



**CITY OF YPSILANTI
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 7, 2022 @ 6:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197**
[VIRTUAL ACCESS](#)

Page

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- A. I pledge allegiance to the flag, of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

IV. AGENDA APPROVAL

V. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

VI. WARD 3 VACANCY INTERVIEWS

2 - 9

- A. Ashanti Harris
[Application](#)

10 - 17

- B. Evan Sweet
[Application](#)

18 - 21

- C. Kirk Crowner
[Application](#)

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Please click [here](#) to access the City Council Contact Form. This form can be used to submit any comments/concerns you might have about this agenda.



APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO YPSILANTI CITY COUNCIL WARD #3 POSITION

Applicant Information

(Please type or print)

Applicant Name Ashanti Harris

Residence Address [Redacted], Ypsilanti MI 48198

Home Phone [Redacted] Work Phone

E-Mail [Redacted]

Cover Letter & Resume

Please attach a one page cover letter and a resume of no more than two pages to this application.

Supplemental Questions

Please respond to the following questions regarding your interest in the position of Councilmember for the City of Ypsilanti on separate pages using no more than 3 pages total:

1. Why are you interested in serving as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?
2. What strength would you bring to the Council?
3. What are the three highest priorities and/or issues you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?
4. Explain your current and past community involvement and/or service on city, nonprofit, or public boards, committees, task forces, or commissions and how this has contributed to the Ypsilanti community. Address its relevance to the position of Ypsilanti City Councilmember.
5. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?
6. What is your vision for our City and community?
7. Is there anything else that you may wish to add that would help us get to know you a little better?

Please return (*in person*) this form, your cover letter, resume, and answers to the supplemental questions to the City Clerk, at Ypsilanti City Hall (1 S. Huron St.) **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 16, 2022.**

Applications received after 5:00 p.m. will not be accepted.

The application and any correspondence should be addressed to:

**Andrew Hellenga, City Clerk
City of Ypsilanti
One South Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

Ashanti Harris
[REDACTED]
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

June 14, 2022

Andrew Hellinga
City Clerk City of Ypsilanti
1 S. Huron St
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Dear Andrew Hellinga,

I am excited to submit my application for City Council representative for Ward 3 in the City of Ypsilanti. I was born and raised in Washtenaw County and a graduate of Eastern Michigan University for both my undergraduate and graduate degrees. When I was looking for a city to buy a house I immediately started looking in the Ypsilanti area. I explored other cities and kept returning to Ypsilanti knowing that was where I wanted to invest my money. I have lived here for six years and it was one of the best decisions I have made. My neighbors in Ward 3 have been welcoming and contributed to my feeling of home.

The vacancy on City Council would give me a great opportunity to learn more and contribute to our city in a positive way.

My background in the hospitality/ meeting industry has provided me with strong experience that would benefit the council. I am detail oriented and deal well under changing priorities and times of unexpected stress. I realize the impact local businesses have on a community and love to see how supportive local businesses are to each other. I understand the role of working with others and strong communication skills is important for building relationships. This will contribute greatly to my role as Ward 3 representative and a council member.

I understand the importance of being fiscally responsible. In my current position at The University of Michigan I have had experience with spending on budgets that utilize federal funds and are open to auditing.

Thank you for considering me for this vacancy. Please let me know if you or the City Council have any other questions that I can answer.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Ashanti Harris

ASHANTI ALLONA HARRIS, CMM, CMP, CTA

Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ashanti-harris-cmm-cmp-cta-7163516/>

Themes

SOLUTIONS – HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT – COMMUNITY

Experience

2000–Present

Meeting and Special Events Manager University of Michigan - Institute for Social Research (ISR)

Meetings/Event Coordinator – Non Profit (2006-2013)

Staff Development Coordinator (2002-2006)

Conference Facility Assistant (2001-2002)

Program Assistant (2000-2001)

