

Sam Pearson's narrative of relative experience, background and statement of my priorities and vision for the City of Rockville if appointed as a Council Member

My childhood is defined as being a military dependent. My father was a Master Sargent in the United States Army. My mother was a partner in Dad's military career. As a couple and family, we traveled every 3-4 years to a new duty location. I have lived in numerous States and graduated High School from Yokosuka, Japan.

In 1984, I graduated from Christopher Newport College with a B.A (Governmental Administration). In addition, I am an alum from Howard University Law School Class 1987 (J.D).

I have been married 29 years with two children and have lived in Rockville for over ten years. My son and daughter graduated from Richard Montgomery High School in 2013.

I am a person with a variety of interests and hobbies. I like to travel and just recently returned from a trip to Australia and New Zealand. I am a big sports fan and play racquetball. Finally, I am a lover of books and belong to two different book clubs.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE FOR APPOINTMENT TO CITY COUNCIL

Volunteer Experience

In 1991, I was appointed to the Gaithersburg Board of Appeals for a three-year term. As a Board Member I was accountable to the citizens of Gaithersburg for matters related to zoning; I exercised my judgment to make decisions in the best interest of the citizens to address their concerns. In addition, as a Board Member I assisted in reviewing determinations made by any administrative official or department of the City government or Planning and Historic District Commissions.

In the past I have been a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer. As a CASA volunteer (1992), I was appointed by Circuit Court Judges to represent the best interest of children in foster care. My responsibilities included evaluating the needs of the foster children and reporting my findings to the Judge in a fair and impartial manner.

As an Election Judge (2014, 2016), I assisted my fellow citizens in enforcing and explaining Maryland State Election Laws in the following areas: voter registration, issuing ballots and operating voting ballot machines. In 2018, I was an employee of the Montgomery County Board of Election and was responsible for training new and returning Election Judges as an Election Aide.

Professional Experience

As a professional Federal Contractor (1997-2013), I have worked on contracts with the Federal Government in the following departments: Department of Justice (DOJ) Homeland Security (Custom Border Protection) and the Pentagon. While working with DOJ most of my efforts involved supervising projects for the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) including investigating fraud claims against a brokerage firm. On my second DOJ contract, I was assigned being a manager of grant administrators. I was responsible for insuring that the frontline administrators verified compliance with grant terms. As a member of the Custom Border Protection Agency, I was tasked with conducting and verifying Border Patrol applicant's background investigations for possible future employment. I was granted a Top-Secret Security Clearance (TS) in 2007. The TS clearance allowed me the opportunity to work for Assistant Secretary of the Army for Logistics and Technology (ASSALT). While working for ASSALT, I assisted in securing personnel and physical facilities to ensure Army research labs across the United States adhere to Army Special Access Programs (SAP) regulations to conduct top secret programs.

Shortly after law school, I worked as a Legislative Intern with a Montgomery County Councilmember (1990-1992). I communicated with constituents through a variety of methods: face to face meetings, letters and email. Secondly, at the request of the Councilmember I arranged local meet and greet sessions so the Council member would stay engaged with the concerns of his constituents. My legislative intern experience provided some exposure to budget and policy analysis.

During 2009-2013, I operated a small business while my kids were in high school. My family owned and operated Pearbell Vending. Our family business past clients included RMA Limousine Service and Shred-It (a document destruction service). As a small business owner, we handled customer relations, problem solving, marketing, negotiation and vending services.

The above-mentioned volunteer and professional experiences illustrate how I represent a large dynamic of this community. I have federal government contractor experience, worked for Montgomery County Government and have been a small business owner. I would like to make the case to the citizens of Rockville that I have demonstrated: the ability to relate to a variety of situations and people, be fair minded and impartial, the ability to problem solve, negotiate and mediate. I hope you agree that a good Councilmember should possess the qualities I have referenced but equally as important I hope you will support my application for and appointment to the vacant Council seat.

PRIORITIES AND VISION FOR THE CITY

Rockville is a beautiful city. I envision keeping our community safe and vibrant city. It is my goal is that citizens can continue to take advantage of wonderful parks and continue to expand to keep our city a walkable area as much as possible.

Having experience as a small business owner I was able to benefit from the city to help my vending business. I am interested making sure that our city in the current Town Center businesses and help market the area for new business ventures.

It is my hope we can develop new or expand business strategies for all of Rockville specifically those located on Rockville Pike. I would like to advocate a business strategy that would improve the partnership with the development community to ensure a continued vibrant business community.

It is my hope that somewhere in this narrative you, the citizen, can connect with my background and city vision and support my appointment to the vacant city council seat.