 pm will not be accepted.

The application and any correspondence should be addressed to:

**Ali Spietz, City Clerk
Councilmember Recruitment
9611 SE 36th Street
Mercer Island, WA 98040**

Aaron Kornblum
2278 72nd Ave SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040
(206) 324-1726
aaron@aaronkornblum.com

December 30, 2010

Ali Spietz, City Clerk
Councilmember Recruitment
City of Mercer Island
9611 SE 36th Street
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Dear Ms. Spietz and Honorable Mercer Island City Councilmembers:

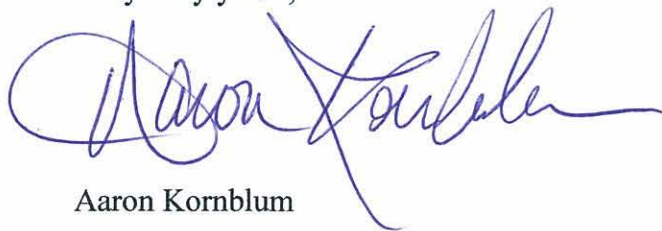
I am writing to seek appointment to the Mercer Island City Council, Position No. 1.

As Councilmember, I would work with you and our fellow citizens to continue to build a better Mercer Island. Already I am deeply committed to key civic organizations across our region that are important to my family, our neighbors, and the greater community, including service with the Mercer Island Youth & Family Services Advisory Board and Mercer Island Rotary, coaching Mercer Island youth athletes, and interviewing M.I. High School students for Princeton University. I desire to deepen this commitment as a member of the City Council focused on the important challenges facing our city, such as to help prepare our children for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, improve transportation solutions, and foster environmentally and economically sustainable and balanced growth.

As reflected in my application, I possess a robust history of professional and civic leadership experience across government, non-profit organizations, and the private sector, continuing a family tradition of service. Throughout my pursuits, I have built and successfully led teams of talented professionals, and worked effectively to solve challenges across complex policy issues. My distinguished work experience at Microsoft, with a nationally recognized Seattle law firm, and as a commissioned U.S. military officer, reveals my delivery of exceptional results that exceeded my goals.

I would be honored to join you in representing our fellow Mercer Islanders as their Councilmember. As required for appointment, I have continuously resided within the Mercer Island city limits for a minimum of one year (since 2005) and am a registered voter in the City of Mercer Island. I look forward to hearing from you and learning more about this opportunity in person.

Very truly yours,



Aaron Kornblum

Enclosures

Aaron Kornblum

2278 72nd Ave SE • Mercer Island, WA 98040 • Home (206) 324-1726 • aaron@aaronkornblum.com

CIVIC & COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Member, Mercer Island Youth and Family Services Advisory Board
- Interviewer, Princeton University, Seattle region
- President-Elect, Board of Directors, Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI)
- Member, Board of Directors, USO Puget Sound Area
- Member, Mercer Island Rotary
- Little League Coach, Mercer Island Boys & Girls Club, various teams
- Coordinator, King County Bar Association Neighborhood Legal Aid Debt Clinic

ACADEMICS

B.A., Politics, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 1989-1993

J.D., University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis. 1993-1996

- *Licensed to Practice*: U.S. Supreme Court; 9th Circuit Ct. of Appeals; State of Washington

HONORS, AWARDS, and RECOGNITION

- Current President, Princeton University Class of 1993 (2009-2013)
- “40 Under 40” Selectee, *Puget Sound Business Journal*, 2010 – a select group of the region's next generation of business and community leaders
- “Rising Star” Selectee, *Washington Law & Politics* peer selection in 2005, 2006, 2008
- National Legal Assistance to Military Personnel Award, American Bar Association, 1998

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS PERTINENT to COUNCIL EFFECTIVENESS

Microsoft Corporation, Redmond 2004-Present

Director, Security Policy – Microsoft Interactive Entertainment Business (2008-Present)

- Built from scratch and lead Security Policy Team covering complex IP + brand protection issues across dynamic 7,000-person global entertainment business, including Xbox 360 game console, Xbox LIVE service and new Kinect sensor accessory
- Delivered proactive, strategic guidance to internal business groups addressing all aspects of security policy: anti-piracy, privacy, accessibility, online safety, content ratings, patent

Senior Attorney, Internet Safety – Microsoft Legal & Corporate Affairs (2004-2008)

- Passionate people manager and respected Legal & Corporate Affairs department leader
- Delivered forward-thinking, trusted guidance to business groups addressing all aspects of Internet Safety enforcement and ancillary impact on software plus services
- Partnered with Federal Trade Commission and state attorneys general to help protect consumers against dangers of email spam and phishing attacks and other Internet fraud.

