

CITY OF WILDOMAR CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

MARCH 16, 2022

6:00 P.M. – SPECIAL SESSION

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, this meeting of the Wildomar City Council will be held through a hybrid format of in-person attendance at the

Wildomar City Council Chambers located at
23873 Clinton Keith Road Ste 106 Wildomar, CA 92595

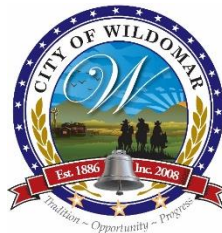
and/or virtual attendance via videoconferencing:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84801699357>

OR

Dial in: 1 (669) 900 6833 | Webinar ID: 848 0169 9357

Given health and safety concerns, in person seating availability may be limited, and the meeting format may be changed to full remote via videoconferencing. Please refer to the City's website for information regarding the format of the meeting, updates if the meeting is changed to a full remote via videoconferencing format, and details on how to participate: www.cityofwildomar.org



Ben J. Benoit, Mayor, District 1
Joseph Morabito, Mayor Pro Tem, District 3
Bridgette Moore, Council Member, District 4
Dustin Nigg, Council Member, District 2
Marsha Swanson, Council Member, District 5

Daniel York
City Manager

Thomas D. Jex
City Attorney

The City of Wildomar encourages your participation in the meeting; however, to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus, this meeting is being conducted in person and via video and teleconferencing with the following options available for the public to participate:

1. You may view the Regular Session meeting live on the City of Wildomar's website at <http://www.cityofwildomar.org> or on cable TV through Frontier Channel 36 or AT&T channel 99. To view from the website, select the live stream link on the top of the front page.

2. You may participate via the ZOOM Webinar Telephone and Videoconferencing.

3. You may participate in person; however, masks are recommended for all individuals, and seating may be limited as the City is still participating in the 6-foot social distancing seating procedure.

Instructions for Electronic Participation

Please Note: During the meeting all participants videos will be turned off during the entire meeting and you will be placed on Mute by the host. You will not be able to mute or unmute your lines manually. The host will unmute your line when you are called to speak.

1. Log in or call into ZOOM via desktop/laptop, smartphone or telephone. You must download the ZOOM app to access the link from an Apple smartphone or IPAD.

2. During Public Comment not on the agenda and after each Agenda Item, the Mayor will announce Public Comment. If you would like to speak, please raise your hand virtually to be placed in the queue.

3. When your name or the last 3 digits of your phone number are called, the host will unmute you. Public Comments will be limited

to 3 minutes or such other time as the Council may provide.

Directions to virtually raise hand on a DESKTOP/LAPTOP:

- At the bottom of the list, please click on the grey "Raise Hand" button.

Directions to virtually raise hand on a SMARTPHONE:

- Look for the "Raise Hand" button on the screen and click the button.

Directions to virtually raise hand on a TELEPHONE line only:

- Dial *9 on your keypad to signal that you would like to comment. When the Host unmutes you, Dial *6 to unmute.

Instructions for In Person Participation

During Public Comment not on the agenda and after each Agenda Item, the Mayor will announce Public Comment. If you would like to speak on that item, please fill out a speaker slip and submit it in the inbox at the front of the room.

When the City Clerk announces your name, please come up to the podium. Public Comments are limited to 3 minutes or such other time as the Council may provide.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, you should contact the City Clerk's Office at 951-677-7751 x210.

The City of Wildomar thanks you in advance for taking all precautions to prevent spreading the COVID 19 virus.

NOTICE: City Council meetings may be live-streamed, photographed and/or videotaped. Participation at the meeting constitutes consent by members of the public to the City's and any third party's use in any media, without compensation or further notice, of audio, video, and/or pictures of meeting attendees.

CALL TO ORDER – SPECIAL SESSION - 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

FLAG SALUTE

1.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

There are no items scheduled.

2.0 PUBLIC HEARINGS

There are no items scheduled.

3.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Appointment to Fill City Council Vacancy in District 5

RECOMMENDATION: The Ad-Hoc Subcommittee recommends that the City Council:

1. Review the applications submitted by persons interested in being appointed to fill the District 5 Council seat.
2. Interview all individuals who submitted applications.
3. Appoint an individual to fill the vacancy in District 5.
4. Direct the City Clerk to swear in the newly appointed Councilmember.

ADJOURN THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

REPORTS: All agenda items and reports are available for review at City Hall, 23873 Clinton Keith Road and on the City's website at the following address: http://www.cityofwildomar.org/government/agendas___minutes. Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the City Council regarding any item on this agenda (other than writings legally exempt from public disclosure) will be made available by appointment for public inspection at City Hall during regular business hours.

If requested, the agenda and backup materials will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof.

Any person that requires a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to participate in the public meeting, may request such modification, accommodation, aid or service by contacting the City Clerk either in person or by phone at 951-677-7751, no later than 10:00 a.m. on the day preceding the scheduled meeting.

I, Janet Morales, Wildomar City Clerk, do certify that at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, a true and correct copy of this agenda was posted at Wildomar City Hall, 23873 Clinton Keith Road; U.S. Post Office, 21392 Palomar Street; Wildomar Library, 34303 Mission Trail Blvd; and on the City's website at www.cityofwildomar.org.



Janet Morales, CMC
City Clerk

Dated: March 14, 2022

CITY OF WILDOMAR – COUNCIL
Agenda Item #3.1
GENERAL BUSINESS
Meeting Date: March 16, 2022

TO: Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Mayor Pro Tem Morabito & Councilmember Nigg

PREPARED BY: Janet Morales, City Clerk

SUBJECT: Appointment to Fill City Council Vacancy in District 5

STAFF REPORT

RECOMMENDATION:

The Ad-Hoc Subcommittee recommends that the City Council:

1. Review the applications submitted by persons interested in being appointed to fill the District 5 Council seat.
2. Interview all individuals who submitted applications.
3. Appoint an individual to fill the vacancy in District 5.
4. Direct the City Clerk to swear in the newly appointed Councilmember.

