



City of Gilroy

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item Title: Interviews for Open Seats on Boards, Commissions, and Committees with Future Appointment on January 27, 2025

Meeting Date: January 6, 2025

From: Jimmy Forbis, City Administrator

Department: Administration

Submitted By: Jimmy Forbis, City Administrator

Prepared By: Bryce Atkins, Assistant to the City Administrator

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Not Applicable

RECOMMENDATION

Interview candidates for open seats on City of Gilroy boards, commissions, and committees.

BACKGROUND

The City Council opened the annual recruitment period ending December 20, 2024, to fill seats on nine Boards, Commissions, and Committees with member terms vacant or expiring as of December 31, 2024:

Arts and Culture Commission – One (1) seat with a term expiring 12/31/2028
 Building Board of Appeals – Two (2) seats with terms expiring 12/31/2028
 Library Commission – Two (2) seats with terms expiring 12/31/2028
 Open Government Commission – One (1) seat with a term expiring 12/31/2028
 Parks and Recreation Commission – One (1) seat with a term expiring 12/31/2028
 Personnel Commission – One (1) seat with a term expiring 12/31/2028
 Physically Challenged Board of Appeals – One (1) seat with a term expiring 12/31/2028
 Planning Commission – One (1) seat with a term expiring 12/31/2028

In addition, the following seats are vacant due to resignations or terminations:

Arts & Culture Commission:

One (1) vacant seat with a term expiring 12/31/2025.

Two (2) vacant seats with terms expiring 12/31/2027

Library Bond Oversight Committee:

Three (3) vacant seats with terms expiring when funds are fully allocated (2026-2027)

Library Commission:

One (1) vacant seat with a term expiring 12/31/2026

Open Government Commission:

One (1) vacant seat with a term expiring 12/31/2025

One (1) vacant seat with a term expiring 12/31/2026

Parks and Recreation Commission:

Two (2) vacant seats with terms expiring 12/31/2025

Personnel Commission:

One (1) vacant seat with a term expiring 12/31/2026

Physically Challenged Board of Appeals:

Three (3) vacant seats with terms expiring 12/31/2025

Youth Commission:

One (1) vacant seat with a term expiring 06/30/2025

One (1) vacant seat with a term expiring 06/30/2026

ANALYSIS

At the close of the application period, the following applications were received:

Arts & Culture Commission Applicant

1. Robert Butler
2. Kelly Pfeffer
3. Steven Porter
4. Steven Taylor
5. Janette Vecchiarelli
6. Wendy Zamora

Building Board of Appeals Applicant

N/A

Library Bond Oversight Committee

N/A

Library Commission Applicant

1. Victoria Coverson-Baxter (incumbent)
2. Sal Esposito
3. Jo Anne Howell
4. Valarie Lowry
5. Kay Spencer
6. Jeannie Stokes

Open Government Commission Applicant

1. Janet Krulee
2. Ann Marie McCauley
3. Blanca McMurray
4. Monikka O'Neil
5. Sharpy Sandhu

Parks and Recreation Commission Applicants

1. Nathaniel Ayala
2. Jesse Jimenez
3. Javier Martinez Jr
4. Emily Miller
5. Robert Miller
6. Stefanie Okada-McCabe
7. Jorge Vargas
8. Michael Vizzusi

Personnel Commission Applicants

1. Linda Allen
2. Catherine Cummins (incumbent)
3. Norma Hingle Flores
4. Ann Marie McCauley

Physically Challenged Board of Appeals Applicants

1. Marco Machado

Planning Commission Applicants

1. Patricia Bentson
2. Brian Dauenhauer
3. Anselmo Guevara
4. Alex Larson
5. Eva Lurker

6. Stefanie Okada-Mccabe

Youth Commission Applicants

1. Sean Ethan Diep
2. Lolita Hardwicke
3. Lysandra Jaimes
4. Zara Owens
5. Thanmay Sarath (incumbent)

Interviews have been scheduled with the City Council at this evening's meeting, and appointments are scheduled to take place at the regular meeting on January 27, 2025.

For those seats without sufficient applications, the recruitment efforts will remain open. Moving forward, staff will present candidates for interviews and appointments to the City Council only in cases where a board, commission, or committee lacks the minimum number of members required to meet quorum requirements as per the Brown Act.

FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE

There are no costs incurred from conducting the interviews for, nor appointing individuals to, the City's boards, committees and commissions.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

This item was included on the publicly posted agenda for this meeting.

NEXT STEPS

With the completion of interviews, staff will return to Council on January 27, 2025 to request Council appointments of members of the public to the various open seats on the City's boards, committees and commissions.

Attachments:

1. Robert Butler
2. Kelly Pfeffer
3. Steven Porter
4. Steven Taylor
5. Janette Vecchiarelli
6. Wendy Zamora
7. Victoria Coverson-Baxter
8. Sal Esposito
9. Jo Anne Howell
10. Valarie Lowry
11. Kay Spencer

12. Jeannie Stokes
13. Janet Krulee
14. Ann Marie McCauley
15. Blanca McMurray
16. Monikka O'Neil
17. Sharpy Sandhu
18. Nathaniel Ayala
19. Jesse Jimenez
20. Javier Martinez Jr
21. Emily Miller
22. Robert Miller
23. Stefanie Okada-McCabe
24. Jorge Vargas
25. Michael Vizzusi
26. Linda Allen
27. Catherine Cummins
28. Norma Hingle Flores
29. Ann Marie McCauley
30. Marco Machado
31. Patricia Bentson
32. Brian Dauenhauer
33. Anselmo Guevara
34. Alex Larson
35. Eva Lurker
36. Stefanie Okada-Mccabe
37. Sean Ethan Diep
38. Lolita Hardwicke
39. Lysandra Jaimes
40. Zara Owens
41. Thanmay Sarath



City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Arts and Culture Commission			
Name: Robert Butler					
Phone number(s):				email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?				Yes	
Physical Address*:					
Driver's License or ID No.:				Date of Birth*:	1957-08-21
				Last 4 of SSN:	
List your qualifications for this appointment:					
EDUCATION: Chicago State University, B.A. Degree in Education, Music/Théâtre Knoxville College, Knoxville B.S. Business Marketing, Mathematics National University, SJ CA M.A. Education TELEVISION/FILM/MUSIC VIDEO RADIO: West Coast Gospel Live Host & Producer KHVN Dallas TX Inspire Show Host & Producer KKDA Dallas TX FeedBack KSBW TV Show KGGR Dallas TX Mosaic KPIX TV Show KKMC Salinas CA The Afternoon Show KPIXTV Show Radio DJ Host Gilroy CA Front Runner KOMO New Performers WMAQ Singsation, Show WGN Kids Point TCI Math Answers San Jose COMMERICALS: Chris Cassara Clothing, Principal Actor Gilroy Chamber of Com. Principal Actor Faces International San Francisco CA THEATRE: West Side Story Knoxville TN The Wiz Chicago IL Wizard Of Oz Chicago IL Porgey & Bess Nashville TN Godspell Chicago IL Runaway Chicago IL The Acts Jerusalem Israel Lady Day San Jose CA Sound Of Music Los Angeles CA 7 Brides For 7Brothers Gilroy CA The Little Princess, Gilroy CA DIRECTED: Love Crucified Arose Gilroy CA The Wiz San Jose CA Love Found A Way Gilroy CA West Side Story San Jose CA And It Came To Pass Gilroy CA White Christmas San Jose CA The Wonder Of The Season Gilroy CA Lion King San Jose CA Judd Concert (Back Up Singer) San Jose CA GM Award Paramount Theater Oakland SKILLS SPECIAL INTEREST: Lead jazz vocalist, horseback riding, swimming, snow skiing, weightlifting, professional teacher degrees from college, BS, BA, MA, enjoy working with other people. baseball, bowling rollerblading, roller skating, biking, hiking, swimming, snorkeling, poker, card games, computer literate, square dance, southern accent. 6480 Barron Pl Gilroy, CA 95020 inspireshow@aol.com Cell {408} 888-2275					
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:					
Presently a Board Member of the Gilroy Center for the Arts.					
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?					

