Name of Council Member

CONTESTED APPOINTMENT

Commission for Women
(3-year term)
1 citizen member

______ Camille Leverett

______ Ashley McGuire

Endorsement

12-14-10
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Councilman Fannon
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COUNCILMAN SMEDBERG
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(3-year term)
1 citizen member

Camille Leverett

Ashley McGuire

Endorsement

12-14-10
To the Members of the Alexandria City Council,

I am writing to introduce myself as an applicant to represent Alexandria on its Commission for Women.

I am very passionate about the causes this particular Commission advances, particularly human rights, the empowerment of abused women, the health and welfare of girls and women, and policy as it relates to youth. I am eager to match my passions to the work of the Commission in this city which I have come to love and respect.

I am re-sending my statement of interest from the formal application (pasted below); I believe it shows a demonstrated commitment to the causes of women, as well as experience advocating for those rights through legal work, volunteer work, and through charity. I thank you for considering me as a candidate for this opportunity to work for the women, girls, and all people of the city of Alexandria.
Statement of Interest

I am very interested in serving the city of Alexandria as a representative on its Commission for Women. After living in Washington, D.C. for three years, I moved to Alexandria this past June. In October I married my husband, and together we are exploring and growing to love the city and appreciate its history, charm, and vitality.

I grew up in Colorado, where I was active in local politics and civic endeavors, and Alexandria has both reminded me of home and renewed in me an interest in civic involvement. During my time in Colorado, I worked at the local Domestic Violence Center, volunteered extensively, wrote for the city's newspaper, and was involved with political campaigns.

I believe I'd be a good candidate to serve on Alexandria's Commission for Women for the following reasons:

1. I would bring the perspective of a young woman to the council. I am 25 years old and am very conversant in issues that relate to the "millennial" generation. I recently spoke on a panel at a large conference about engaging youth in politics. I know from past experience that engaging younger people in civic and political endeavors is a challenge, but necessary for the longevity of any community.

2. I have a demonstrated track record advocating for women's rights in my past communities. I volunteered for the local Domestic Violence Center, helping to advise and guide women through the court process for obtaining restraining orders and other legal redress. I also assisted with Spanish translation.
2. In Boston, where I attended Tufts University, I volunteered for an Immigration Clinic. In that capacity I helped legal immigrants navigate the asylum process and translated for clients. Many of these immigrants were women, and I worked on a project seeking to include screening for domestic violence as well as a domestic violence process to help victims.

3. In my current role at a public interest law firm, I advocate for religious freedom for people of all faiths, and much of our work is on behalf of women, especially as it relates to religious attire.

3. I bring good writing skills, public relations experience, and conversance in new media to the table, all skills that are helpful in any civic role. I am a freelance writer on the side, and have been published widely. I am currently completing a course in new media, and am very familiar with Facebook, Twitter, and blogging as effective means of engaging people. I have with experience with writing op-eds, speaking to the press, and a general sense for communications. I also ghost-wrote a bestselling book about the importance of family.

4. I have event-planning experience. Aside from planning my own wedding from 2,000 miles away (an event-planning feat on its own level), I help run my work's 300 person annual fundraising event, other work functions, as well as help run and promote a young professionals happy hour and lecture series on religion and ethics that I helped found.

5. I have extensive fundraising experience, which is valuable for any project. My fundraising experience ranges from direct mail campaigns to seven-figure foundation proposals to high dollar donor meetings nationwide.

A favorite quotation of mine belongs to Abigail Adams who said, “Patriotism in the female sex is the most disinterested of virtues.” In other words, the civic bent is sewn into our very natures. I am eager to bring my own civic bent to the service of my
new hometown, Alexandria, and I therefore respectfully submit my application to serve on the Alexandria Commission for Women.

Regards,
Ashley E. McGuire