BACKGROUND:

On February 10, 2022, Councilmember Marsha Swanson submitted a letter of resignation from the City Council. Government Code Section 36512 states that within 60 days of the commencement of the vacancy, the City Council must fill the vacancy by appointment or call for a special election.

The City Council held a Special Meeting on February 16, 2022, and unanimously voted to fill the vacancy by appointment. The Council appointed Mayor Pro Tem Morabito and Councilmember Nigg to serve on ad-hoc subcommittee for the purpose of creating an application, conducting interviews with potential candidates, and selecting the top candidates for a final interview with the entire City Council.

On February 25, 2022, the City Clerk published a Notice of City Council Vacancy outlining the application process and inviting residents in District 5 to apply for a term ending December 2022. The application period opened on February 25, 2022, and closed on Thursday March 10, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

To be qualified, an applicant must be at least 18 years old, a resident of District 5 and a registered voter in District 5.

The City Clerk's office received a total of 2 applications. These applications were submitted to the ad-hoc subcommittee for review and the subcommittee selected all the applicants to move forward to be interviewed.

The ad-hoc subcommittee recommends that the City Council interview all the applicants. The order of the interviews will be selected at random during the meeting. Each applicant will be given five minutes for opening remarks, followed by City Council questions and discussion. Each applicant will then be given five minutes for closing remarks.

Once the interviews have been completed, the City Council may appoint an individual to fill the vacancy in District 5. If an applicant is appointed, it is recommended that the applicant be sworn-in by the City Clerk and begin their term on the City Council.

FISCAL IMPACT:

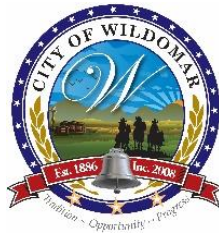
None.

Submitted by:
Janet Morales
City Clerk

Approved by:
Daniel York
City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Notice of City Council Vacancy
2. Gina Castanon Application
3. Ashlee DePhillippo Application



CITY OF WILDOMAR - CITY COUNCIL
NOTICE OF VACANCY IN DISTRICT 5 & APPLICATION PERIOD TO BE
CONSIDERED FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Wildomar is seeking applications for appointment to the City Council to fill a vacancy created when Councilmember Swanson resigned on February 10, 2022.

The term of this seat is from the date of appointment to December 2022.

Eligibility requirements to apply:

1. Must be at least 18 years old.
2. Must reside in District 5 of the City of Wildomar.
3. Must be registered to vote at current address at the time the application is submitted.

The application can be found on the City Clerk's Department page at www.cityofwildomar.org by downloading the application; OR by emailing/calling the City Clerk at jmorales@cityofwildomar.org or 951-677-7751 x210 to request a copy.

Applications will be reviewed by the ad-hoc subcommittee. The top qualified candidates will be selected and invited to interview with the City Council at a Special Council Meeting tentatively scheduled for March 16, 2022 at 6PM. The appointment will be made at-large and will be voted upon by the entire City Council in open session. Directly following the vote by the Council, the appointed individual will be sworn in and begin the remainder of the term.

To Apply:

1. Complete the City Council Vacancy Application.
2. Email the Application to jmorales@cityofwildomar.org OR Mail to: City of Wildomar, 23873 Clinton Keith Road Ste. 201, Wildomar, CA 92595 Attn: City Clerk Janet Morales or drop off at City of Wildomar 23873 Clinton Keith Road Ste. 110 Wildomar, CA 92595.

All applications are due no later than Thursday March 10, 2022 at 5PM.

Date: February 25, 2022

Janet Morales, City Clerk



RECEIVED

MAR 10 2022

CITY OF WILDOMAR

10:12 AM

CITY OF WILDOMAR APPLICATION FOR CITY COUNCIL VACANCY – DISTRICT 5

The City of Wildomar operates under the Council/ Manager form of government. Legislative power is held by the publicly-elected five-member City Council. Council Members are by district for alternating four-year terms, with elections in November of even-numbered years.

Council Members select the Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem each year in December from among themselves. The Mayor presides over City Council meetings, signs official documents, and performs ceremonial functions. As the Legislative Branch of Municipal Government, the City Council adopts laws and makes policy decisions for the City of Wildomar.

Council Members pledge, upon appointment, to represent the overall public good and not that of an exclusive group or interest.

The City Council meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 3:00PM for Workshops, 5:00PM for Closed Session and 6:00PM for Open Session. Council Members are expected to periodically attend and participate in City programs and activities, and committees with outside organizations.

Council Members receive a salary of \$400/month and \$1,200 towards medical, dental, vision insurance.

To Apply:

1. Complete the City Council Vacancy Application.
2. Email the Application to jmorales@cityofwildomar.org OR Mail to: City of Wildomar, 23873 Clinton Keith Road Ste. 201, Wildomar, CA 92595 Attn: City Clerk Janet Morales or drop off at City of Wildomar 23873 Clinton Keith Road Ste. 110 Wildomar, CA 92595.

All applications are due no later than Thursday March 10, 2022 at 5PM.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: Gina Castanon

Address: [REDACTED] Wildomar CA 92595

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Home	Cell	Work
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

BACKGROUND INFORMATION (ATTACH RESUME IF DESIRED):

1. Are you registered to vote in Wildomar in District 5? YES ☒ NO ☐

2. How long have you lived in Wildomar? 39

EDUCATION:

Highest year completed NA

Highest Degree received NA

EMPLOYMENT:

Retired

Employer's name & address

Employer's phone number/Type of Business

Position or Title

The City Council regularly meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm. Additionally, special meetings may be scheduled from time to time on other evenings/days. Are you available to attend the regular meetings and is your schedule flexible to allow for occasional special meetings? If not, please explain.

Yes

QUESTIONAIRE:

This Supplemental Questionnaire will be a tool in the evaluation of your qualifications for this position. Please answer each question in sufficient detail so that we can understand precisely what your qualifying experience and accomplishments have been.

1. Please describe your experience as it relates to this position.

Wildomar Chamber 1997-2002.

Worked closely with Bob Buster and the County of Riverside on area flooding and development for over 20 years.