I wish to assist in providing the arts to the community in as many ways as possible. I have been successful producing concerts raising money for the homeless in GILROY through the South County Compassion Center.

Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?

Most qualified maybe not but I come with many talents to share and years of experience giving me wisdom in many areas. I have worked with the City in Gilroy Parks and Rec. providing activities for afterschool and summer day camp for children. This position will be new to me but I am sure I will be a great access to the

School: / Grade: null

✓	By clicking on this box, I declare under penalty of perjury that I am currently a registered voter within the City limits of the City of Gilroy. Furthermore, I understand that this application and any attachments are subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act and must complete mandatory Open Government Ordinance Training. I further understand that members of the Planning Commission, Building Boards of Appeals, and Physically Challenged Board of Appeals are also subject to filing the Fair Political Practice Commission's Statement of Economic Interest Form 700 relating to financial disclosures.
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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Arts and Culture Commission			
Name: Kelly Pfeffer					
Phone number(s):				email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?				Yes	
Physical Address*:					
Driver's License or ID No.:				Date of Birth*:	1978-03-12
				Last 4 of SSN:	
List your qualifications for this appointment:					
I have worked with two non profits in the city of Gilroy, M.A.N.O.S, and 6th Street Art studios. I am a visual artist and I have sold my art internationally. I own a music school here in Gilroy called ERock, I am always looking for ways to bring the arts to the underserved in our community as well as looking into new ways to make learning art fun and entertaining. I love problem solving, marketing and the business side of things.					
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:					
I have helped M.A.N.O.S plan their Chalkfest, I have also created a music festival in the summer for our music students to showcase their talents. We have worked with 6th street art studios and participated in their art walk, we ran an open Mic in local businesses to give a creative outlet to the community and attract more clientele to the local businesses while fostering an appreciation for the arts. We recently participated in Gilroy's Downtown Business associations Christmas parade, we built a float, had our students sing on the North Pole stage and ran an informational booth for our music school. Most recently I have joined CMAP's Board and look forward to sharing my knowledge and ideas to further progress the arts in our community through educational television.					
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?					
My goals are to make the arts accessible to all who seek it in our community. I also believe that facilitating the painting of murals and art installations throughout our city creates a greater society in whole.					
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?					

My number one passion in life has always been the arts. Everything I have done and believe in has been to make the arts more accessible to all.

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

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Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Arts and Culture Commission			
Name: Steven Porter					
Phone number(s):				email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?				Yes	
Physical Address*:					
Driver's License or ID No.:				Date of Birth*:	1998-05-07
				Last 4 of SSN:	
List your qualifications for this appointment:					
I have been a lifelong advocate for the arts within our community as well as the community I lived in while I was in Colorado. I would love to be able to help grow the arts and culture within Gilroy through adding more diverse events within our town as well. I also believe in the beautification efforts within Gilroy and would love to help grow the efforts within the Parks and Recreation commission. While I may not have qualifications pertaining to either of these commissions, I do have the will to be able to help our city grow through art, culture, and the protection of our city parks, surrounding nature and historical culture.					
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:					
Prior to graduating high school I was constantly involved within the art and culture within my education community. After moving to Colorado I once again became active within the vital LGBTQ+ arts and culture there as well. Regarding parks and recreation I was part of a high school club that would volunteer to help try and clean our parks and keep our urban areas clean as possible.					
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?					
While I have never been a member of any city commission before I have lived in Gilroy for a majority of my life. My family has been based here since the 40's and have been active members of Gilroy throughout the city's history. I used to love to hear my family reminisce about how Gilroy used to be. How their small town felt like a community of friends rather than a city full of people living there but commuting to their 9 to 5 and ignoring their city's wants and needs. I want to be able to help be the change that allows us to feel that way again in our modern city. I want to get involved within our community and see what the pocket communities in our city want to see. I want the people to be able to see themselves within the city they reside in no					

matter what race, religion, or sexual orientation they are. Every person should be represented and I want to help make that possible. I would also love to be able to help be a part of the process of the beatification efforts within our community regarding our city parks, and urban forestry.

Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?

I have been involved with the arts since I was in middle school which then transferred to high school as well as public productions while I lived in Colorado between 2019 to 2023. I believe that the arts helps with our mental health, and I believe representation within the city culture helps re-enforce the idea that the people matter within this community. Now, regarding the Parks and Recreation commission this is a passion I have been involved in more recently but on a smaller scale. I believe that nature and cleanliness within our community pushes people to not only want to be more involved in our city, but to celebrate it as well. Through more aggressive beatification efforts within our downtown and other urban areas we can also help revitalize the communities there as well.

School: / Grade: null

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

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Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Arts and Culture Commission	
Name: Steven Taylor			
Phone number(s):		email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits? Yes			
Physical Address*:			
Driver's License or ID No.:		Date of Birth*: 1971-11-29	Last 4 of SSN:
List your qualifications for this appointment: I am a veteran of the US Navy and a financial professional. I have a Master's in Business Administration and have lead many projects successfully.			
List any service to the community including any prior appointments: I have done volunteer work with the homeless in San Francisco and other cities while my ship was in port during my time in the Navy.			
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee? I have seen many positive changes in Gilroy since moving here 12 years ago and I want to do my part in continuing to make Gilroy a diverse and inclusive community.			
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee? I bring a strong sense of duty and a desire to serve this community which has been a true home for my family, after many years of constant moving due to my Naval service.			

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Ordinance Training. I further understand that members of the Planning Commission, Building Boards of Appeals, and Physically Challenged Board of Appeals are also subject to filing the Fair Political Practice Commission's Statement of Economic Interest Form 700 relating to financial disclosures.



