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To: Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton and Rockville City Council Members
Subject: Letter of Interest for Vacant Council Seat

It is with great honor and sincerity that I submit my letter of interest to serve on the Rockville City Council. I believe my diverse professional background and life experiences would add unique value to the Council.

My roots began and were nourished in Rockville. As a current homeowner and registered voter, I am proud to be a fifth generation resident of this remarkable city. I attended Rock Terrace Elementary School, Broome Junior High and graduated from Richard Montgomery in 1965. With a strong passion for education and learning, I attained my Bachelor of Science degree in Social Sciences from the University of Maryland University College in 2006, and a Master of Arts degree from Wesley Theological Seminary in 2015.

My work history spans beyond being a United Methodist clergywoman. My career history includes a variety of positions at IBM, the Federal Government and MA/Com Alanthus Data Communications Corporation. This breadth and wealth of experiences has broadened my perspective and strengthened my ability to build credible relationships and appreciate the value in others.

While serving as a United Methodist clergywoman for 31 years has enabled me to oversee budgets, manage personnel, and pastor congregations, it has more importantly afforded me the opportunity to work with individuals of all socio-economic backgrounds and contribute to our greater community. As the Senior Pastor of Jerusalem-Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church in Rockville (2003-2011), I had the privilege of having a good working relationship with the Mayors during my tenure as well as the Rockville Police Chief. When I was appointed to serve as the Senior Pastor of Jerusalem-Mt. Pleasant, Cordelia House was a burned-out building that had been vacant for 10 years. We partnered with private businesses as well as the Rockville Historic District Committee on the unique endeavor to completely restore Cordelia House. It is with great pride that I volunteered at Cordelia House Shelter for Homeless Women, as well as at Bealle Elementary School's Ruth Rales Reading Program.

My father, William "Bill" Wood, was the founder of the Rockville Memorial Day Parade, which richly contributed to the advancement and spirit of our great city. I have been honored to give both the Invocation and Benediction at many Hometown Holiday Memorial Day parades. I have also participated in former Mayor Phyllis Marcuccio's and Mayor Bridget Newton's installation services.

Additionally, I gave the opening prayer before the U.S. House of Representatives on May 10, 2011. My ability to contribute during these ceremonies was quite a heartfelt privilege.

In 2012, I served on the Charter Review Commission. One of the key recommendations made by the Commission at that time was to increase the term of office for the Mayor and Council from two to four years. The people of Rockville supported this recommendation on the ballot. What I learned most while serving on the Charter Review Commission was the importance of listening and respecting other's viewpoints even when they differed from my own. This collaborative effort successfully enabled the recommendation to be placed on the city's ballot.

I was also appointed to the Planning Commission in June, 2017. As a fifth-generation resident, serving on the Planning Commission, has well educated me to all the elements involved in planning a city's future. We are currently working on the Comprehensive Plan that addresses land use, transportation, recreation and parks, community facilities, environment, water resources, economic development, housing, historic preservation, and municipal growth. These planning components are highly relevant and germane to running a city government. The Planning Commission team respects each other's viewpoints, and has maintained harmony while making difficult decisions.

Like much of the country, the first 12 years of my life in Rockville, I endured a segregated community. This experience instilled a passion in me that regardless of one's socio-economic background, culture, race or creed, all people should have equal access to the amenities that a city offers.

I love living in Rockville. Thanks to advocacy of the mayoral leadership and council over the years, it is walkable, and safe. My hope and vision for our city is that Rockville become even more culturally and racially diverse. Providing equal access to opportunities will enrich so many more lives within our community, including business ownership, employment, housing, education and recreation. I have a heart for the disadvantaged. I would also like to see the city offer more locations for our homeless population to seek shelter, particularly in extreme weather.

I very much want to be a part of the Rockville City Council, sharing the wisdom I've gained through my life, leadership and pastoral experiences. I would strive to leave a legacy, remembered for building trust, encouraging collaboration, and serving with integrity. In the words of evangelist, writer and lecturer, Henry Drummond: "I shall pass through this world but once. Any good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." Thank you so much for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,



Reverend Jane E. Wood