Board member PTSA David A. Brown 1995-1997

Board member PTSA EHS 1997-2001

Board member WIN 2002-2008

2. Have you participated in local government as a committee member, commissioner, council member, or staff? What was your role and what did you learn from it?

Yes. My participation in local government since cityhood is that I have worked with staff, Oviedo, Norquest, York, Bassi, and Chapman on development and flooding issues for the past 13 years.

Founding and Board Member WIN 2002-2008

Butterfield Trails Board Member

Wildomar Trails Committee Board Member

Wildomar Historic Society Board Member

3. Why did you apply for City Council and what do you hope to accomplish by your participation?

Because Marsha Swanson resigned.

Approve the General Map.

Preserve Wildomar's history.

Ballot Measures for Term Limits and At Large on this year's election ballot.

4. What qualities or experience would you bring that would be an asset to the City Council?

Same as question number two and I know how to bring people together in large numbers for better participation with the community and city council.

5. What is your understanding of the role and responsibilities of the City Council?

To serve the community and protect the future and integrity of the City of Wildomar.

I understand that my role is to discharge the will of the people.

6. What do you feel are some of the key issues facing the City in the next 5 to 10 years?

Preserve the Map and historic downtown.

Brand Wildomar.

At Large Ballot Measure.

Increase Police Presence.

Fire Station on the East Side.

Revisit the Development Improvement Fee structure.

Develop the Sports Park on the East Side.

7. How do you think you would balance residents' concerns with overall City goals and long term benefits?

To listen to the concerns of the residents and address their issues with better communication.

I am of the belief that just because we can doesn't mean we should. That is why we need to solidify the goals of our General Map.

****PLEASE NOTE**** Should you be appointed; a Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests will be mandatory. This document is also a public record and will be given to those persons who request it.

I attest to the following:

1. I am a legal resident of the City of Wildomar.
2. I am a registered voter in District 5 within the City of Wildomar. *verified 3/10 gm*
3. I am at least 18 years old.
4. I am able to attend City Council meetings that are regularly scheduled on the 2nd Wednesdays of the month.
5. I understand this application is a Public Record and may be made available to members of the public upon request, with personal contact information redacted.
6. I understand that if I am chosen as the appointee, I will only serve on the City Council until December 2022.

The information provided in this application is true and accurate.

Applicant
Signature:

Gina Aguado-Castaneda

Date:

3-10-22

Dear Mayor Pro-tem Morabito and Councilman Nigg,

I've provided my application to fill the pending vacancy of District 5's Council seat, for your review.

Please note, that I've attached my reply to question one, as I needed more room to include the details requested in the instructions.

Additionally, I've included three letters of recommendation from local leaders, as well as, three news articles that mention me. I've included these as supplements to my application to show that I'm engaged and involved in Wildomar and in Southwest Riverside County, as I explain in detail on the application.

Please feel free to reach out at any time.

All my best,
Ashlee DePhillippo

[REDACTED]

RECEIVED

MAR 09 2022

**CITY OF WILDOMAR
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE**



RECEIVED

MAR 09 2022

CITY OF WILDOMAR
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

CITY OF WILDOMAR APPLICATION FOR CITY COUNCIL VACANCY – DISTRICT 5

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All applications are due no later than Thursday March 10, 2022 at 5PM.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: Ashlee DePhillippo

Address: [REDACTED] Wildomar CA 92595

Telephone: [REDACTED]
Home Cell Work

E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

BACKGROUND INFORMATION (ATTACH RESUME IF DESIRED):

1. Are you registered to vote in Wildomar in District 5? YES ☒ NO ☐
2. How long have you lived in Wildomar? 9 years

EDUCATION:

Highest year completed College Freshman (30 Credits)

Highest Degree received High School

EMPLOYMENT:

Self

Employer's name & address

Wildomar, CA 92595

Employer's phone number/Type of Business

Photography

Position or Title

The City Council regularly meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm. Additionally, special meetings may be scheduled from time to time on other evenings/days. Are you available to attend the regular meetings and is your schedule flexible to allow for occasional special meetings? If not, please explain.

Yes, I'm available and my schedule is flexible.

QUESTIONAIRE:

This Supplemental Questionnaire will be a tool in the evaluation of your qualifications for this position. Please answer each question in sufficient detail so that we can understand precisely what your qualifying experience and accomplishments have been.

1. Please describe your experience as it relates to this position.

Please see the attached answer.

2. Have you participated in local government as a committee member, commissioner, council member, or staff? What was your role and what did you learn from it?

I've volunteered on event planning/organizing/executing committees in Lake Elsinore, namely: Their annual Emergency Prep Fairs and their annual Clean Extreme (approximately 700 volunteers for a one day clean up event). I've also participated in a City Manager Roundtable, and I'm currently serving on the Wildomar and Lake Elsinore Homeless Taskforce.

For the Clean Extreme events, my role was to collaborate with the other committee members, including some of Lake Elsinore's city staff including Ms. Daily to help identify and select projects the volunteers could participate in, and generally participate in the planning, organizing, and recruiting for the cleanup event. Then I attended and worked wherever I was needed. Sometimes that would be at check-in, other times on a specific project such as painting.

For the E-prep fair, I met with and assisted in planning and executing the event through the city and private collaborations, as well as, assisting by reaching out to faith based organizations, individuals, and businesses who provided booths on various topics of health and preparedness. Of course, I also attended the yearly event and worked wherever needed on the day of.

Additionally, I'm an invited participant on the Lake Elsinore and Wildomar joint Homeless Task Force, which I've served on for at least 3 years at the invitation of Ms. Nicole Daily.

Additionally, I had the treasured opportunity to participate on (then) City Manager, Grant Yates' City Manager Roundtable. I represented as a "community volunteer." I met with Manager Yates, and other city staff as and other stakeholders. I was invited to represent on the roundtable as a "community volunteer" to discuss the city's budget, priorities, and the addition of a one percent tax that was going on the ballot.

I was impressed that our sister city's finances were well thought out, and appreciated the healthy reserve they've worked towards, and their fiscal vision. I learned that (now) City Manager, Jason Simpson, worked with San Bernardino after they filed bankruptcy to help them straighten out their finances. Mr. Yates hired him in part, to structure the annual budget in a way that will protect Lake Elsinore from experiencing a similar fate. As such, they have a very healthy reserve, 5, 10, and 20-year goals+, and are among the fastest-growing cities in the U.S.