City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Arts and Culture Commission			
Name: Janette Vecchiarelli					
Phone number(s):		[REDACTED]		email address*: [REDACTED]	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?				Yes	
Physical Address*:		[REDACTED]			
Driver's License or ID No.:		[REDACTED]		Date of Birth*: 1974-04-16	Last 4 of SSN: [REDACTED]
List your qualifications for this appointment: Worked in the film and entertainment industry for 20 years before moving to Gilroy.					
List any service to the community including any prior appointments: None at this time					
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee? Bringing more art and entertainment to Gilroy. More community engagement, events and activities.					
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee? I can bring a unique perspective to the committee from my behind the sciences work in entertainment.					

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

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Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Arts and Culture Commission	
Name: Wendy Zamora			
Phone number(s):		email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits? Yes			
Physical Address*:			
Driver's License or ID No.:		Date of Birth*: 1980-05-19	Last 4 of SSN:
List your qualifications for this appointment:			
I'm a former professional dancer, choreographer, and teacher who performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, the Jacob's Pillow Festival in Massachusetts, and with the all-female hip-hop company Decadancetheatre in New York City, under Tony Award-nominated director Jennifer Weber. With a BS in mass media communications from NYU and an MA from Stanford University in journalism, I went on to become a writer and editor for several national dance magazines, including Dance Magazine and Dance Spirit Magazine, and have published twelve children's nonfiction books on hip-hop history and culture, jazz, modern, Irish dance, and more. (Wendy Garofoli, Capstone Press) I've studied music: Took private piano and voice lessons, played drums in the school band, sang in the church and high school choirs, and performed in high school musicals and community theater. Currently, I'm working on a memoir about surviving 9/11 and fighting terminal lung cancer as a result.			
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:			
While I've never served on a commission, I have participated in food and toy drives here in Gilroy and in Salinas, and make recurring donations to Community Solutions, Feeding America, and Goodwill. In addition, I volunteered with Toys for Tots in New York City performing and handing out Christmas toys, participated in Ground Zero cleanup efforts with the Erin Brockovich Foundation after 9/11, which culminated in a performance for children of the Financial District, and volunteered teaching hip-hop dance to kids at Stuyvesant High School in downtown Manhattan.			
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?			
As a Gilroy resident and mother to a middle-schooler, I'm invested in broadening opportunities in town for kids interested in the arts, whether as a hobby or a passion. I hope to help the			

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Commission diversify recreational offerings, electives, and clubs for kids and adults to participate in the performing and fine arts. And I would love to help the organization brainstorm options for enjoying the arts as a spectator, such as with live music, movie nights in the park, local artist galleries, or Blackbox theater.

Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?

With a diverse background in performing arts, particularly dance, as well as over 20 years as a published writer, I can offer the Gilroy Arts and Culture Commission a unique perspective as someone who has made a career out of the arts—while also being an avid patron. When I moved to the Bay from New York, I was surprised at what felt like a sparse artistic community with limited opportunities to connect and engage. While I've witnessed some growth in Gilroy, hampered by the pandemic, I would love to contribute to an artistic renaissance that paves the way for a vibrant creative community for my son and generations of Gilroyans to come.

School: / Grade: null

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

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Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Library Commission	
Name: victoria Coverson-Baxter			
Phone number(s):		email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?		Yes	
Physical Address*:			
Driver's License or ID No.:		Date of Birth*:	1972-05-20
		Last 4 of SSN:	
List your qualifications for this appointment:			
Current City of Gilroy Library Commission Chair- City of Gilroy (2021-Present)- Term expires 12/31/24 Literacy Program Specialist SJ Public Library System (2019-2023) Volunteer- Friends of the Library: Alum Rock Branch Credentialed Educator Experience in working with diverse communities and community engagement Parent and Life-Long Learner			
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:			
Mocha Moms, Inc.- Gilroy Chapter (president, vice president, membership) Library Commissioner Chair City of Gilroy (Current) Guest Speaker- local educational/service events CHS Parent Club			
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?			
Continue to grow in the role of Library Commissioner for the city of Gilroy by serving as an advisory & liaison; in partnership with fellow commissioners, in support of city council's library work plan & vision for the community. Work in collaboration with city departments, schools and volunteers to provide advice and guidance to improve & enhance library services, operations, policy and procedures. Finally, to recruit community members to serve as library commissioners and spark a love of literacy and libraries amongst children, families and community partners.			
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?			
As a current library commissioner, I have had the opportunity to serve as part of the advisory body to the county librarian and the City of Gilroy community librarian. In addition, I am familiar with our City Charter & Ordinances, library work plans and, For the past 4 years, I have worked			

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alongside fellow commissioners, city staff and community partners to move the work of our library forward.

School: / Grade: null

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

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Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Library Commission			
Name: Sal Esposito					
Phone number(s):		[REDACTED]		email address*: [REDACTED]	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?				Yes	
Physical Address*:		[REDACTED]			
Driver's License or ID No.:		[REDACTED]		Date of Birth*: 1960-11-27	Last 4 of SSN: [REDACTED]
List your qualifications for this appointment: I'm honest, ethical, and hardworking. Sorry I don't know too much (or actually anything at all) regarding these positions. I'd simply like to help Greg and get involved in the community.					
List any service to the community including any prior appointments: None, see above comments.					
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee? I'd like to help Greg in whatever capacity that I can.					
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee? Again, I'm honest, ethical, and hardworking. Sorry I don't know too much (or actually anything at all) regarding these positions. I'd simply like to help Greg and get involved in the community. Hope this helps.					

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Commission, Building Boards of Appeals, and Physically Challenged Board of Appeals are also subject to filing the Fair Political Practice Commission's Statement of Economic Interest Form 700 relating to financial disclosures.
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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

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Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Library Commission	
Name: Jo Anne Howell			
Phone number(s):		email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?		Yes	
Physical Address*:			
Driver's License or ID No.:		Date of Birth*:	1947-11-07
		Last 4 of SSN:	
List your qualifications for this appointment:			
Part-time reference librarian at Gavilan College, love of the Gilroy public library.			
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:			
Rebekah Children's service -- distribution of food through Second Harvest, various Gavilan College events.			
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?			
Get to know the issues facing the library			
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?			
Because I love the library			
School: / Grade: null			

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

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Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Library Commission			
Name: Valarie Lowry					
Phone number(s):		[REDACTED]		email address*: [REDACTED]	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?				Yes	
Physical Address*:		[REDACTED]			
Driver's License or ID No.:		[REDACTED]		Date of Birth*: 1972-02-28	Last 4 of SSN: [REDACTED]
List your qualifications for this appointment:					
My qualifications for the commission are: -Degreed professional in Human Resource Management and Business Administration -5 years of teaching experience at the Collegiate level -20 plus years in Human Resources -Interest and willingness to serve					
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:					
I am new to this community. In other communities I have had the opportunity to volunteer as an adult reading tutor and at the animal shelter.					
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?					
My goals while serving on the Library Commission are: - Help inform the community of the information, services, and programs that are available to them through the Library. - To focus on increasing public attendance at the Library Commission meetings. - Advocate for the resources the library needs to serve the community in a relevant capacity.					
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?					
I have a professional background in education and training as an Adjunct Professor and Human Resource professional. I am professionally and personally interested in providing resources, information, and assistance for a person or family's personal development or betterment.					
School: / Grade: null					

