

Rockville City Council Vacancy Application

Applicant: Jackie Fung

As a self-made entrepreneur from Twinbrook, I pride myself on my work ethic, integrity, and independence. When not working as an insurance and real estate agent serving the DMV area, I concentrate on helping others through my non-profit organization and other non-profit networks. If given an opportunity to serve on the Mayor and Council, I would bring a fresh, new voice to the Council driven by inclusion and seeking greater community participation in making Rockville an even better place to live, work and raise a family. I am independent. I see my roles as a bridge builder between and among Mayor & Council members and the Rockville community.



As a first-generation immigrant to the United States from Asia, I have faced the difficulties of immense transitions, and worked hard to get to where I am today. It is this hard work and my Asian roots and heritage that will make me a great representative of our All America city. Using my existing networks within the American and Asian-American communities, I will increase outreach to the community in general – and to the Asian Rockville community in particular – will increase citizen participation in local affairs. With over 20% of Rockville of Asian ancestry, I believe it is critical to reach out to those in the community that share the priorities of Rockville City Hall –a wonderful family-oriented city while continuing to improve the quality of education offered in Rockville.

My roots in the community are partially attributable to many years of business experience in the area. I am a licensed insurance agent and a licensed realtor who has been working to assist and help protect the community for a long time. In the real estate market, you very quickly learn to bridge the gap between buyers and sellers or you find yourself looking for other work. I would bring this same inclusionary approach to my role on the Mayor & Council, thereby maximizing citizen participation and helping work through difficult issues. Most recently, I started a company specializing in rehabilitating homes; I see the company's mission as improving a community – one home at a time.

Community service begins at home, and that has meant working to improve Rockville and the surrounding area. Through my IRS recognized 501 (c)3 non-profit organization, the Taiwanese American First-Responders Benevolent Organization (TAFR), we have been working tirelessly to accomplish two main objectives: increase the communication between first responders and the Asian community and raise money to purchase supplies and equipment for first responder departments that are in need. With the assistance of first responder departments, which include the Rockville City Police Department, we have sponsored a number of community presentations and seminars covering a wide range of topics from what to do in case of an active shooter to responding to a kitchen fire. Additionally, TAFR made donations of fire-fighting equipment to several fire houses in Taiwan. Most recently, TAFR made donations to help feed unpaid Federal Government employees working at airports in the National Capital Region. The donations were used to purchase food items to stock pantries set up at each airport. Currently, we are working to furnish an overnight room in the Rockville City Police Department.

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Some of my community service and outreach has been in cooperation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Community Outreach, FBI Citizen's Academy, Charity for All Foundation, Chinese U.S. Community Service Association and Taiwanese-American Diversity Association. With all the above organizations' assistance, I have been able to reach a large swath of the Asian community in the Rockville area and increase their involvement in community activities.

There are many issues which I anticipate learning about and hoping to find a way where we can unite in one direction. Here are a few that I want to emphasize:

- Red Gate – What and how to rebuild this area? This opens a wonderful opportunity for the Mayor and Council to act in an ecologically and fiscally responsible way. Preserve some of the Red Gate land as woodlands, while converting the rest into mixed use (commercial/residential) property that can be developed into a community – King Farm and Fallsgrove are two models to consider. Taking the example of Rockville Town Center Ice Skating rink, maybe we can build an indoor athletic area for our children to learn athletics and stay active all year around. Meanwhile, we also need to reach out to those who will be impacted the most by the development. We also can incorporate advanced technology usage into the new development to make better use of energy and neighborhood safety.
- North Stonestreet Avenue – The amendment to the Comprehensive Master Plan will improve Stonestreet by promoting mixed-use development and improving Rockville as a whole. I am in complete support of the amendment, especially since it directs purely residential development near existing neighborhoods, while driving more intense redevelopment away from single-family residences. We also must address the Rockville Metro Station parking lot issues and build a high-tech multi-level parking lot to incorporate our Town Center growth.
- Education – This is one of our highest priorities and a common bond between Rockville, the Asian-American community, and for all Rockville City residents.
- Volunteers- Volunteers play a vital role in the improvement of our community, and our community needs to become more involved in Rockville City government. I will lead the way.

It is for the above reasons that I believe I am an ideal candidate for the vacancy with the Mayor and Council. If you require further information or have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.