

Cynthia Cotte Griffiths

Through my volunteer work for the City, my involvement with a wide variety of community organizations, and my professional career, I have the extensive knowledge, experience, and qualifications necessary to successfully serve on the Rockville City Council.

My experience in direct service to the residents of Rockville includes years in appointed positions.

- As a Commissioner on the City of Rockville Traffic and Transportation Commission since 2015, I have reviewed the traffic studies for new developments when required and advised the Planning Commission on approval. Having been involved in a serious pedestrian accident with the driver at fault, I advocate for pedestrian safety by asking for reviews of each pedestrian-involved accident and requesting changes to City-controlled streets and intersections.
- Previously, I held a position as Commissioner on the City of Rockville Human Service Advisory Commission from 2008-2014 and chaired for five years during this time, ensuring that the City adequately provided a safety-net for its residents and that grant funds were appropriately used. As a Commission, our goal was to ensure every resident could live their life to its fullest potential, which I support wholeheartedly.
- In 2009, I served on the Boards and Commissions Task Force which considered term limits, appointment length, and the appointment process.
- During the 150th anniversary celebration of the City of Rockville's founding, I volunteered on the Sesquicentennial Committee to plan the commemorative activities.

My leadership abilities and commitment to our community have been proven through years of volunteer service. As an advocate for our public schools, I'm serving in my second year as Richard Montgomery High School's Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) President after serving for two years as the Vice President for Community Outreach. As a member of the Principal's Outreach Committee at Ritchie Park Elementary from 2004-2007, I worked with teachers and staff on inclusion efforts and new programs for families to help their children succeed, in addition to coordinating and expanding International Night until 2011. During my eight years as a Cub Scout leader for Pack 928 in Rockville, I served as Committee Chairman, the leader of the adult leaders, for five years.

A Good Neighbor Award was presented to me in 2006 for my outreach efforts in my neighborhood and volunteer efforts at our elementary school.

I've invested countless hours dedicated to keeping people informed and because of this experience have an in-depth knowledge of Rockville's issues. From 2007 to 2011, I was editor of the community blog, *Rockville Central* and encouraged a civil space for discussions about issues, elections, development, events, recreation, entertainment, business, and volunteer opportunities, while managing contributor opinions and promoting voting and civic participation. After *The Gazette* newspaper closed, I created the *Rockville View* news site and reported on Rockville's news and issues for two years.

After studying Philosophy and Sociology at Gettysburg College, my career has been focused on nonprofit organizations that provide crucial services to our community. Currently, I serve as Executive Director of DC-MD Justice For Our Neighbors which is located in Rockville Town Center and provides free, professional legal services to low-income immigrants. Previously, I worked for Interfaith Works, Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless, the Community Year AmeriCorps program, and Montgomery Housing Partnership which built the Beall's Grant mixed-income community. With

Rockville's officials being so welcoming and dedicated to building Beall's Grant, my husband and I decided to live in Rockville and bought our first house in Twinbrook in 1993. My family now lives in the West End.

I care about Rockville's past, present, and future. My priorities are meant to insure Rockville remains an excellent place to live, work, play, and learn. Since we never know what issues will arise in the City, my ongoing emphasis will be on listening to the community and researching options for each decision. With this in mind, my priorities will be to:

- protect the quality of our residential neighborhoods
- encourage and promote economic development to make sure the City extends a welcome mat to new businesses and adopts policies that uplift existing businesses
- ensure Rockville is safe for pedestrians and cyclists and that the City adheres to the Bicycle Master Plan
- support a range of housing opportunities so that our adult children can afford to live here in the place they have called home; our teachers, firefighters, and police can have the option of living nearby and not paying the hidden stressful cost of long commutes; and all who hold vital positions in our economic engine can choose to live here
- support initiatives to keep our seniors living securely
- encourage more recreation-based businesses within the city limits so our children, teens, and adults can have activities in their neighborhoods beyond our recreation programs
- support transit-based development and the wise use of energy and resources in order to preserve this planet for future generations
- ensure that our City's computer system is adequately protected
- establish respectful working relationships between elected officials, employees, and the community.

I love our City and want Rockville to remain an excellent community that thrives. My vision is for a prosperous economic future that will provide adequate resources for city services and housing for all income levels. I envision a city where residential neighborhoods are well-kept, residents are safe because of strong community policing, traffic engineering insures pedestrian and cyclist safety, and public transit systems incorporate new technologies. I see Rockville continuing to embrace diversity and exemplify the best qualities of an inclusive community. Lastly, I envision transparency in the Mayor and Council's decision-making process and ongoing communication to keep everyone informed.