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Library Commission			
Name: Kay Spencer					
Phone number(s):		[REDACTED]		email address*: [REDACTED]	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?				Yes	
Physical Address*:		[REDACTED]			
Driver's License or ID No.:		[REDACTED]		Date of Birth*: 1953-01-11	Last 4 of SSN: [REDACTED]
List your qualifications for this appointment: I am a retired corporate CPA with a college degree in business administration.					
List any service to the community including any prior appointments: I was previously on the Library Commission in 2013 and 2014 serving as Vice Chair and then Chairman.					
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee? My goal is to provide service to the City of Gilroy to the best of my ability.					
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee? I have dealt with many legal and regulatory issues in my capacity as a corporate accountant and CFO, primarily in the food and beverage industry.					
School: / Grade: null					

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	Appeals are also subject to filing the Fair Political Practice Commission's Statement of Economic Interest Form 700 relating to financial disclosures.
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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Library Commission	
Name: Jeannie Stokes			
Phone number(s):		email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?		Yes	
Physical Address*:			
Driver's License or ID No.:		Date of Birth*:	1961-05-22
		Last 4 of SSN:	
List your qualifications for this appointment:			
I have been a part time English and Reading college professor for the past 9 years (at San Jose City College, Mission College, and Chabot Colleges). I have spent the last 20 years of my life working in education to better not only the love of reading and writing, but to promote the utility and importance of these lifelong skillsets. I consider libraries my second home, and I know I can help in everything from acquisition to community engagement. In addition, I hold the following education degrees: BA English, MA Reading, MS Education - Emphasis on Educational Leadership. I also hold PT Teaching Credential(s) in English and ESL. I have considered education and the pursuit of knowledge a constant in my life.			
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:			
I am new to Gilroy, so I have not begun my community efforts here, but in San Jose, I have volunteered with Sunday Friends and Sacred Heart on occasion. Most of my community work has been done at my colleges.			
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?			
I would like to help your Commission continue services to The City of Gilroy through more programs aimed to get out into the schools to encourage more participation in the library. I have recently moved to Gilroy after 40 years in San Jose, and I want to not only learn more about how the library affects/impacts the City, but to help increase this stewardship. My hope is that residents don't think of the Library as a simple place to get books, but they see it as THE resource for educational ideas: college planning, tutoring, mentoring, language classes, social gatherings, etc. I would also like to work with the City to attract adults/seniors to increase library usage through book clubs and community outreach.			

Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?

Because I care about how the quest for education can grow and improve society. A library is not just a repository for books; it is a way to reach out and engage a community across all demographics.

School: / Grade: null

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Open Government Commission			
Name: Janet Krulee					
Phone number(s):				email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?				Yes	
Physical Address*:					
Driver's License or ID No.:				Date of Birth*:	1975-12-28
				Last 4 of SSN:	
List your qualifications for this appointment:					
Lifelong Gilroy resident. Grew up here and have a very keen sense of community. CA Realtor license. CA Notary. CA Certified Loan Signing Agent. Leadership Gilroy class of 2020. Work in the construction field. Have served on many boards, committees, etc so know decorum and what it means to work as a team but also have a voice.					
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:					
Volunteering in this community since high school. Gilroy Garlic Festival Committee Chair, Advisory Board Chair, Board of Directors, PJIFF BOD, currently serving on Leadership Gilroy BOD (Treasurer) and Friends of St Louise/Valley Medical Foundation BOD, Gilroy Foundation Ambassador, volunteer with many local nonprofits.					
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?					
I would like to get more involved with the inner workings of Gilroy. I also am interested in projecting smart growth for our city and trying to make sure we do what is best for the residents here by providing a balance of adequate housing, services, and quality of life. I value transparency in government and honesty to our community about what is happening and could be changing.					
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?					
I don't know if I am the most qualified, but I do know that I am a fair, open minded, hard worker that has the heart to work together for the best of this community and the residents that live here now, and the future generations that grow up and move here. We need to think about what is needed to continue to make Gilroy a great place and be smart about dealing with growth issues and items that we have to add to that equation from the state/county.					

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School: / Grade: null

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Open Government Commission	
Name: Ann Marie McCauley			
Phone number(s):		email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?		Yes	
Physical Address*:			
Driver's License or ID No.:		Date of Birth*:	1971-08-04
		Last 4 of SSN:	
List your qualifications for this appointment:			
I am resident of Gilroy since 2004. I have attended city council meetings over the last two years and watched many of the planning and OGC meetings online. This has given me an understanding of the expectations for this commission, most importantly, the ability to show up. I am able to commit to the 4 meetings and uphold the responsibilities listed on the website. I have read chapter 17A of the Gilroy City Code and am capable of advising on how to implement.			
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:			
YMCA Board member, South County Representative for Mothers Against Drug Addictions and Deaths, Active member of Night Time Rotary. Active participant in local organization events such as Carry The Vision, Pit Stop Outreach, Compassion Center, St. Josephs, One Giving Tree, Rebekah Children's Services, Gilroy Foundation, GALS, Community Solutions, CARAS and Nueva Vida.			
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?			
I would like to learn more about how government works. My goal would be to encourage transparency and the citizens' rights to information and participation, which are the principles of the commission. I understand that Commission members represent the city and are part of the government. This requires temperance on social media platforms. My personal goal on this Commission would be to shift my involvement from social media to actual participation. I am looking forward to something more collaborative with city council and believe this position would help foster that.			
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?			

I believe I am qualified because I read the appropriate information and have a proven track record for showing up. As a person who intends to eventually run for city council, I believe this gives the city an opportunity to "train" potential elects and create more qualified and knowledgeable council members.

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Open Government Commission	
Name:	Blanca McMurray		
Phone number(s):		email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?			
		Yes	
Physical Address*:			
Driver's License or ID No.:		Date of Birth*:	1963-04-05
		Last 4 of SSN:	
List your qualifications for this appointment:			
I am committed to serve my community any way I can. I have been part of my husbands business in Gilroy for the last 25 years, donating my time for different Dental Clinics throughout California and outside the USA. Our business has served Gilroy by providing Oral Surgery in our South Valley Oral and Facial Surgery office located here in Gilroy. I have worked for the business as an Even planner, Marketing Coordinator, and Billing Assistant.			
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:			
Food Truck coordinator for our "Food Truck Fly In" at the San Martin Airport, 2022, and 2023. Gathering backpacks for children's back to school at Solarsano Middleschool. Collecting Christmas gifts for Rebekah Children's Services at our Gilroy Office.			
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?			
I would like to serve my community by volunteering my time. I would like to donate my time to serve my community and make a difference any way I can. I am open to learn new things and use my extra time for something worth doing.			
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?			
I believe I can serve any way possible because I am willing to learn new things, I have an open mind and can take direction well. Although I don't experience in Government I would like to offer my time and efforts as a volunteer.			