- **MANAGEMENT/STAFFING:** Developed the training team from a group of 2 ½ full time to a team of 5 ½ full time staff. Responsible for the coordination of small and large scale trainings, meetings, travel, and events throughout United States and internationally for groups up to 300 people. Consistently scores exemplary on annual appraisals for work and behavioral competencies.
- **LOGISTICS:** Responsible for planning, contracting, budget, technology, staffing, food & beverage, travel, promotional incentives, documentations/materials, purchasing, tours, group dinners/special events, international travel logistics, evaluation, vendor relationships, and training. Manage over 60 meetings/trainings per year that range from one to 14 days with multiple rooms and locations.
- **GLOBAL:** Managed logistic details for World Mental Health Consortium Annual Meeting for 12 years which was held in different cities throughout the US and four countries including France, The Netherlands, Belgium, and Portugal with participants from over 20 countries.
- **TECHNOLOGY:** Responsible for registration development and coordination for 3MC conference in Germany and Chicago. Skilled in BlueJeans Meeting and Events and Zoom video technologies. Skilled in Qualtrics survey development and implementation in addition to Google forms and programs. Experienced in Canvas Learning Platform. Trains others in Zoom platform skills for staff and trainers. Experienced in using Canva for flyers and brochures.
- **RESEARCH:** Facilitated focus groups and conducted cognitive interviews.
- **PRESENTATION:** Presented training budgets at the 2008 International Field Director's and Technologies Conference.

1995–2000

Restaurant Manager Mainstreet Ventures

- **TRAINING:** Developed new training materials for new restaurant openings, meeting agenda, and bi-yearly all staff meetings.
- **MANAGEMENT:** Management for seven different dining room concept restaurants and kitchens for a staff of up to 80 people.
- **LOGISTICS:** Accountable for all budgets for front and back of the house, food & beverage inventory and audits, special event planning, hiring, employee reviews, disciplinary action, vendor development, food preparation, kitchen supervision, food and beverage ordering, lead trainer, and training development.

Ashanti A Harris

Professional Affiliations

City of Ypsilanti Park and Recreation Commission Commissioner- 2017- 2020
City of Ypsilanti Park and Recreation Commission Commissioner- Vice Chair - 2018 -2019
ISR – Martin Luther King Planning Committee Member – 2019
Institute for Social Research Diversity, Inclusion, Equity Committee Member – Staff Initiatives -2017- 2019
Certified Tourism Ambassador – 2015- 2021
Certified Meeting Management Professional (CMM) – 2012 – Present
Meeting Professional International Member. – 2008 – 2020
Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) – 2006- Present
Society of Government Meeting Professionals – 2005-2009
Institute for Social Research Diversity Advisory Committee – Chair – 2003-2004
Institute for Social Research Diversity Committee – 2000-2003

Volunteer

University of Michigan – M-Healthy Wellness Champion – 2014- Present
Running Fit Race Volunteer Team (various events/roles) – 2010 – Present
Laurie Staples Scholarship Fund Auction Committee Member – 2006– Present
Fermenta: Michigan Women’s Craft Collective (Event Planning Committee) – 2016- 2017
University of Michigan Commencement Volunteer – Golf Cart - 2018
University of Michigan Commencement Volunteer – Guest Assistance & Programs Tent Supervisor – 2012-2014
University Event Planners - 2003-2013
ISR Census Video Contest Committee Member - 2010
Institute for Social Research Peer Advisor - 2007-2015
Girls on the Run Southeastern Michigan – Head Coach Angell School – 2006-2014
ISR Take Your Child To Work Day Planning Committee – 2006

Education

Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan

- Master of Science – Hotel and Restaurant Management

Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan

- Bachelor of Science – Recreation and Park Management

Ashanti A Harris

1. Why are you interested in serving as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?

I want to get involved to contribute to the well-being of the community I live in. Most importantly I want to be sure Ypsilanti is a place that people want to call home; a place that feels inclusive and welcoming. I chose Ypsilanti to live in myself and I want to make sure it continues to be a wonderful place to live.

2. What strength would you bring to the Council?

I am a detailed person: I like to work the steps. To accomplish this, I need to be sure that I ask questions and gather the information needed to make thoughtful and informed decisions. Too often we don't listen as closely as we should and information is missed that could help us make strong informed decisions.

I actively seek out information so that we have a clear plan that we can communicate to our constituents. I will continually seek to understand funding decisions and the news of the 3rd ward. There are a lot of times we need to make quick decisions, but if we have done our work ahead of time it contributes to making better decisions when time is of the essence.

3. What are the three highest priorities and/or issues you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?

I reviewed the goal setting from this year's city council resolution no 2022-043 to help answer this question.

