

Kristen Scott
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October 31, 2021

Mrs. Kara Paxton
City Clerk
City of Fayetteville
113 W. Mountain Street
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Dear City Clerk:

I am a resident of Ward 2, and I am interested in the opening for Ward 2, Position 2 and in continuing my community service through City Council. I am a 35-year resident of Fayetteville, and I have the experience, insight and understanding that Ward 2 needs. I have attached my resume, including my previous Service and Volunteer work, for your reference.

Budget management is a strength that I would bring to City Council. My professional background includes 6-years providing oversight and compliance management of state and federal budgets for Fayetteville Public Schools. In addition, fiscal oversight is a primary role of FHA Commissioners, and my two years as Board Chair included the additional responsibility of review and approval of draw-downs through federal eLOCCS and participation in the required annual Single Audit. My current Service work as a Commissioner on the Fayetteville Housing Authority, is a position I have held for 3 years. Although the FHA Board is separate from the City of Fayetteville, the Board works in conjunction and aligns with City of Fayetteville governance. In my role as chair, I worked closely with the City, leading the Board through establishing and strengthening its policy governance structures. This has made me familiar with City governance processes.

It is in the City's best interests to beef up plans to support educational opportunities, strengthen and support our public schools and also formalize the collaboration among higher education, K-12 schools and the City. Fayetteville is experiencing its expected 2% annual population growth, as forecasted in the City of Fayetteville 2040 Plan and Benchmark Studies. Steady growth is healthy, and it means families moving into our area are "shopping schools" as they make their decisions about where to settle. Fayetteville High School was ranked #9 in the state by Niche in 2021, which is good except that 7 of the 8 schools ahead of us in the ranking are also located in NWA. Our schools need support to remain competitive and become home to the best and the brightest, which is crucial for Economic Development. We know that communities with more highly skilled workers fare better overall and especially in tech-based knowledge economies of today and in the future.

I bring nearly 30-year's experience as a public school teacher, principal and district administrator now working in Higher Education to the important work you are doing on behalf of our wonderful City. Communities are moving to reopen and re-establish programs even as the pandemic continues, and it has been necessary to focus considerable attention on the mechanics and logistics of safe re-opening. I commend City Council, the City Board of Health and Dr. Marti Sharkey as our City Health Officer for guiding the City in health-based decision making. Now our community must also give serious attention to the long-term economic impacts of COVID and develop strategies which ameliorate economic losses, particularly for local businesses.

The excitement and engagement of the Cultural Arts Corridor will create opportunities for collaborative focus on the *Fayetteville First 2016* Action Items, including Economic Development, entrepreneurship, marketing, attainable housing and development of City Trails and greenways. These are important issues affecting those of us who live in Ward 2. I am eager to bring my energy and enthusiasm for Fayetteville to City Council; the work that has been done must continue to improve our community for my grandchildren: Robert 9, Audrey 6 and Hallie due in March. I hope they will raise their families here too, and with that focus I give of my time and talents intentionally, focusing on public service in my Service positions and career.

With Fayetteville Pride,
Kristen Scott