

## Relevant Experience and Background

My wife Rachel and I moved to Rockville in 2014 while she was pregnant with our first daughter, Alice. With parenthood less than three months away, we decided to pack up our lives, leave DC, and buy our first house, all while I was still finishing my Ph.D. Overwhelming barely covers it, but it didn't take long for Rockville to feel like home. Neighbors brought us food and mowed our grass. Our trash cans would mysteriously walk themselves back up to the house. We were invited to watch rugby on TV and ballet at the Fitzgerald Theater. Over the last five years, my wife and I have spent hundreds of hours visiting the Town Center for concerts, swinging at the parks, chasing our toddlers through the farmer's market, and visiting all the friends we've made. Now it feels like the time to take the next step and formally ask to serve the people I've come to know as neighbors and friends.

Professionally, my background illustrates my deep commitment to local government. From my start as a Presidential Management Fellow (PMF) at HUD to my more recent participation on the Board of Rockville Housing Enterprises, I hope to bring a wealth of practical experience and policy knowledge to the Rockville City Council. While my resume lists positions like "community development specialist" and "financial analyst", what I have done throughout my career is help cities find solutions, balancing the needs of their communities, the demands of their budgets, and the requirements of funding agencies.

At HUD, I got my start working in economic development. I traveled around the country - to northern California, *colonia* communities, struggling Rust Belt cities, and everywhere in between - helping local officials turn federal grant funding into economic opportunity for their communities. I would like to bring that experience to the Rockville City Council.

After my time at HUD, I spent several years as a consultant, continuing to develop expertise in local government issues. My firm provided technical assistance to communities on budgets and finance, management and staffing concerns, service delivery, strategic planning, and countless other issues. During this portion of my career, I helped communities reinvigorate their economies, provide better services, and plan for the future, all to improve the lives of their residents. I hope to be able to draw upon that experience on the City Council.

More recently, my wife and I added another daughter, Julia, to our family and I've moved my work closer to home. I currently work at the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), specializing in finance and spending considerably less time traveling. Now that my kids sleep through the night, I've also become more active in my local community, joining the Executive Committee of the Twinbrook Community Association (TCA) and being confirmed by the Mayor and Council to the board of Rockville Housing Enterprises.

I believe what my background provides me is twofold: motivation and practical experience. In my career, I've worked closely with local officials and city staff across the country, learning from their successes and failures. I believe I could contribute to the Council from day one. Personally, I have two daughters who are going to grow up in Rockville, go to its schools, shop in its stores, drive on its streets. I want to help create a hometown where they can grow healthy, happy, and thrive.

Thank you for your consideration, and I hope to bring both my personal background and professional experience to serve the residents of Rockville.

## **Priorities & Vision for the City**

My vision for Rockville is one of connection, inclusion, and sustainability. I have two daughters, a four year old and a one year old. They'll be living in Rockville a long time, and they deserve an even better city than we have right now. My career has taught me that a city's progress requires teamwork, outreach, and a long-term mindset. With that, my priorities include:

**Connecting Rockville:** Connecting Rockville means ensuring that all corners of city, from King Farm to Twinbrook, from Lincoln Park to the West End, feel like they are part of the whole. While connection means more than physical infrastructure, one aspect should include more options for access across the tracks and the Pike. This includes well-maintained, high-quality biking and walking paths throughout the city and ensuring disability access.

**Outreach and Inclusion:** As a member of Rockville's Boards and Commissions Task Force, I have seen the need for more outreach, including to underrepresented populations like young folks, minority communities, and immigrants. Our boards and commissions have too many vacancies, and we, as a city, aren't hearing from all our residents. With so much talent and knowledge throughout our community, we do Rockville a disservice when we don't prioritize reaching out and asking all our neighbors to join us in guiding the city.

**Economic Development:** Sustaining Rockville's fantastic services - parks, recreation programs, senior services - requires a prosperous local economy. Rockville has advantages other cities would envy, including a well-educated workforce, great neighborhoods, wonderful schools, and transit options. However, existing development was often designed for a different era. We should encourage transit-oriented and mixed-use options to transform older, asphalt-heavy areas. Focusing on a transit-oriented, edge-based approach also protects Rockville's neighborhoods, while providing amenities and access that residents need.

**Environmental Sustainability:** The immediate needs of the city shouldn't cause us to forget the crucial priority of sustainability. While major national initiatives get most of the attention, cities play a critical role in addressing sustainability. One policy we should investigate is adding composting to Rockville's residential waste and recycling options. We should also prioritize appropriate sustainability features for new developments, such as solar energy and permeable surfaces.

**Interconnectedness:** Something often forgotten is how deeply these issues are interconnected. Transit-oriented development improves sustainability. Sustainability benefits the economy. A strong economy encourages community. If chosen to serve on the Council, my final priority will be to never lose sight of the "big picture" and what connects us all.