1 - Developing vacant spots: This fits within an on-going discussion and need for affordable housing. I understand the importance of it to bring young people and families to the city, but I want to be sure that decisions are made with data that supports long term goals that benefit the community, people directly affected, AND the city budget.

Development is important for Ypsilanti, but there needs to be a cost benefit to the city while at the same time not creating a detriment to existing neighborhoods or creating the possibility of further financial and safety issues.

I think it is important to continue to meet with community members and address concerns so that homeowners and renters feel heard and respected. There is a wealth of experience and knowledge in our community and we should be sure we are gathering that feedback and utilizing it as appropriate.

2- Staffing development: getting departments staffed is important - police, fire, administrative departments, and the park and recreation team. Cities and businesses across the country are having difficulties with staffing and human resource services. Establishing goals to address

these staffing needs will support the community. There are projects and initiatives that need to be developed to support and help build a safe and well developed community. Not having proper staffing can delay a large number of initiatives. Addressing these shortages can only improve our city.

3- Maintenance and upgrades to the roads and buildings: Let's keep actively finding ways to fund the already identified roads and buildings while moving forward with timelines and action steps for items fully funded. Proactively looking at what is going to be an issue 10 years down the line so we can prepare for it has been lacking. I believe the city council knows what currently needs to be done and is beginning to move forward on them. But we have to stay focused and keep moving on them. Funding deficits definitely contribute to the delays. However, looking at ways to address this will be important without increasing cost to taxpayers. Learning more about this and how I can be supportive as a city council member is important.

4. Explain your current and past community involvement and/or service on city, nonprofit, or public boards, committees, task forces, or commissions and how this has contributed to the Ypsilanti community. Address its relevance to the position of Ypsilanti City Councilmember.

I am a past commissioner on the City of Ypsilanti Parks and Recreation Commission for three years. During this time I played a role as co-chair. I am proud of the work that the commission did with analyzing the parks in the city and the type of maintenance that is needed to be sure that the parks are a safe and fun place for the community members. We also continued the Ypsi Fall River Day in Riverside Park with fun animal and nature exhibits, walks, and canoe rides.

Our parks and recreation areas are important to our city and to the health and well-being of our community. There is a strong economic benefit to maintaining our parks and green areas which help build community engagement.

5. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?

I hope to solicit regular input from Ward 3 residents. I want to make sure our voice is heard within city council for our planning purposes. My hope is that I can have an open dialogue even during times of disagreement on vision so that we can focus on community building and working together.

6. What is your vision for our City and community?

I envision a city that is vibrant and unique. It is relatively safe and mostly fiscally stable. Our community has areas for parks, recreation, and community building while being active in sustainable issues. A community that provides a pride of belonging and a welcoming

environment for residents and visitors who seek out our businesses and green areas. I believe communication is essential and understand that sticking around and following up is vital to our future success.

7. Is there anything else that you may wish to add that would help us get to know you a little better?

I love being a homeowner in Ypsilanti and have felt welcomed and embraced by the community when I moved here six years ago. I am passionate about building relationships and being an active listener. I would love to be a resource to others as so many here in Ypsilanti have been to me. I would bring a commitment and stability to this role.

Affidavit of Identity

State of Michigan

County of Washtenaw

I, Ashanti Harris do hereby affirm the following:

Name: Ashanti Harris

Address: 

Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Date of birth: 1-14-71

I certify under penalty of perjury that the above statements are true and correct.

Signature: 

Date: 6/15/2022



Date: 6/15/2022

City of Ypsilanti Clerk Staff



APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO YPSILANTI CITY COUNCIL WARD #3 POSITION

Applicant Information

(Please type or print)

Applicant Name Evan Sweet

Residence Address [REDACTED], Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Home Phone [REDACTED] Work Phone _____

E-Mail [REDACTED]

Cover Letter & Resume

Please attach a one page cover letter and a resume of no more than two pages to this application.

Supplemental Questions

Please respond to the following questions regarding your interest in the position of Councilmember for the City of Ypsilanti on separate pages using no more than 3 pages total:

1. Why are you interested in serving as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?
2. What strength would you bring to the Council?
3. What are the three highest priorities and/or issues you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?
4. Explain your current and past community involvement and/or service on city, nonprofit, or public boards, committees, task forces, or commissions and how this has contributed to the Ypsilanti community. Address its relevance to the position of Ypsilanti City Councilmember.
5. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?
6. What is your vision for our City and community?
7. Is there anything else that you may wish to add that would help us get to know you a little better?