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Open Government Commission			
Name: Monikka O'Neil					
Phone number(s):		[REDACTED]		email address*: [REDACTED]	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits? Yes					
Physical Address*:		[REDACTED]			
Driver's License or ID No.:		[REDACTED]		Date of Birth*: 1981-10-08	Last 4 of SSN: [REDACTED]
List your qualifications for this appointment:					
I'm a CPA and currently sit on the Non-Profit board of directors for The Mary Elizabeth Inn (MEI) which serves to permanently house women in San Francisco that were subject to abuse. I've previously sat on the NP board of The Unity Care Group which serves to provide temporary housing for transitional aged youth across Northern California. I bring to bear a financial perspective and to these boards in addition to my passion to serve the community.					
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:					
No prior appointments to the community. As a resident of Gilroy for 4 years, I'd like to be involved in the development of the community.					
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?					
Create connections, expand my network, serve my community in the development and growth of Gilroy.					
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?					
My previous & current Non-Profit board experience as well as my professional background as a CPA.					

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Open Government Commission	
Name: Sharpy Sandhu			
Phone number(s):		email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits? Yes			
Physical Address*:			
Driver's License or ID No.:		Date of Birth*: 1975-12-06	Last 4 of SSN:
List your qualifications for this appointment:			
I'm a Senior Vice President of Total Rewards (Compensation and Benefits) at Okta currently. Okta is a high tech public company with 6,000 employees globally spread over 20+ locations. I have experience working with our Board of Directors and have been in the Human Resources field for 20 years. I have a team of 18 individuals that reports to me currently and as an executive, I have experience working through complex situations (tough budgets, redundancies, M&A, employee issues, etc). I moved to the US ~25 years ago and have focused on my career with taking on new responsibilities. I have lived in Gilroy for over 10 years and now that I am an empty nester, I have more time to provide my expertise to my local community. My linked in profile with details is available as well.			
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:			
Unfortunately, there isn't much to list here that is worthwhile. I was focused on my career and family. With my son in college in Maryland, I have more time to spare and get involved.			
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?			
Firstly to learn how this committee works and the inner workings of the city. More importantly, to provide my expertise and learnings from past experiences that can benefit the city.			
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?			
Definitely my expertise and experiences make me a strong candidate. Beyond that, my intentions to serve are the primary driver. I don't claim to know it all - as I haven't worked in this space before but I'm eager to learn.			

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Parks and Recreation Commission			
Name: Nathaniel Ayala					
Phone number(s):				email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?				Yes	
Physical Address*:					
Driver's License or ID No.:				Date of Birth*:	1987-07-29
				Last 4 of SSN:	
List your qualifications for this appointment:					
I received my Juris Doctorate from Santa Clara University School of Law in 2018, have been an active member of the California Bar since 2019, and received my B.S. in 2009 from Santa Clara University, with a Political Science Major and English Minor.					
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:					
I have served the community in various roles ranging from law clerk for the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office to positions with the Parks and Recreation Department as a college student. Currently, I am an attorney who works for a law firm that serves the community by representing school districts in special education matters.					
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?					
My goals are the following: 1) to serve the community in a capacity that can help affect positive change to policies, 2) to utilize the skills I have attained in my educational and working career to help in solving some of the issues that face the three commissions, 3) to be an active voice for the people in the community, and 4) to help make the city an even more vibrant and thriving place for my children to grow up in.					
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?					
I am most qualified to serve on either of the three selections because I can bring the critical thinking skills I have gained in law school and practicing law to the responsibilities of any of the vacant commission seats. I strongly desire to serve the community, and this is one of the main ways I can do so. Each of the three commissions I am applying for strikes my interest in the work to be done. As a member of this community, I am greatly interested in helping to be a voice in matters involving the planning and land use, matters involving the city parks and recreation.					

programming for citizens of all ages, and matters involving the city library. Being selected for any of the three commissions would be an honor. I would devote much energy to ensuring my preparedness and knowledge of the matters discussed at each meeting.

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Parks and Recreation Commission			
Name: Jesse Jimenez					
Phone number(s):		[REDACTED]		email address*: [REDACTED]	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?				Yes	
Physical Address*:		[REDACTED]			
Driver's License or ID No.:		[REDACTED]		Date of Birth*: 1972-05-29	Last 4 of SSN: [REDACTED]
List your qualifications for this appointment:					
I have been a lifelong resident here in Gilroy for the 52 years of my life. Growing up in Gilroy the parks and recreation made a huge impact on my life as well for my siblings. We were actively involved with the Parks and Recreation Soccer League for 6 years, Little League (6 years), and Pop Warner (6 years). Also, including our participation with the variety of arts and boxing that used to be held at the Wheeler Auditorium, community adult softball and Jr. Giants.					
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:					
Gilroy Gang Task Force, South County Youth Task Force, COEP. I also host a variety of Community events such as our Easter Egg Hunt at Christmas Hill and community outreach handball tournaments at Las Animans Park and San Ysidro Park.					
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?					
To continue to support our city vision for the parks and recreation and provide or support great ideas for our parks and community					
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?					
I am passionate about seeing our community thrive together in unity, providing a safe environment for our families, and supporting community involvement through community events and collaborating with our local nonprofits and resources.					

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Parks and Recreation Commission			
Name: Javier Martinez Jr					
Phone number(s):				email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?				Yes	
Physical Address*:					
Driver's License or ID No.:				Date of Birth*:	1994-06-19
				Last 4 of SSN:	
List your qualifications for this appointment:					
I've lived in Gilroy for 30 years and have a lifelong connection to its parks. I worked as a Recreation Outreach Specialist with Gilroy Recreation, supporting youth programs and park events. Currently, I work with the South County Youth Task Force, supporting youth and families. My experience in community engagement and my passion for parks make me a strong fit for this role.					
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:					
Recreation Outreach Specialist, Gilroy Recreation Co-Chair, South County Youth Task Force Technical Team Lead community events at San Ysidro Park. Leader, Joven Noble Program in Gilroy Unified School District Co-Chair, Alexander Station Committee Lead Second Harves Food Bank food distributions in Gilroy Gilroy Garlic Festival volunteer					
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?					
To ensure our parks are safe, inclusive, and well-maintained for families and youth. I want to advocate for improved infrastructure, engaging programs, and spaces that foster community connection and safety.					
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?					
As someone who grew up in Gilroy's parks, I understand their value firsthand. My professional background in youth programs and community engagement, combined with my passion for creating safe, vibrant parks, makes me well-suited to serve.					