It was enlightening to look behind the curtain, somewhat. I learned that a healthy reserve and a focus on watching every taxpayer dollar as if it's their own serves them well. Having both short and long-term goals at the top of the mind can go a long way towards the fiscal health of a city.

If appointed, I look forward to working with Manager Dan York and learning more about his managerial philosophies and vision. I think it would be an exciting time to be a new council member, working with a new City Manager, as I can see that Mr. York is highly engaged and enthusiastic in his new role.

3. Why did you apply for City Council and what do you hope to accomplish by your participation?

I've been a volunteer in the region for about 14 years and I love Wildomar! Like you, I want to see it reach its fullest potential!

When I heard Councilwoman Marsha Swanson's announcement, it occurred to me that although its not a 100% volunteer position, it's another way I can serve in the community. I believe my professional, volunteer, and life experiences can benefit the city of Wildomar, which I love, and I can become an excellent representative for District 5 and Wildomar at large.

4. What qualities or experience would you bring that would be an asset to the City Council?

I'm highly engaged in serving in the community in several ways, assisting efforts which are part of solutions to the problems residents care about, and cities are facing.

Just as I did in my professional life and volunteerism, I would take the initiative, where needed, and look for opportunities to maximize my roles to my fullest capacity. I would do what I can to address residents' concerns. I'm trustworthy and well rounded. I have an excellent and conscientious work ethic and a desire to make positive outcomes whenever possible.

I would approach city business with a thoughtful and well-reasoned approach, keeping in mind city goals and plans. I would listen with the intention to understand different perspectives and opinions. I have an even temperament and feel that I could help maintain a positive, collaborative atmosphere among the Council.

I have extensive and broad experiences as a representative in the private sector. I feel this experience would allow me to represent city well on regional or other boards/committees if that were the desire of the Mayor. I would engage people warmly and professionally. When applicable, I would keep a keen ear out for information that may benefit Wildomar, including grant opportunities.

I'm slow to anger, and as I've observed in council meetings, I can disagree amicably, and "shake hands" afterward if we disagree.

I believe my personal and professional experiences, as well as my character and temperament, can be an asset specifically to the City Council, as well as to residents of Wildomar.

I genuinely love people and the city of Wildomar. I would strive earnestly to quickly become an asset to the City Council as well as to the City of Wildomar, and its residents.

5. What is your understanding of the role and responsibilities of the City Council?

My understanding is that the City Council is a local legislative body, typically elected unless there's a vacancy, whose responsibilities include representing the interest and will of the voters, conducting city business such as, enacting ordinances and laws, adopting an annual budget, authorizing CIP, and approving (or not approving) proposed policies, contracts, and directing staff in varied ways. Also, making sure the city is heading in the right direction to achieve its goals, making decisions that will have the best outcome for the long term success and sustainability of the city, looking for ways to improve quality of life issues the residents may face, anticipating and planning for future events which may need mitigation considerations, representing the city on various boards and committees at the direction of the Mayor, etc.

To carry out the voter's collective will and desires whenever possible, while also looking out for and prioritizing the city's long-term "health and wealth."

As for the role of the City Council: Listening to voter's concerns and constructive ideas/suggestions by meeting with/talking to or listening to them and then taking these into consideration when evaluating decisions. Additionally, projecting a positive image for Wildomar in the broader community, and welcoming and supporting local business', etc.

I anticipate, if chosen for this position, I would quickly expand this explanation, in both categories, as I gain experience.

6. What do you feel are some of the key issues facing the City in the next 5 to 10 years?

One of the significant issues I feel the City may face is the potential growing pains as we approach our max build-out in the coming years.

Some of those issues might include infrastructure creation and maintenance, additional crime due to a more dense population, and conflicts regarding maintaining our rural charm and small town identity.

As such, we may encounter more big city problems as our population becomes more dense. This could impact our public safety budget and our infrastructure budgets, etc. We may see our ratio of owner occupied to renter occupied decrease, which data shows is recently quite high and this may also impact our city's overall culture.

Additionally, I believe the below are some excellent priorities that I see the City addressing currently.

- General plan.
- Increasing the reserves in the annual budget.
- Attracting revenue-generating businesses to our city will increase our General Fund.
- Purchasing/building a facility owned by the City of Wildomar to utilize as City offices, Council chambers, and other city/public uses.
- Increasing the rate of fixing our roads.

7. How do you think you would balance residents' concerns with overall City goals and long term benefits?

To be clear, I think residents with concerns are genuine and come from a place of sincere interest and belief that their opinion will result in a long-term benefit for the city.

In general, I think it comes down to the fact that sometimes resident's don't agree with all of the outcomes or decisions of the council or feel a different direction or policy is preferred to obtain what they may think should be the city's goals and long-term benefits or a better way to get there.

However, ultimately, any decision I make would come using all of the available information and a genuine well reasoned belief that the outcome of decisions benefit the city as a whole, its goals, and the future benefit of the city, not a particular person or interest.

That said, I think it's essential to hear residents' concerns and input and consider others' ideas and constructive input.

****PLEASE NOTE**** Should you be appointed; a Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests will be mandatory. This document is also a public record and will be given to those persons who request it.

I attest to the following:

1. I am a legal resident of the City of Wildomar.
2. I am a registered voter in District 5 within the City of Wildomar. *verified 3/9 gm*
3. I am at least 18 years old.
4. I am able to attend City Council meetings that are regularly scheduled on the 2nd Wednesdays of the month.
5. I understand this application is a Public Record and may be made available to members of the public upon request, with personal contact information redacted.
6. I understand that if I am chosen as the appointee, I will only serve on the City Council until December 2022.

The information provided in this application is true and accurate.

Applicant

Signature: 

Date: *3-9-22*

1). Please describe your experience as it relates to this position.