Please return (*in person*) this form, your cover letter, resume, and answers to the supplemental questions to the City Clerk, at Ypsilanti City Hall (1 S. Huron St.) **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 16, 2022.**

Applications received after 5:00 p.m. will not be accepted.

The application and any correspondence should be addressed to:

**Andrew Hellenga, City Clerk
City of Ypsilanti
One South Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

Evan Sweet

Ypsilanti MI, 49198

Dear Ypsilanti City Council,

Thank you for reviewing my application for the Ypsilanti City Council, Ward 3 position. I believe I would be an ideal candidate for city council, as I have been a resident of the City of Ypsilanti for almost seven years, with six of those years being a homeowner within the city. As such, I feel that I have a good understanding of the operation of the city as well as what is expected to be a successful city council member. Since December of 2015, I have served on the Parks and Recreation Commission for the city, with the past five years being in the role of Commission Chair. I have had a good working relationship with city council, serving on this advisory commission. I have also developed a good working relationship with many staff members from several departments. In addition to my role on the Parks and Recreation Commission, I have served on the Senior Center Board of Directors, and was heavily involved on the Ypsi Proud Day committee for several years.

I believe my work experience has laid a strong foundation for me to be successful as a city council member. I have worked for several large municipal organizations over the past several years, including Canton Township, the City of Ann Arbor, Oakland County, and the City of Taylor. I am currently employed with Canton Township, and have been employed there for the past nine years.

From working in these large municipal organizations, I have seen the different functions of municipal government, which has provided me with many skills that I feel will assist me in being an engaged member of city council. This skillset includes experience in municipal budgeting, project management, mass public communication, revenue generation, facility operations and management, and staff development among many others.

It is clear that you are looking for a council member that is extremely familiar with the City of Ypsilanti and municipal government operations in general. Given these expectations, I am certain that I have the necessary skills to successfully contribute to the City of Ypsilanti as a city council member.

After reviewing my resume, I hope you recognize my previous accolades and my devotion to my community, which I feel makes me an exceptional candidate for city council. I look forward to elaborating on how my specific skills and abilities will benefit the City of Ypsilanti.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Evan Sweet

EVAN SWEET

██████████, Ypsilanti MI, 48198 ██████████

Education:

Eastern Michigan University- Ypsilanti, MI

Bachelors of Science: April 2016

Major: Public Administration. Minor: Recreation and Park Management.

Employment:

Community Center Specialist

Canton Township Leisure Services Department – Canton, MI

May 2016 – Present

- Assists with facility operations within the Leisure Services Department, including providing supervision of the overall operation of the community center, and all programs and classes within the facility
- Involved in planning, organizing, and supervising the community center operations for over 10,000 members and 500,000 annual visitors.
- Oversees membership creation, retention, recruitment, and promotion to ensure revenue goals are met, (in excess of \$1.1 million annually).
- Responsible for Summit room rentals, both internal and external, necessitating interdepartmental coordination for maintenance, setup and cleanup resulting in \$150,000 in annual revenue.
- Plans, organizes and supervises the Birthday Party Program. Develops themes, party packages, secures staff etc., resulting in \$50,000 in annual revenue.
- Serves as the Departmental Lead with registration software and mobile applications, including working with tech support on troubleshooting, implementation, updates, and provides department-wide training for all staff including full-time, clerical, part-time, and seasonal employees. This software is utilized by the Summit on the Park, Village Theater at Cherry Hill, Canton Sports Center, and for all recreational programs - including online.
- Coordinate with Facility Services staff on facility capital projects, including identifying current projects and planning for future projects.
- Assist with marketing facility, including facility amenities, memberships, and content for bi-yearly program guide using print, website, and social media tools
- Develop partnerships with local business and organizations.
- Recruits, interviews, trains, schedules, and evaluates over 50 part-time and seasonal staff.
- Makes budget, purchasing, facility rules, regulation and policy recommendations.
- Assists with planning and implementing special events in the Summit and in the community, assisting the Recreation Division team with outdoor special events.