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Parks and Recreation Commission			
Name: Emily Miller					
Phone number(s):		email address*:			
Are you a registered voter within the City limits? Yes					
Physical Address*:					
Driver's License or ID No.:		Date of Birth*:	1994-04-11	Last 4 of SSN:	
List your qualifications for this appointment:					
I have always felt a deep, personal connection to the outdoors. From a young age, I would fuss to be taken outside, drawn to the sense of wonder and peace that nature provides. Whether it was playing soccer as a child or later becoming an avid hiker and pickleball enthusiast, our nation's parks have always been a source of joy and inspiration for me. Now, as a proud homeowner in Gilroy, I am eager to bring that same sense of appreciation and connection to our community by actively contributing to the future of our city's parks and recreation programs. If appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission, I will bring a unique blend of skills and experience that will benefit both the committee and the broader community. With a strong foundation in corporate operations and finance, I am adept at managing resources, ensuring strategic decisions are well-informed and sustainable. My professional background also includes extensive experience in communication, which I believe is crucial to fostering collaboration and ensuring transparency in all our work. Whether presenting ideas, gathering community input, or working alongside other commissioners, I prioritize clear, effective communication that bridges gaps and drives progress. Beyond my professional skills, I am committed to community service. I have volunteered with organizations such as the Eugene Mission, Mount Pisgah Arboretum, Fort Mason Park, and the Edward and Anita Lee Newcomer School, which has allowed me to engage meaningfully with diverse groups and contribute to causes I care about. I am excited about the opportunity to extend this commitment to Gilroy's parks and recreation initiatives. As a frequent visitor of our local parks, I am very familiar with the value they bring to our community. I walk daily at the Gilroy Sports Park, bike along the off-road bike paths, and regularly enjoy pickleball at Sunrise and Las Animas Parks. These experiences have given me a deep appreciation for the potential of our local parks. I am excited to work with the commission to enhance these spaces, ensuring they serve not only current residents but future generations as well. Gilroy is home to a vibrant, active, and generous community, and our parks should reflect and nurture that spirit. I am passionate about ensuring our parks and recreation programs continue to serve people of all ages, backgrounds, and					

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interests. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the development of parks that foster connection, well-being, and growth for everyone in Gilroy.

List any service to the community including any prior appointments:

Although I am relatively new to Gilroy, my dedication to community service is evident through my volunteer work with organizations such as the Eugene Mission, Mount Pisgah Arboretum, Fort Mason Park, and the Edward and Anita Lee Newcomer School. I am eager to contribute and serve our community through this commission.

What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?

My goal while serving on the Parks and Recreation Commission is to contribute to the overall development of our city's parks and recreational spaces in a way that benefits all residents. One area I am particularly passionate about is advocating for the addition of permanent, dedicated pickleball courts. As a regular player, I've seen how this sport fosters community and encourages active lifestyles, and I believe providing dedicated spaces for pickleball would help meet the growing demand. I hope to collaborate with fellow commissioners to improve park facilities, expand programming, and ensure that our community has safe, vibrant spaces for recreation, connection, and growth.

Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?

I believe I am highly qualified to serve on the Parks and Recreation Commission due to my unique combination of personal passion, professional skills, and interest in community involvement. First, my lifelong connection to the outdoors and firsthand experience with Gilroy's parks gives me a true appreciation for the role they play in our community. As a regular visitor to local parks, I have a clear understanding of both their current impact and their potential for future development. This personal connection allows me to approach park planning and improvement with both enthusiasm and insight. My background in corporate operations and finance, paired with strong communication skills, enables me to manage resources efficiently and make informed decisions that ensure long-term sustainability. I'm experienced in presenting ideas clearly, listening actively, and fostering collaboration, all of which are needed for building trust and ensuring that community input shapes the Commission's initiatives for lasting, positive outcomes. Finally, my commitment to community service, demonstrated through my volunteer work with various organizations, reflects my dedication to improving the well-being of the community. I am eager to bring this same level of commitment to our parks and recreation programs, ensuring they meet the needs of Gilroy's residents.

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Parks and Recreation Commission	
Name: Robert Miller			
Phone number(s):		email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits? Yes			
Physical Address*:			
Driver's License or ID No.:		Date of Birth*: 1951-04-30	Last 4 of SSN:
List your qualifications for this appointment:			
1. I use city parks and have played a number of sports in the past. 2. Former member of Parks and Recreation Commission - took over after a resignation and fulfilled the remaining 3 years of the term. 3. Have an ability to work collaboratively and as a team member of groups.			
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:			
1. Former Parks and Recreation Commission member. 2. Led a small cadre from the South County Running Group in measuring and painting distances (every 0.25 miles for 4 miles) on the levee trail from the Sports Park to Highway 152 near Burchell Road 3. General Plan Update Committee (early 2000s) member 4. Hecker Pass Specific Plan member 5. Santa Teresa sound wall committee member (1980s)			
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?			
1. Continue to develop and increase recreational opportunities for Gilroy citizens of all ages; e.g., futsal, pickle ball.. 2. Work to maintain the quality of the trail system. 3. Advocate for increased tree planting in parks, particularly in parks in parts of the city with less cover. 4. Identify problems with parks. I think I was very active in pointing out problems for the 2-3 parks that were my "responsibility".			
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?			
I think that I served conscientiously and effectively as a commission member. I care about the quality of life for our citizens. I am retired and have time to serve. That said, I am 73 years old and my daughter is now an adult. In general, it it would be ideal to have a mix of ages on the commission, and in the past the committee has skewed to an older demographic.			

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Parks and Recreation Commission			
Name: Stefanie Okada-McCabe					
Phone number(s):				email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?				Yes	
Physical Address*:					
Driver's License or ID No.:				Date of Birth*:	1983-04-30
				Last 4 of SSN:	
List your qualifications for this appointment:					
Born and raised Gilroyan. Avid bodybuilder, past league tennis player, current league bowler and getting into pickleball as a family. I enjoy our parks and all they have to offer....with a love of outdoor activities.					
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:					
Past building board of Appeals Past Physically Challenged Board					
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?					
To aid in continuing the Gilroy vision and goals for the community by adding my background and expertise in architecture, planning and development.					
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?					
As a lifelong Gilroy resident, I possess a deep understanding of our community's needs and values. My diverse athletic background, from bodybuilding to tennis, bowling, and pickleball, showcases my passion for active living. I am eager to leverage this passion and knowledge to contribute to the enhancement of our parks and recreational offerings, ensuring they cater to the evolving needs of our community.					
School: / Grade: null					

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Parks and Recreation Commission			
Name: Jorge Vargas					
Phone number(s):		[REDACTED]		email address*: [REDACTED]	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?				Yes	
Physical Address*:		[REDACTED]			
Driver's License or ID No.:		[REDACTED]		Date of Birth*: 1980-12-21	Last 4 of SSN: [REDACTED]
List your qualifications for this appointment:					
I have lived in Gilroy for three years and worked here for the past 12 years. As a parent of four children, each attending different schools within the Gilroy Unified School District, I am deeply connected to the community and invested in its growth and well-being. As a lifelong advocate for youth development and inclusivity, I am honored to apply for the opportunity to serve on the Parks and Recreation Commission. Growing up as a Latino in a community where access to organized sports was limited, I experienced firsthand the barriers that many underserved families face. This perspective has fueled my passion for creating equitable opportunities for all children and ensuring that no one is excluded from the benefits of recreational programs.					
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:					
President, Gavilan United F.C. (June 2024 – Present) Founded and manage a nonprofit soccer club dedicated to providing affordable, accessible opportunities for youth to engage in sports. Assisted in organizing recreational activities and outreach programs for local youth, fostering inclusivity and community engagement at Miller Park, Christmas Hill Park and Gilroy Sports Complex.					
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?					
My primary goal is to ensure that Gilroy's parks and recreational programs are accessible, inclusive, and reflective of the diverse needs of our community. As someone who grew up without access to organized sports and has since worked to create equitable opportunities for underserved youth, I am deeply committed to breaking down barriers to participation and fostering a sense of belonging for all residents.					
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?					