Technically, I've worked since I was about 3.5 years old when I started a lemonade stand and hired my 2-year old brother. In the middle of our new venture, and after a couple of warnings, I fired him from our lemonade stand because he was "drinking up all the profits." I paid him for the work he'd done until that point, then quickly hired our neighbor, Katrina, and she knew not to drink the profits; after all, she saw what happened to employee #1. In the end, we turned a profit, all ended well, and I've worked in one way or another ever since. Now that my brother and I are adults, he tells me I did the right thing. He was indeed tanking our new enterprise with his lack of discipline; however, you should know, I've learned to be more diplomatic since those younger years.

The above is a relevant and qualifying experience because it illustrates my ability to understand the basics of economics and bottom lines, even from a young age. I continued finding ways to meet goals through a thought-out plan. I learned that if a plan isn't working as anticipated, to pivot quickly and see what will. Additionally, it shows I've always enjoyed a new endeavor or challenge; it's part of my nature.

In my answers to the questions on this application, you'll see that I consistently take the initiative when I see a need, and I'm quick to take on new adventures with enthusiasm and a desire to learn and perform well. I imagine there are often new endeavors and challenges in local government, and if appointed, I would approach this role and its accompanying opportunities and challenges joyfully.

I've categorized my professional and volunteer background into five categories. This is not an exhaustive list, as I've often held multiple jobs, and I've volunteered for more than I'll list here.

- 1). Office Manager at a business with a multi-million dollar a year gross revenue and many complexities.
- 2). Manufacturers' Sales representative for multiple companies in the category of Budget Office Furniture.
- 3). Consistent but temporary sales for several companies with varied responsibilities concurrently with my above work.
- 4). Small (micro) business owner.
- 5). An active community volunteer.

1). I started as an office manager with our family business when we learned our trusted office manager was embezzling. I was familiar with all aspects of the company, so I needed to jump in immediately and fulfill that role. We manufactured office furniture, and we had approximately 30 employees at the time. I handled everything from invoicing, collections, payroll, onboarding new employees, etc. it was a huge job, especially at my young age, but I was up for the task. A few years later, we opened a second warehouse facility to run concurrently with the office furniture manufacturing as a "job shop." We manufactured components and parts for display fixtures for several national companies such as The Gap Inc., Macy's, and many others.

Each side of the business had distinct clienteles. Therefore, I had to be very organized and efficient while keeping employees, customers, and management happy.

I see this as relevant to the role of the City Council, as there are several figurative hats to wear as a city councilperson. This experience also shows I can jump in and figure things out quickly. In addition, it proves I can manage many organizational tasks and interpersonal relationships. I can handle a diverse and complicated workload. I'm versatile and resilient. My work required a constant vigilance towards solving problems of many kinds while staying positive and available to all I encountered. I think I would similarly approach my role as a City Councilperson.

2). Eventually, I took on a new role with our company as a Manufacturer Sales Representative. At that time, I began to rep other non-competing, budget office furniture companies based in Los Angeles. One of my primary roles was to maintain good relationships between our company and our clients. First, I represented the manufacturer's interest to our clients (retail salespeople, buyers, and owners), then advocated for our customer's needs to the manufacturer. These efforts helped maintain good relationships between the two interests; we had excellent client retention.

I see this as a qualifying experience because I spent years listening to my customers and working with our company to resolve issues and concerns. But I did this with the Company's interests and goals in mind, too. So I had to find the balance that created positive outcomes. But, of course, as a council member, this would play out differently, as I wouldn't be able to unilaterally make changes or eradicate problems without a process, consensus, etc. Additionally, I understand that one person's complaint might be another person's compliment. All that to say, I understand it's more complicated than my previous professional experience, but it's an experience I can build on if I'm appointed to the Council.

3). Additionally, I represented other businesses as a temporary (W-9) representative at trade shows and other locations to showcase and promote the company in various ways. This was my "side job" for several years. I refer to it as the "sky-diving" of sales. I would sometimes talk to hundreds of people during a three-day weekend, which was thrilling. This experience shows I can interact and relate to diverse people. I have a lot of experience in networking on behalf of a company. I can easily translate that to networking on behalf of the city.

4). In 2001, I made a dramatic shift and became a wedding photographer. I continued to work my "day job" until my business was up and running. This career shift afforded me some fantastic opportunities for travel and growth?

A lot of what I already explained as lessons learned in previous experiences apply here, so I won't re-state the redundancies and overlaps. Still, I do feel this experience is relevant in an unexpected way. You see, as time went on, and when my children were small, I had to scale back. My business model had me traveling out of the state or country for most of my work. Additionally, it required me to be gone most evenings and weekends. When I was home, I was at my computer during every nap, before and after my children went to bed, etc.

As a small business owner, I learned about many of the struggles and obstacles micro, and small businesses face. I know our business owners' sacrifices to grow and scale their businesses to be successful. Combining this small home-based service experience and my experiences working in the details of a larger brick and mortar manufacturing business with dozens of employees, I understand many of the pressures and obstacles of business owners of all kinds. Additionally, I recently experienced my entire industry completely shut down during the lockdowns due to COVID-19. These combined experiences give me empathy and appreciation for residents and business owners in our community.

5.) Volunteer. I love volunteering! I won't list all of my volunteer activities, but I will focus on a few, and I won't repeat what's listed in the question below, under the section regarding "Participating in government ...committee member."

My formative volunteer experiences began about 14 years ago when I "accidentally" ended up on The United Way's Day of Caring event.

I suddenly found myself on a committee to put together a huge one-day-a-year clean-up event. Initially, I felt inexperienced and overwhelmed. I had three primary roles which were Sponsor Chair, to assist the Public Relations chair by recruiting and organizing photographers to cover the projects spanning three cities, and the liaison between the UW committee and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, as they brought over 300 volunteers to our event, which took some additional planning and coordinating. We had a total of approximately 750 volunteers and countless clean-up and beautification projects spanning multiple cities. To execute this event, we met at least monthly for approximately eight months each year that we held the event. I had a young and growing family at the time and was still working in my photography business, so I had to be very organized and efficient to execute all my responsibilities.