Assistant Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator

City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation Services – Ann Arbor MI

April 2015 – April 2016

- Planning volunteer service projects within city parks and facilities
- Working with universities and colleges, student groups, non-profit groups, corporate groups, and individuals on scheduling and planning service projects and events.
- Assisting with volunteer staffing for large city special events.
- Assisting with coordination of the Adopt-A-Park program.
- Working with staff from all city recreation facilities and evaluating needs of facility that volunteers can assist with.
- Creating and designing volunteer events and activities for different interests.
- Coordinating and planning for department special events.

Recreation Programs & Services Intern

Oakland County Parks – Recreation Programs & Services Division – Waterford MI

May 2015 – September 2015

- Working within Oakland County Parks, Recreation Programs & Services Division.
- Planning and assisting in part-time and seasonal staff orientation.
- Assisting in the preparation and leading of part-time and seasonal staff training.
- Assisting in the execution of special events in county parks.
- Planning and leading special events in county parks.
- Responsible for packet preparations for Special Parks District Forum.
- Planning and preparing for annual Michigan Recreation and Park Association Conference.
- Developing an online application form for Oakland County Park's volunteer program.
- Assisting with operation of Mobile Recreation Division

Volunteer Experience / Activities:

Commission Chair, Parks and Recreation Commission

City of Ypsilanti

December 2015 – Present

- Ensuring recreational programs and activities are available to all citizens.
- Working with community partners, such as local businesses and non-profit organizations.
- Coordinating partnerships with neighboring municipalities for recreation programs and events.
- Responsible for communication to city staff and city council regarding parks and recreation.

Secretary, Board of Directors

City of Ypsilanti Senior Center

November 2016 – March 2022

- Advising Senior Center Administrative staff on financial decisions.
- Promoting Senior Center programming and activities
- Ensuring stable continued operation of Senior & Community Center.
- Creating goals to improve Senior Center through programming, facility enhancements, financial benefits, and increased attendance and participation.

Ypsilanti Community Clean Up Day Committee

Ann Arbor / Ypsilanti Regional Chamber

October 2015 – May 2019

- Ypsilanti Community Clean Up Day is a community-wide event intended to foster community pride and encourage local business growth by creating a clean and welcoming environment.
- Recruiting volunteers
- Lead volunteer site on day of event.
- Fundraising and seeking sponsorships
- Working with community groups to promote event and encourage participation

Certifications:

- **Certified Parks & Recreation Professional**
National Recreation and Park Association
May 2017 – September 2024

Evan Sweet – City of Ypsilanti, City Council Ward Three – Questionnaire

1. Why are you interested in serving as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?

My main interest for serving as a Councilmember is to give back to the city that has been home to me since the fall of 2012, when I began my college career at Eastern Michigan University. I enjoyed Ypsilanti so much, that I immediately knew I wanted to settle down here and buy a home in the city that I had grown to love. I was able to do this in the summer of 2016 and have not looked back since. In 2015, I began immersing myself into the city government by becoming a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Within the same timeframe, in 2015, I joined the Ypsi Proud Day Committee, and served on the Board of Directors for the Ypsilanti Senior Center from November 2016 – March 2022

Due to these previous experiences, I feel like I bring a good understanding and a deep experience for how local government works as well as how government can provide exceptional services to its residents. As someone who has worked in municipal government for several years, I feel my experiences have prepared me to serve as a councilmember to continue to improve city services for all residents and visitors.

2. What strength would you bring to the Council?

I would bring many strengths as a Councilmember. Firstly, is that I currently work in municipal government for Canton Township, and have worked in municipal government for several years. Knowing the operation of a government organization and how local governments in Michigan function will help me be a successful Councilmember.

Having served on the Parks and Recreation Commission for the past several years I have had the chance to see the operations of the city from a different perspective. I have made many connections with current staff members, all of whom I look forward to collaborating with to improve city services for all residents.

Being well connected with many other organizations and resources within the Ypsilanti area and greater Washtenaw County also will be something that I can bring to council. I feel that I have a strong connection with many individuals and organizations that can be helpful to the success of the city.