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I believe I am uniquely qualified to serve on the Parks and Recreation Commission because of my lived experience, leadership background, and unwavering commitment to creating equitable opportunities for all members of our community.

✓	By clicking on this box, I declare under penalty of perjury that I am currently a registered voter within the City limits of the City of Gilroy. Furthermore, I understand that this application and any attachments are subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act and must complete mandatory Open Government Ordinance Training. I further understand that members of the Planning Commission, Building Boards of Appeals, and Physically Challenged Board of Appeals are also subject to filing the Fair Political Practice Commission's Statement of Economic Interest Form 700 relating to financial disclosures.
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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Parks and Recreation Commission			
Name: Michael Vizzusi					
Phone number(s):		[REDACTED]		email address*: [REDACTED]	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?				Yes	
Physical Address*:		[REDACTED]			
Driver's License or ID No.:		[REDACTED]		Date of Birth*: 1977-11-14	Last 4 of SSN: [REDACTED]
List your qualifications for this appointment:					
I have been a resident of Gilroy for 13 years and have a community member of the city since 2003. As a resident of Gilroy, I value recreational activities in the community and youth recreation. I will bring a unique perspective to the commission as an educator, community member, and youth recreation advocate. Currently I have children that participate in various City of Gilroy recreational activities.					
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:					
Over the years I have actively participated in many Gilroy community events including the Garlic Festival and Gilroy Unified School District.					
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?					
My goals while serving on the Commission would be to strengthen the youth recreational activities and support the city-wide parks and spaces.					
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?					
As I mentioned being a City of Gilroy community member for over 20+ years I bring a perspective to the commission that would provide sound guidance and advice on strengthening youth recreational activities. I am also strong supporter of community parks and spaces within our city. I look forward to being involved in the providing the best recreational activities and parks in the Santa Clara County.					

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Personnel Commission			
Name: Linda Allen					
Phone number(s):				email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?				Yes	
Physical Address*:					
Driver's License or ID No.:				Date of Birth*:	1963-09-28
				Last 4 of SSN:	
List your qualifications for this appointment:					
Served as 1st VP CSEA for several years, familiar with policies procedures, job descriptions, review of job descriptions, union contracts, negotiations, union representations, worked with HR, and more					
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:					
None in Gilroy have only lived here for a year. Past experiences in San Mateo served on child care boards, state committees for all classified staff around the state, advocacy at the state level, 4City board (youth sports)					
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?					
Best serve the community as a whole in any and all ways possible.					
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?					
Experience working with employment challenges : policy and procedures, negotiations, union contracts, advocacy, work with HR, served on EEOC committee, ability to mediate, open-minded, and more Served as 1st VP and 2nd VP for CSEA for 5-plus years.					
School: / Grade: null					

☒	By clicking on this box, I declare under penalty of perjury that I am currently a registered voter within the City limits of the City of Gilroy. Furthermore, I
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understand that this application and any attachments are subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act and must complete mandatory Open Government Ordinance Training. I further understand that members of the Planning Commission, Building Boards of Appeals, and Physically Challenged Board of Appeals are also subject to filing the Fair Political Practice Commission's Statement of Economic Interest Form 700 relating to financial disclosures.



City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Personnel Commission			
Name: Catherine Cummins					
Phone number(s):		[REDACTED]		email address*: [REDACTED]	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?				Yes	
Physical Address*:		[REDACTED]			
Driver's License or ID No.:		[REDACTED]		Date of Birth*: 1988-03-17	Last 4 of SSN: [REDACTED]
List your qualifications for this appointment: Hiring manager for another public agency.					
List any service to the community including any prior appointments: Has sat on the personnel commission since 2018.					
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee? To continue to support the city and attract committed well-qualified candidates to vacant city positions.					
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee? My job experience and prior commission experience.					
School: / Grade: null					

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	Appeals are also subject to filing the Fair Political Practice Commission's Statement of Economic Interest Form 700 relating to financial disclosures.
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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Personnel Commission			
Name: Norma Hingle Flores					
Phone number(s):		[REDACTED]		email address*: [REDACTED]	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?				Yes	
Physical Address*:		[REDACTED]			
Driver's License or ID No.:		[REDACTED]		Date of Birth*: 1977-01-17	Last 4 of SSN: [REDACTED]
List your qualifications for this appointment: 15+ years of experience in HR focusing on Compensation					
List any service to the community including any prior appointments: N/a					
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee? Support the community.					
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee? I have been working in HR for over 15 years and dedicating my career to streamlining processes and designing compensation. The Personnel Commission is right up my alley. I will be able to keep doing what I love and contribute more meaningfully to the city and the community.					
School: / Grade: null					

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Personnel Commission	
Name: Ann Marie McCauley			
Phone number(s):		email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?		Yes	
Physical Address*:			
Driver's License or ID No.:		Date of Birth*:	1971-08-04
		Last 4 of SSN:	
List your qualifications for this appointment:			
As a remodeling business owner I rely on many people to achieve the final product. This requires matching projects with labor skill sets, labor cost measured by results and most importantly personalities that work well together. I have paid close attention to the workings of Gilroy by attending council meetings and watching commission meetings including Personnel commission meetings. I understand the differences and similarities with private sector personnel goals and city personnel. I do believe that measured results are important in both instances as well as having a complete qualified staff to help achieve results.			
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:			
South County Representative for Mothers Against Drug Addiction and Deaths, Board of YMCA, Night Rotary, active participant in Ofrenda Festival, One Bright Night, House of Toys, Carry the Vision LEAB, and supporter of Community Solutions, Rebekah Children's services, Pit Stop Outreach and Compassion Center.			
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?			
I would like to have a more involved roll in our city and better understand how it operates. I would like to help our commissions reach quorum and serve my community. The new Gilroy leadership has a vision of collaboration that I would like to be part of. I understand that this requires discretion on social media and intend to respect this if appointed.			
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?			
I am qualified because of my personal business experience, management experience as a technical director for theater and productions and an understanding of our staffing challenges based on the city council meetings.			