In my role as Sponsor Chair, I interacted with many businesses, community members, along with working with the committee members to pull off this enormous undertaking. It is my understanding that through our Sponsors, our committee raised the most money in the UW region for this event. We also provided a robust raffle for our volunteers, just for participating. We raffled anything from a large plasma-style television to restaurant and massage gift cards. I was in charge and oversaw all of the acquisition of both the fundraising and the allocation of the raffle prizes.

This role taught me so many things. One thing I learned is that through the power of a committee and working together, we could get far more done than we could've imagined when we first started out. I learned that with the right combination of people, we could create more efficiencies and divide the work up in a way that had the most impact.

The oddest thing it taught me about myself was that I love meetings! Honestly, I think that's a little weird, but it makes sense if you understand that I thrive in an environment where there's an enthusiastic positive exchange of ideas; collaborating to find solutions to problems. I think this is an appropriate goal as a city representative, to hear and discuss ideas, in a constructive way to strengthen Wildomar. Additionally, I learned that I loved serving in the community as a volunteer. I guess you could say, from this early experience, I was hooked.

When SWAG came to our cities, I quickly saw they could have a huge impact in addressing the issue of homelessness in our community. At that time, they only had one or two employees. I especially appreciated their focus on building relationships and working to get real and lasting help for these vulnerable residents when they're ready. It was immediately obvious they had a love for these individuals.

I originally began volunteering for them by collecting household furniture and other items to furnish a home SWAG had arranged for a homeless family, which included many children. This grew to volunteer in other efforts, and eventually, for about a year, I volunteered up to 40 hours a week, collecting donations, interacting with volunteers and donors, and generally trying to see where the needs were and fill them. Since their humble beginnings, they've grown exponentially. They have many more employees who can handle their day-to-day interactions. Therefore, these days, the primary focus of my SWAG volunteer efforts is linked directly to The Anchor.

As The Anchor came closer to opening, I helped facilitate a large shipment of shelf-stable food and organized and facilitated many of the finishing needs for each room such as pillows, blankets, bathroom towels, toiletries, kitchen utensils, place settings, storage container, etc., etc. I did this through networking with businesses, faith-based groups, other nonprofits, and individual donors. Again, it was exciting to be a part of this new adventure.

A volunteer role I currently have undertaken and cherish is cooking and taking dinner to the residents of The Anchor every week with a small group of other volunteers. I've been doing this for a year now! This is one of the most rewarding things I've done as a volunteer. I get to sit and talk to our vulnerable residents, get to know their stories, and support/encourage them as they take their first steps towards getting off the streets. Some of them have become some of my favorite people! I'm so grateful I get to be a small part of their healing journey and when possible, we maintain contact after they leave The Anchor, as I love and value them and want to continue our friendship.

Many of these individuals are Wildomar residents who were homeless in our city. I believe this is a qualifying experience, as I'm directly engaged in assisting our most vulnerable residents in Wildomar. I love and care about them. I want to see them get lasting help and have a productive life whenever possible. And ... shout out here to Bridget, as she and 100 Women Who Care have recently committed to bringing dinner every 2nd Thursday of the month, and it's been a huge blessing to have them on board and taking care of dinner once a month!

Although I'm not a Grinch, my heart may have grown three sizes this most recent Christmas. I had the pleasure of facilitating and providing Christmas to the residents of The Anchor at that time. I sat with each resident to get a list of what they wanted/needed, fundraised through my interfaith connections, supplemented the budget from our family funds, then shopped for them individually. Each has individualized gifts chosen for them from their list, and from interests or specific needs I knew they had. I was able to spend about \$200 per resident. Beneath and surrounding the ornament-laden Christmas tree, a plethora of wrapped gifts seemed to burst from it. The residents were so excited as they anticipated the day. As they unwrapped the gifts there were so many tears of joy, laughter, and gigantic smiles. Some revealed that they haven't had a real Christmas in many years due to being out on the street. Others didn't need to say it, we already knew. One of our volunteers who regularly serves dinner with me said, "This may have been the best Christmas I've ever had."

With other volunteers and a lot of help and support from my husband, we made and served a proper Christmas meal, including Prime Rib and many sides and desserts. So naturally, we wanted them to feel spoiled.

It's important to me that our residents at The Anchor feel accepted back into society as they stay on the path to restoring their lives. One of the things I've learned since serving at The Anchor is that many of our homeless, if not most, don't feel like "society" accepts them. They don't automatically feel we, the community, will welcome them. But as they progress, that is something the dinner program can help them see. We help represent the community, cheer them on, and let them know we care through words, but more importantly, through action.

I also volunteer with the phenomenal Wildomar Beautification Committee! What an amazing group of people, most of whom are from Wildomar! Through this, I've become more acquainted with both Wildomar and other "Wildomarians" who also like to serve. I love being part of the solution of beautifying Wildomar. Sometimes I can attend more often than other times, but I serve as much as possible. It's a wonderful group, and volunteering in this way has caused me to love Wildomar even more than I had already! The strength of many people coming together to tackle a problem head-on is powerful and can make a huge impact. I'd like to see this grow and its impact expanded.

I think volunteering gives me several qualifying experiences. But, in summary, to name two overriding themes to my service relevant to the position of City Councilperson is that 1). I'm already engaged in the community of Wildomar and Southwest Riverside County. I'm working to be part of the solution to several issues all cities face in ways and to the extent that I can as a volunteer.

As for accomplishments in this area:

- I was generously awarded Volunteer of the Quarter in Lake Elsinore (November 2019)
- And I was also nominated for Wildomar Citizen of the year (2020)

17 Corte Palazzo
Lake Elsinore, CA 92532
March 7, 2022

Wildomar City Council Members
Wildomar City Hall
23873 Clinton Keith Road
Wildomar, CA 92595

To the Wildomar City Council:

I am very happy to write this recommendation letter on behalf of Ashlee Wilson Dephillippo. I understand that Ms. Dephillippo is seeking appointment to the Wildomar City Council to replace Council Member Marsha Swanson. I highly recommend Ms. Dephillippo for the position.