3. What are the three highest priorities and/or issues you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?

The three largest priorities and issues that I believe the city needs to address are i). Investment in infrastructure, including roads, facilities, and parks. ii) Increasing housing stock within the city. lii). Organizational structure and culture.

Starting with priority number one, investment in infrastructure, including roads, facilities, and parks. Opportunities to help address investment in road infrastructure include funding and agreements from the State of Michigan, and Washtenaw County to get key road projects completed. Also prioritizing roads in need of major repair/replacement and increasing preventative maintenance on roads that are in good condition to extend their useful life in good condition.

In regards to facility investments, partnerships with existing organizations that currently manage city owned facilities, including Friends of Rutherford Pool, and Ypsilanti Senior Center are an opportunity to enhance those facilities. For other facilities, allocating funding towards a capital improvement plan (CIP) would allow future enhancements to other key city facilities, including City Hall, Fire Department, Police Department, Department of Public Services facility, and more.

Moving on to park investment, the opportunity here can come in the form of a dedicated parks millage to make needed improvements and investments in the city's park system. Many other local Michigan communities have successful park millages that allows for revenue and investment in the parks system, and decreases the burden on the general fund.

Priority number two is increasing the available housing stock within the city. It is well known that the housing stock within the city is older and well established. But, there are some opportunities to expand the housing stock. Selling any currently held land that is owned by the city to a developer to build homes or apartments would benefit the city and its residents. Also, working with city zoning and planning commission to determine utilization of areas of the city where there may be undeveloped land, and looking at ways to encourage development of homes or apartments in those areas to expand the housing stock and allow new residents to move into the city.

Priority number three is organizational structure and culture. The city, or any organization, is nothing without its employees. An organizational assessment should be completed, that includes one on one interviews and focus groups with city employees. This assessment should include an evaluation of city services, to determine what might be able to be refocused or moved to a different department to enhance services to all residents. Also, to continue to attract top talent employees a review of the wage scale for all union and non-union employees should be conducted to review where the city stands in comparison to other municipalities and local employers for similar work.

4. Explain your current and past community involvement and/or service on city, nonprofit, or public boards, committees, task forces, or commissions and how this has contributed to the Ypsilanti community. Address its relevance to the position of Ypsilanti City Councilmember.

I have been involved since 2015 on the City's Parks and Recreation Commission and have served as Commission Chair for the past five years. This position has given me a closer look into the operations of the city and the connections between city council and city commissions. I have also been able to connect with many residents of the city through the commission as well as many other local organizations throughout the county that work to enhance services for city residents to increase their health and wellness.

I have served on the Ypsilanti Proud Day Committee from 2015-2019 where I played a key role in coordinating needs of the city parks system and improvement projects. This helped me connect with residents while focusing on the beautification of the city park system, which has many touch points with residents and visitors. The role allowed me to serve as a liaison between

the planning committee and city staff on projects and working with both groups for coordination.

I also had the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors for the Ypsilanti Senior Center from November 2016 to March 2022, and was a board member during the transition of the group to an independent 501(c3) organization with a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the city for operation of the facility. Again, with this role, I was able to work with Senior Center staff, and city staff on the coordination of operations and the MOU.

With all of these roles above, a key reoccurring theme is communication and coordination. I believe that as a councilmember I will be able to communicate well with fellow councilmembers, staff, and residents to accomplish the operations and services of the city to serve all residents.

5. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?

Given the current outlook of this appointment being short term from July through the beginning of November, one thing I want to accomplish is increased communication to residents. One thing that has a proven track record in many other communities is the very high readership of a printed monthly newsletter from city government. I know the price point for this can be pretty high, but there could also be potential partnerships that can be explored, including with the Ypsilanti District Library, and Ypsilanti Community Schools. Working with the Communications Director, other department directors, and the City Manager to improve communication and transparency to residents via digital and ideally print channels is an important priority for me.

6. What is your vision for our City and community?

My vision for our city is that it serves as i) a place where residents want to be, ii) a place where residents feel as sense of belonging, and iii) a place where residents are proud to call home. I believe the city staff and city council drive the future of the city by managing the city's financial priorities and tackling critical issues that have tremendous impact on residents.

I want to see a place where the neighborhoods are diverse and that residents can enjoy the many amenities that the city has to offer and that they feel safe in the city that they live in.