Graham & Dunn PC, Seattle

2001-2004

Senior Associate – Civil Litigation

- Expertly represented law firm clients in complex civil litigation and regulatory matters
- Chair, Firm Pro Bono Committee; Member, Ethics/Conflict of Interest Committee
- Member, Local Rules Committee, Electronic Filing, U.S. Bankruptcy Court

U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General's ("JAG") Corps

1996-2001

Area Defense Counsel (1999-2001, Incirlik Air Base, Republic of Turkey)

- Skillfully administered all aspects of trial defense office at overseas military base
- Duties included investigations, people management, budget, caseload, and PR
- Assigned to defend clients across the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, and Saudi Arabia

Assistant Staff Judge Advocate (1996-99, Francis E. Warren Air Force Base, Cheyenne, Wyo.)

- Adeptly led a team of non-commissioned officers, enlisted members, and civilians to deliver trusted legal advice to commanders on criminal and administrative matters
- Appointed Special Assistant U.S. Attorney to prosecute civilians in local federal court
- Base Jewish lay leader – coordinated installation activities in absence of a Jewish chaplain

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT INTERESTS and ATTRIBUTES

- Articulate and highly credible media spokesperson on Internet security issues
- NCAA & Professional Sports Stadium Public Address Announcer
- Outdoors for All Foundation

1. Why are you interested in serving as a Mercer Island City Councilmember?

I want to work with you and our fellow citizens to build a better Mercer Island. I am deeply committed to key civic organizations across our region that are important to my family, our neighbors, and the greater community, including service with the Mercer Island Youth & Family Services Advisory Board and Mercer Island Rotary, coaching Mercer Island youth athletes, and interviewing M.I. High School students for Princeton University. I desire to deepen this commitment as a Councilmember focused on the important issues facing our City.

2. What strength would you bring to the Council?

I like to work hard, and possess a robust history of professional and civic leadership experience across government, non-profit organizations, and the private sector, continuing a family tradition of service. Throughout my pursuits, I have built and successfully led teams of talented professionals, and worked effectively to solve business challenges across complex policy issues. My distinguished work experience at Microsoft, with a nationally recognized Seattle law firm, and as a commissioned U.S. military officer, includes delivering exceptional results that exceeded my goals.

My hard work translates into exceptional personal organization and focus, passion, as well as earned trust and respect, to accomplish success across my areas of pursuit. For example, my success as a Microsoft attorney working with federal and state regulators and law enforcement officials is greatly attributable to my ability to understand how to communicate effectively with these key audiences, skills that I will use in working on the priorities now facing our City, such as to work with our School Board to help prepare our children for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, improve transportation solutions, and foster environmentally and economically sustainable and balanced growth.

3. What are the three highest priorities and/or issues you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?

Education. As a parent with one child in our Mercer Island schools and two others who will join her, I am deeply committed to our incredible system of public education. As Councilmember, I want to support and enrich education to the fullest extent possible, such as exploring ways to extend the innovative partnership with the Mercer Island School District with initiatives such as the interlocal agreement for operation of the Mary Wayte Pool. Our school district's statewide attainment of excellence is no accident, and we must continue to focus hard on providing our young people the best possible education to prepare them for a lifetime of achievement.

Transportation. Mercer Island sits at the crossroads of Western Washington's transportation future, with critical roles to play in significant regional initiatives. For example, with the scheduled arrival of light rail in our community, we have an incredible opportunity to update our vision and plans for the Central Business District and the City as a whole. As Councilmember, I want to help drive that vision and seize what is now a once in a lifetime opportunity to design

our City's role in the region's newest transportation system. I want to passionately represent the interests of our citizens in the formulation and implementation of these initiatives, ensuring that the needs and rights of Islanders are prioritized appropriately.

