

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO MERCER ISLAND CITY COUNCIL POSITION #1

Applicant Information

(Please type or print)

Applicant Name Clark Powell
 Residence Address 2721 61st Avenue SE; Mercer Island, WA 98040
 Home Phone 206-232-2486 Work Phone 206-515-5908
 E-Mail powellwc@speakeasy.net

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**

December 30, 2010
2721 61st Avenue SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040
206-232-2486 home
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Ali Spietz, City Clerk
Councilmember Recruitment
City of Mercer Island
9611 SE 36th street
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Dear Mr Spietz,

Please submit my name as an applicant for the vacant, Mercer Island City Council Position #1. With this cover letter I have attached my one page resume, the application form, and one page of answers to the supplemental questions.

Thanks,
Clark Powell

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clark Powell', written in a cursive style.

December 30, 2010

W. Clark Powell
2721 61st Avenue SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040
206-232-2486 home
206-515-5908 work

EDUCATION

Grade 6	North & South Mercer Jr HS	1962
Grades 7-9	North Mercer Jr. HS	1965
Grades 10-12	Mercer Island High School	1968
Physics, BS	University of Washington	1978

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

System Programmer	Virginia Mason Medical Center, Seattle	8/2004 to present
Computer Consulting	Universities, banks, engineering companies, hospitals	1990-2004
Defense Analyst Engineer	Boeing and Logicon	1978-1989
High School/College Employment (Including Town of Mercer Island in 1968)	Seattle/Mercer Island	1965-1977

INTERESTS / HOBBIES

Traveling
Languages (presently studying French)
Bernese Mt Dogs
Fishing and camping
Government and economics
Investing

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Supplemental Question for Mercer Island City Council Position #1

1.) Why I am interested?

At first, I wasn't. My neighbor, Ann Rutledge, suggested that I would be a good candidate and some of my other neighbors agreed with her. They considered the fact that I always had interests and opinions about Mercer Island, King County, Washington, and US governmental issues. I guess they didn't disagree too much with the opinions because they never stopped urging me to apply for the position. I looked at the amount of time required and decided that I could do it.

2.) What might be my strengths?

My education and work experience give me a solid background in technology. I have also had training in liberal arts and social sciences including graduate human resources management and economics. I have lived on Mercer Island starting in 1961, attending three levels of Mercer Island public school. I've lived in four different locations on Mercer Island and I have worked with the Planning Department on residential remodeling permits for my present home. Every workday, I use public transit to commute to work so I may be the only councilperson in recent history to have done this.

3.) Top three issues affecting Mercer Island?

My guess is that the amount of money, taxes and sacrifice required for building the present I-90 highway and the coming East Link Light Rail dwarfs the sum of all the things that the City of Mercer Island does. Just the scale of the project in terms of capital outlay and collateral damage should give it top priority at the Council. Yet, it appears that very little serious thought has gone into how the future changes proposed by Sound Transit will damage Mercer Island. Nor has much thought gone into how the East Link Light Rail will serve Mercer Island. Sound Transit has the charter to develop mass transit for the County but the Mercer Island City Council has the inherent duty to protect Mercer Island residents from outside threats. While being a strong supporter of mass transit I believe strongly that the present Sound Transit East Link Light Rail plan is a threat to the quality of life on Mercer Island and the entire East Side. The plan should either be stopped or redesigned to solve the problems it's going to

cause for Mercer Island.

Fiscal responsibility and good governance are essential. In our present budget crisis, I think the entire Island must be pleased to see the City Council working hard on the budget. In addition, I think the residents expect our Mercer Island government to be run in a fair and honest way. There are issues that stand out from time to time but fiscal responsibility and good governance must always have a place at the top of the priority list.

There are no other "top" priority items on my list but, there are a number of important items that could be finely tuned for the benefit of Mercer Island residents. For Example, I would like to see better enforcement of laws that protect pedestrians in crosswalks, zoning laws allowing smaller (<8,400 square feet) lot subdivisions for single family homes, and an inquiry into why there is a 20 car parking lot at the intersection of SE 32nd and 61st SE.

4.) Community service?

When the Park Department decided to put a "no dogs" sign up in Slater Beach Park, I was the grass roots organizer who got the neighborhood to change the mind of the Park Department. I have also tried to influence the improvement of mass transit on Mercer Island but, I admit, with little effect. It is the difficulty I've had in influencing the course of government on Mercer Island that makes me think that the City should be more innovative in soliciting neighborhood opinion. I have seen the City use outreach but as in the case of Sound Transit, the intent is more damage control and population control than seeking opinions or innovative thought on an issue. We could improve in this area.

5.) A desirable accomplishment for this term as City Council member?

If I could get the other City Councilpersons to understand why Mercer Island is getting a bad deal on the East Link Light Rail that would be good. If I could get the Council to ask Sound Transit for improvements for Mercer Island that exacerbate the loss of the express lanes that would be better. If these improvements were not made available to Mercer Island then if I could get the Council to pass a resolution saying the East Link Rail is not support by Mercer Island that would be better still. The best accomplishment would be to put Mercer Island on the road to getting an East Link Light Rail project that would improve the quality of life on Mercer Island rather than lowering it.

6.) What's the future?

There was a lot of anxiety about traffic, around the plan to increase

the density of downtown Mercer Island. It has happened and I, for one, have not noticed the predicted increased in traffic. I have noticed a grand increase in the quality and spectrum of services offered to consumers in the business district. Even the restaurants are noticeably better than they used to be. For this reason, I would like to see the business district increase in density and size. Especially, in a future in which Sound Transit is allowed to strangle the Island connection to the outside, Islanders will become more dependent on our little business district.

Traffic is a problem, but over the entire Island, not just the business district. A more perfect future for the Island might be possible if mass transit is developed in a way which gets drivers off all Mercer Island streets and not just off I-90. Discussion and investigation is necessary to achieve this goal. What makes people from affluent backgrounds take the bus? Certainly, not the cost. The old Metro model of "people who don't own a car will have to take our bus" will not work on Mercer Island. So to improve the quality of life, Mercer Island might have to figure out what it is that makes affluent people take the bus and make sure that whatever that may be, that it is provided.

Zoning and residential lot size is another issue that should be revisited with an eye to the future. There are advantages to having more single family homes per block. For example, communities that are higher density are easier to serve by public transit. Our present laws mandate bigger lots and lower density. Zoning laws should at least allow owners to subdivide single family lots if they desire.

My East Seattle School neighborhood is a good example of a neighborhood negatively impacted by the present zoning rules. In this neighborhood there are lots of all sizes down to 3,000 square feet. There is no noticeable problem with existence of the small lots and the diversity of lot size allows for a diversity of the neighborhood which is not equaled in other parts of the Island. A problem occurs in the neighborhood when houses on lots over 9,000 square feet are torn down for new construction. Zoning laws do not allow lots to be subdivided to parcels less than 8,400 square feet. So the builder has no choice but to build a monster home with floor space typically at the legal maximum of 45% of lot size. The result is lower density and in the worst case, a less than attractive house from which the neighborhood can't hide. The problem here is that the City's minimum lot size is too restrictive. If owners are given a little more freedom to subdivide then they will not be forced to build monster homes, (although they still can if they want.) And our neighborhoods will be more dense and practical for public transit.