7. Is there anything else that you may wish to add that would help us get to know you a little better?

I am very passionate about the City of Ypsilanti and am very dedicated to seeing the city be successful as an organization that can provide high quality services to all residents. I feel I have relevant knowledge regarding government operations from my experience working for Canton Township, City of Ann Arbor, Oakland County, and the City of Taylor. All of these organizations have given me different perspectives to help me serve the residents of Ypsilanti.

Affidavit of Identity

State of Michigan

County of Washtenaw

I, Evan Sweet do hereby affirm the following:

Name: Evan Sweet

Address: [REDACTED] St, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Date of birth: 01/31/94

I certify under penalty of perjury that the above statements are true and correct.

Signature: [REDACTED] Date: 6/16/22

[REDACTED] Date: 6/16/22
City of Ypsilanti Clerk Staff



APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO YPSILANTI CITY COUNCIL WARD #3 POSITION

Applicant Information

(Please type or print)

Applicant Name Kirk Mather Crowner

Residence Address [REDACTED]

Home Phone [REDACTED] Work Phone _____

E-Mail [REDACTED]

Cover Letter & Resume

Please attach a one page cover letter and a resume of no more than two pages to this application.

Supplemental Questions

Please respond to the following questions regarding your interest in the position of Councilmember for the City of Ypsilanti on separate pages using no more than 3 pages total:

1. Why are you interested in serving as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?
2. What strength would you bring to the Council?
3. What are the three highest priorities and/or issues you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?
4. Explain your current and past community involvement and/or service on city, nonprofit, or public boards, committees, task forces, or commissions and how this has contributed to the Ypsilanti community. Address its relevance to the position of Ypsilanti City Councilmember.
5. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?
6. What is your vision for our City and community?
7. Is there anything else that you may wish to add that would help us get to know you a little better?

Please return (*in person*) this form, your cover letter, resume, and answers to the supplemental questions to the City Clerk, at Ypsilanti City Hall (1 S. Huron St.) **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 16, 2022.**

Applications received after 5:00 p.m. will not be accepted.

The application and any correspondence should be addressed to:

**Andrew Hellenga, City Clerk
City of Ypsilanti
One South Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

Kira (kirk) Mather Crowner



EXPERIENCE

Household, my house in Ypsi — *Stay at home parent*

February 2020 - PRESENT

I feel like this requires little explanation

The Butcher Shop, Stockbridge — *Manager*

January 2017 - February 2020

This was my stint as a marijuana grower. I worked for some people who wish to remain nameless. I took care of the plants, which is no easy task and worth far less than the stress of keeping them alive.

Sabersmith , Sunfield MI — *Head of heat treat dept/head trainer*

May 2002 - October 2012

I was responsible for making sure countless swords, knives, etc were safely and properly heat treated to be safe for actual usage. As well as Making these pieces of art I trained new employees how to make them as well.

EDUCATION

WCC, Ypsilanti — *Degree-none*

2015 - 2016

For a hot second I was going to be a social worker, one teacher showed me the dangers and prevalence of burnout.

Grand Ledge High School, Grand Ledge MI — yup

August 1996 - June 2000

I did the thing and was the first one in my immediate family to do so.

PROJECTS

Stewarding my daughter into adulthood and beyond.

SKILLS

I have developed amazing people skills after a decade of working at various renaissance festivals around the country. Empathy is my super power.

LANGUAGES

English and the threat of Mexican Spanish.

Hello city council members of our distinguished hamlet. My name is Kirk Mather Crowner but I go by Kira as I have started and explored the complexities of my identity more thoroughly. It is my wish to be appointed to this interim position because I feel I represent an underrepresented facet of our city's population. I never finished college, I'm barely getting by financially, but I'm happy to be doing so. Many of my neighbors have suggested I throw my name in the pile so here it goes

Thank You,

Kira Mather Crowner.

Affidavit of Identity

State of Michigan

County of Washtenaw

I, Kirk Mather Crowner do hereby affirm the following:

Name: Kirk Mather Crowner

Address: [REDACTED]

Date of birth: 8/27/1981

I certify under penalty of perjury that the above statements are true and correct.

Signature: [REDACTED] Date: 6/16/22

[REDACTED]
City of Ypsilanti Clerk Staff

Date: 6/16/2022