Balanced Growth and Development. We are blessed to live in a thriving, livable community with incredible parks and open spaces created through decades of careful planning and caretaking. More recently, we have experienced a blossoming Central Business District, creating jobs and many new living spaces. As Councilmember, I want to find ways to protect and grow our recreational oases while fostering an environment of sustainable growth to attract new opportunities in our City, and preserving our quality of life and public safety.

4. Explain your current and past community involvement and/or service on city, nonprofit, or public boards, committees, task forces, or commissions and how this has contributed to the Mercer Island community. Address its relevance to the position of Mercer Island City Councilmember.

On Mercer Island, I serve on the Mercer Island Youth and Family Services Advisory Board, advising City Council on matters concerning policy, programs, budget, public relations and fundraising for Youth and Family Services. A passionate sports fan and mentor for my three school-age children, I have devoted significant time to coaching youth sports with the Mercer Island Boys & Girls Club, receiving accolades from team parents for my good natured approach and positive teaching style with players. I conduct Princeton University admissions interviews for Mercer Island High School students (and serve as President of the Princeton Class of 1993), and am a member of Mercer Island Rotary.

In Seattle, I proudly continue to support our men and women in uniform by devoting energies to the USO Puget Sound Area as a member of its Board of Directors.

I also have been elected Board President-Elect of Washington State's largest private heritage organization – the Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI) – for 2012-2013, when the organization will change the face of Seattle by opening the doors of its new home in the historic Naval Reserve Armory at South Lake Union Park. This \$60M+ project will move the Museum from the Montlake neighborhood near the University of Washington Husky Stadium to a stunning location at South Lake Union, due to the SR-520 bridge reconstruction. As a Board Member since 2004, I have brought a new awareness to MOHAI of the need (and responsibility) to expand its service to younger audiences. I also helped the organization think strategically about how to reach those audiences, especially from its new South Lake Union home.

Lastly, as a practicing attorney in Seattle, I supervised the city's largest pro bono legal program, supervising volunteer attorneys and clients in 500+ annual program sessions. I coordinated a citywide network of volunteer attorneys who gave time working at these clinics to offer free legal guidance to those typically low-income individuals who could not afford a private attorney and desired basic advice on topics such as debt collection, bankruptcy, and consumer fraud.

Each of these experiences has given me an appreciation of how to work effectively with government, listen skillfully to constituents, and garner consensus. For example, through my work with Mercer Island Youth & Family Services Advisory Board, I have understood the importance of ensuring critical services to all of our residents. As a MOHAI Executive Board Member, I worked recently with Museum leadership and Board member colleagues to help reach a successful resolution to multi-million dollar funding questions with the Mayor and Seattle City Councilmembers.

I am very proud of my extensive community involvement. My service leadership has helped me better understand the pivotal role that government, non-profits, and other community organizations play in the delivery of vital services across our region, and the guiding role City Council plays in facilitating the availability of these essential programs.

5. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as a Mercer Island City Councilmember?

As detailed above, as your Councilmember I want to help prepare our youth for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, improve transportation solutions, and foster environmentally and economically sustainable and balanced growth. In particular, I would like to continue to fully support our school district and its programs, engage strategically on light rail planning, and grow the lines of communication between stakeholders in our City's vibrant ecosystem.

6. What is your vision for our City and community?

I support the detailed Vision Statement authored by the City of Mercer Island: we all are stewards of a unique residential community that delivers quality and continuously improving services – among which is excellence in education – in a livable environment where consideration for the protection and enhancement of our natural riches be given a high priority.

In other words, our City is a thriving and energetic community that celebrates its ecological treasures, while attracting the best and brightest innovators to create opportunities for its citizens, employees, and visitors. I want to keep that ethic intact.

7. Is there anything else that you may wish to add that would help us get to know you a little better?

I care deeply about my family and Mercer Island community, and I possess the experience, expertise, and collaborative approach needed to help guide our City. We have much to celebrate on Mercer Island, and I believe that our future into 2011 and beyond is bright. I look forward to playing an active role in helping to craft that future.