I first met Ms. Dephillippo in 2018 when I was running for Lake Elsinore City Council. Since my election to our Council, I have had the privilege of getting to know her through our mutual interest and work on behalf of the people of Southwest Riverside County. Ms. Dephillippo is very smart and has a passion for public policy. I have also observed that she has an extremely strong work ethic and that she is very nice. Simply put, she is an exceptional person.

Given this, I urge you to appoint Ms. Dephillippo to Council Member Swanson's seat on the Wildomar City Council. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Timothy J. Sheridan
Mayor
Council Member, District 3
City of Lake Elsinore

Mayor Ben Benoit and Fellow City Council Members,

I am writing on behalf of Ashlee DePhillippo. As the City of Wildomar seeks to fill the huge vacancy lost by long-time founding Councilmember Marsha Swanson, I highly encourage you to consider Ashlee. Ashlee has been an amazing advocate for Wildomar and Lake Elsinore. She is eager to serve others and excited for the opportunity to make a difference in our communities. She has been involved in many city and regional initiatives through the years and has extensive experience and knowledge of the many challenges and opportunities facing our cities. These attributes, paired with her leadership skills and years of involvement with the City, make her the ideal candidate for Wildomar City Council.

Nicole Dailey

Deputy City Manager


Email: ndailey@lake-elsinore.org

To the Wildomar City Council,

I understand that long-time Councilmember, Marsha Swanson has resigned from her city council seat, I sincerely thank her for her service to the residents of Wildomar.

As you look at making an appointment I understand that Mrs. Ashlee DePhillippo has submitted an application. I have known Ashlee for several years and have had the privilege to serve with her on local humanitarian projects. She is a selfless leader and a robust worker on any project she takes on. I know Ashlee to be a person of fine ethical character who cares about her community and the people that live in Wildomar. Ashlee DePhillippo would be an excellent choice to serve on the Wildomar City Council.

Sincerely,

Lesa Sobek

Councilwoman

City of Menifee



Lsobek@cityofmenifee.us

Connect with me on social media: Facebook

"Kindness begins with me."

Sent from my iPad



Hope for the homeless: Lake Elsinore

By **Diane A. Rhodes** -May 28, 2021

Members of Lake Elsinore's **Homeless Task Force** recently launched The Anchor, an innovative project to help lessen the weight experienced by many homeless people living in the area.

"We felt this name had a lot of meaning to the project and the community," Nicole Dailey, assistant to the city manager, said. "The Anchor is nautical, and we are a lake city, but more importantly, it symbolizes creating a place where we seek to stabilize individuals in need of support; like an anchor holds down and stabilizes a vessel."

Lake Elsinore has become increasingly proactive and aggressive in addressing homelessness in its community. In May 2017, the Homeless Task Force was established and included two city council members, Natasha Johnson and Brian Tisdale. Its purpose was to develop and pursue strategies to reduce homelessness in the community.

"In 2019, the city was fortunate to receive a \$1.5 Homeless Emergency Aid Program grant from the Riverside County Continuum of Care to ramp up and make a difference in our community," Dailey said. "This included creating a 'One Team, One Dream' that includes law enforcement, code enforcement, Social Work Action Group (SWAG), and Riverside County Behavioral Health. This team

goes out onto the streets every week in our region to interact with and try to help those in need.”

The city has a zero-tolerance approach to criminal activities while encouraging businesses and citizens to practice responsible compassion by offering a hand up to those in need, and not a handout that enables the homeless. The goal is to enforce illegal activity by holding individuals accountable for committing any crimes in the community while striving to help those in need who are willing to receive the help.

Dailey said the task force’s efforts were hampered by a Supreme Court ruling in 2019 that made it official that homeless individuals may stay on any public space and could not be forced to leave without having a bed available for them.

“As such, based on our success rate and progress in helping our most vulnerable, we knew we needed beds in our community to continue our efforts,” she said. “The alternative was the possibility of increased encampments on our sidewalks, in our parks, and along our lake. In the midst of our efforts,

Governor Gavin Newsom announced Project Homekey to provide the critical funding needed to purchase, renovate and open the first government funded homeless housing beds in Southwest Riverside County.”

The Anchor crisis stabilization housing complex, which has strict eligibility guidelines, officially opened on December 30, 2020 to eight residents. The site has approximately 10,000 square feet of total building space. There is a pool, two spas, a community kitchen, a community room and 14 transitional housing units. There are also two units being used for on-site SWAG managers and a cottage area being used as office space. Each unit is about 480 square feet and includes a living area, full bathroom and a kitchen/dinette space.

The new facility was formerly a motel that had gone out of business. Originally built in 1965, the site required a significant investment in the infrastructure of the building including electrical, water, gas and more. Dailey said the rooms were in decent condition and the City was able to buy new furnishings for all rooms using Project Homekey funds awarded in August.

Individuals can stay up to 90 days during which time they are provided with full wrap-around supportive services. Clients receive one-on-one counseling, group counseling, fun activities, food, hourly check-ins by staff, curfews, faith-based services, music room access and ongoing case management to try to overcome their challenges, which vary. Dailey said some need medical, behavioral health or substance abuse treatment while some need friendship and companionship. Still others need help to apply for Social Security or secure a driver's license.

"This journey is different for all and it is a difficult one; some leave and come back while others go back to the street," Dailey said. "It is an ongoing daily battle for all involved."

Glen Peterson, 64, had been homeless for more than 12 years before being accepted at The Anchor April 28. He is applying for Social Security benefits and hopes to have his own home soon. He said the most helpful part of his stay has been "having people who care, a safe place to heal and having people to have conversations with."

Dailey said donations are always needed and welcomed and although the webpage www.lake-elsinore.org/legives is being updated, there is a survey for visitors to sign up and help out in different ways. Also, the coordinator for all donations and volunteer opportunities can be reached at Ashlee@theswag.org.

"We even have a 'registry' of sorts to maintain a record of what is most needed at The Anchor," Dailey said. "We urge our community to join us in this fight. This is the best way to help us reach our goal of ending chronic homelessness in Lake Elsinore."

An ongoing guest chef program is gaining momentum as groups, faith-based organizations and others sign up to cook a meal for clients at The Anchor. Dailey said the meal can be as simple as making spaghetti or bringing in takeout food.

"The idea is to show our community's support and to provide residents with meals that strengthen them and bring them together with others to rebuild their confidence and self-worth," she said. "These residents are extremely vulnerable. We have gotten several to treatment and even some into permanent supportive housing, but the journey is still long for them. We continue to keep the facility full, assure there are no negative impacts on the surrounding community and strive to make a difference in lives. It is very difficult and much harder than just providing a 'home.'"

Keith Johnson, 51, has been a resident since April 20 after spending five years on the street. He attributes his circumstances to drug addiction that stemmed from his "party days" in a rock and roll band. He has found his stay at The Anchor to be helpful by offering "stability, security, having privacy and courteous staff and respecting me as a human being." He looks forward to having a good job that he enjoys, buying a car, finding a good woman and continuing to play drums.

Dailey said the City of Lake Elsinore's Homeless Task Force is made up of more than 20 stakeholders in the community including representatives from the cities

of Lake Elsinore and Wildomar, Riverside County Supervisor Kevin Jeffries' office, SWAG and other nonprofits, Riverside County Sheriff's Department's Lake Elsinore Station, faith-based groups, chambers of commerce, business community and formerly homeless individuals.

"We will be most successful if our entire community comes together and works together by rowing in the same direction rather than all taking different approaches," Dailey said. "We truly believe we have everything we need in our community and we want to activate our community to come out and support us in this effort. It is hard, and we are doing far more than most cities, but the outcomes are tough and take time."

As a longtime Lake Elsinore resident and city employee for the past eight years, Dailey said she believes in the future of the city and is grateful for the opportunity to try to make a positive impact.

"Each of us should strive in some way to do something good for our communities," she said. "If each of us gave something, even as small as picking up a piece of litter, imagine the impact we could have."

For more information, www.lake-elsinore.org/theanchor.

2,000 Pounds Of Litter Gone From Elsinore, Wildomar, Canyon Lake

A new pollution prevention initiative called "Love Your Neighborhood" kicked off with a joint event in the three cities.

Toni McAllister, Patch Staff

Posted Thu, Jul 8, 2021, at 4:11 pm PT|Updated Fri, Jul 9, 2021, at 3:18 pm PT



During the event, volunteers collected items ranging from food wrappers, cigarette butts, plastic bags, and tire and automobile debris, to large appliances. (D'Ann Lawrence White/Patch)

LAKE ELSINORE, CA — It was nearly 100 degrees in Lake Elsinore during the last weekend of June, but that didn't stop nearly 200 volunteers, nonprofits, and community organizations from mobilizing for the sake of the environment.

As part of a new countywide pollution prevention initiative called "Love Your Neighborhood," a June 26 kickoff event was held in Lake Elsinore, Canyon Lake, and Wildomar. The result: nearly 2,000 pounds of litter and dozens of bulky waste items removed from the communities.

The new Love Your Neighborhood program is administered by the Western Riverside Council of Governments and supported through a sponsorship with Riverside County Watershed Protection Program.

The effort aims to partner with Riverside County cities to host local cleanup events of their own and encourages residents to participate in reducing litter and other pollutants in their neighborhoods and beyond.

During last month's event, volunteers met at the Lake Elsinore Storm Stadium and efforts were coordinated by the City of Lake Elsinore in partnership with the cities of Canyon Lake and Wildomar.

Volunteers were provided with trash pickers, trash bags, reusable gloves, and wristbands. They collected items ranging from food wrappers, cigarette butts, plastic bags, and tire and automobile debris, to large appliances with the help of public works crews.

"Our family really enjoyed coming out today to help remove unwanted litter from our neighborhood and surrounding areas," Ashlee DePhillippo said. "As a resident, I think it's

important that we address issues like pollution together as a community if we want to be successful in beautifying where we live."

The Love Your Neighborhood program tracks the number of pollutants removed from communities in support of meeting stormwater mandates and other environmental objectives, according to WRCOG.

The real-time data collected during Love Your Neighborhood events also help track key issues related to pollution such as litter, recycling, over-watering, and household hazardous waste disposal, the agency said.

To help support the initiatives, residents can document their own clean-up activities on the program's website at wrcog.us/316/Love-your-Neighborhood

Lake Elsinore Council honors resident, business

By **Kim Harris** -November 22, 2019

The Lake Elsinore City Council honored resident Ashlee DePhillippo and Albertsons as the citizen and the business of the quarter during its Nov. 12 council meeting.

Albertsons general manager Sal Rojas was on hand to accept the award from Mayor Steve Manos who told those in attendance that his mother was one of the first employees to be hired at the store when it opened 21 years ago.

"She helped to open the store and has been working there ever since," Manos said.

Albertsons was recognized for its reinvestment into the community following what Manos called a "major remodel" of the store located on Riverside Drive in the city.

"One of the things that I mentioned during the grand reopening of the store ... sometimes what is more important than the initial investment by an organization is the reinvestment in the community by that organization," Manos said. "Albertsons came through, not just on the inside but also on the outside."

Rojas thanked Manos for the recognition saying that he thought it was important to support the community that supports the store.

"That's why we are always willing to help," Rojas said.

After a brief photo opportunity, Manos then went on to recognize DePhillippo as the city's Citizen of the Quarter. She was recognized for her longtime service to the community of Lake Elsinore by assisting the city in many projects, including the Clean Extreme Program and the recent Community Preparedness Fair.

"Ashlee has become a very familiar face at our local community events and regularly attends council meetings," Manos said. "Most recently Ashlee volunteered to fill a critical role in our homeless efforts as the new volunteer coordinator for the social work action group."

Manos said that DePhillippo was supporting the city and the community in the right way by "giving a hand up rather than a handout."

DePhillippo said she was surprised by the award.

"I am truly stunned by this; I am honored and I feel very grateful," she said. "I think there are so many people in the community that do so many good things. I have been so heart-warmed in speaking to the volunteers."

DePhillippo said that the willingness to serve in the Lake Elsinore community was "mindblowing."

"I am so excited to be working in this community, to be serving in this community and volunteering this community with so many amazing people," she said. "I am truly honored that you would think of me."

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