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Physically Challenged Board of Appeals	
Name: Marco Machado			
Phone number(s):		email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?		Yes	
Physical Address*:			
Driver's License or ID No.:		Date of Birth*:	2024-06-19
		Last 4 of SSN:	
List your qualifications for this appointment:			
I am paraplegic.			
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:			
Have served committee before			
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?			
To improve accessibility to people with disabilities			
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?			
Because I know how it feels to not have access to things because of a disability			

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Planning Commission	
Name: PATRICIA BENTSON			
Phone number(s):		email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits? Yes			
Physical Address*:			
Driver's License or ID No.:		Date of Birth*: 1954-07-25	Last 4 of SSN:
List your qualifications for this appointment:			
I have previously served in the capacity of a commissioner (see next section for past appointments), and also as a City of Gilroy employee from 9/1990 to 8/2009. I was employed in the Planning Department as the Department Secretary. Thanks to my tenure on the Planning Commission, I was familiar with General Plan, Zoning Code, and development application process. I provided customer service with developers, citizens, City departments, consultants, supervision of support staff and I provided staff support to the Planning Commission. I compiled the monthly Planning Commission packet and made all legal postings of meeting notifications to meet Brown Act regulations. I recorded meetings and took official minutes for the Planning Commission meetings and followed up on recommended resolutions for the City Attorney and City Clerk. I also served as Deputy City Clerk, recorded meetings and took official City Council minutes during the absence of the City Clerk. During my tenure the Planning Department was consolidated with Building and Engineering and officially became the Community Development Department. I took on more responsibilities, more staff supervision, additional responsibilities for operations and capital budgets, consultant monitoring and accounts payable while still covering Planning Commission and City Council meetings as required. In 2004 I was promoted to Financial Analyst for the Community Development Department, which was in the Management sector. Duties included supervision of all department office assistant support staff, detailed budgeting for operations, capital budget forecasting and materials costing, buildout forecasting, impact fee calculation and forecasting, I worked directly under Development Department Director and the City Engineer. I held this position until my retirement in August, 2009. Since I have been a Planning Commissioner already, I'm familiar with the duties, responsibilities, and commitment required such as significant reading of the meeting packet and reports involved, as well as knowledge of the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance.			
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:			

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I have previously held positions on the following City of Gilroy commissions: Parks & Recreation Commission 1985-1986 (2 years); and again from 1/2017-12/2024 (terming out after 8 years). I served as Chair twice during my terms. Planning Commission 1/1987-9/1990 (2 years 9 months) when I resigned due to being hired by the City of Gilroy in the Planning Department. Served as the Parks & Recreation Commission representative to the 2040 General Plan Committee. Attended meetings with City's consultants, city staff, city council representatives, and other commissioners/citizen at-large representatives. This was a multi-year project as the 2040 General Plan Committee had to be reformed after a measure regarding the "660" limitation passed at the polls. I learned a great deal of information about the General Plan and the "coming to consensus process".

What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?

The City is updating its Zoning Code in the near future as a result of the approval of the 2040 General Plan. This is a very important project and one that will involve the Planning Commission to work Directly with the Community Development Director. We will need to ensure that the Zoning Code is compliant with local codes and the General Plan document, prior to final recommendation to the City Council for adoption. This goal/project will likely be a work plan project for the Planning Commission. I look forward to working on this project as it should be a worthy learning experience. Since the dissolution of the former Bicycle Pedestrian Commission and split of its former duties to the Planning Commission (budgeting and capital projects) and also to the Parks & Recreation Commission (education portion under VTA budget), it is one of my goals to become involved with the budgeting and capital projects affecting the trails, bicycle and pedestrian components. In addition, it is a goal of mine to have the opportunity to work with staff, as the Planning Commission is the recommending body, to getting our many of the City's aging master plans budgeted and updated so that they are current. I am also looking forward to being involved in the development process again and learning more about the challenges that have come down from the State level that affect Gilroy on housing projects, as well as future development projects that will enable economic growth for Gilroy and job opportunities for our citizens. As the City continues to grow there are opportunities that could have significant changes on our city limits, LAFCO/USA applications, and our infrastructure.

Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?

I believe my prior experience as a Planning Commissioner, with over 19 years of City of Gilroy employment experience in the Planning, Community Development and Engineering sections as detailed above, familiarization with the Zoning Ordinance, General Plan, development process, and interaction with related City staff and administration, and over ten years of experience on the Parks and Recreation Commission, makes me uniquely qualified to serve on the Planning Commission. I continue to try and make a difference in my community by volunteering on City commissions and being a member of several non-profit organizations.

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Planning Commission			
Name: BRIAN DAUENHAUER					
Phone number(s):				email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?				Yes	
Physical Address*:					
Driver's License or ID No.:				Date of Birth*:	1965-08-31
				Last 4 of SSN:	
List your qualifications for this appointment:					
1. I have been a resident of Gilroy for 50 years and am familiar with the way our city has grown. 2. I have the ability to communicate with a diverse group of stakeholders, including city officials, community members, and developers. 3. I have the ability to analyze complex data, make informed decisions and think critically about the long-term impact of planning decisions. 4. I am a team player, I have the ability to listen to different perspectives, negotiate compromises and build consensus. 5. I have a commitment to acting in the best interest of the community and upholding the ethical standards of the city.					
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:					
Past Visitors Bureau BOD, Past Chair / BOD Santa Clara Winegrowers Association, Past BOD California Wine Institute. Past Chair / BOD Gilroy Downtown Business association, Current BOD Evening Rotary, Current BOD Mt Madona YMCA.					
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?					
My top goals would be to ensure that development meets the needs of the current community, while balancing the needs of the future generations. Provide exceptional customer engagement with residents, businesses and other stakeholders. Provide a balanced viewpoint to the decision-making process.					
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?					
I have a strong tie to the community with experience working with a diverse group of people. I believe that I can bring a balanced approach to meeting the needs of the public and ensuring we stay within the guild lines of the General Plan.					

School: / Grade: null

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Planning Commission	
Name: Anselmo Guevara			
Phone number(s):		email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits? Yes			
Physical Address*:			
Driver's License or ID No.:		Date of Birth*: 1965-08-19	Last 4 of SSN:
List your qualifications for this appointment:			
Education Masters of Business Administration Bachelors of Science in Accounting Professional Experience 26 years of professional experience working for a Big Four accounting firm, and four hi-tech companies in Silicon Valley in the roles of consultant, auditor and risk management. I spent my last eleven years as a director of ethics & compliance. Residency I have resided in Gilroy for the last 29 years, and in Santa Clara County for the last 36 years.			
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:			
In the past, I have participated in community service through my employers. For example in 2023, I and a team built nine children playhouses through Habitat For Humanity; Habitat For Humanity in turn donated the playhouses to nine elementary schools in the San Francisco Bay Area. Other community involvement includes volunteering with Family Giving Tree, (Guadalupe River) Heritage Rose Garden, LifeMoves, and the various K-12 schools my children have attended in Gilroy.			
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?			
My goal is to help improve and have a greater role in the Gilroy community by volunteering my time and providing input on issues pertaining to Gilroy, the community where my family and I have lived for the last 24 years.			
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?			
1. As a professional consultant and employee, I evaluated issues in a span of 26 years for many organizations (both client organizations and employers) and provided input and/or recommendations to make something better. I'd like to share my expertise and have no doubt that I have the professional maturity to serve as a Commissioner of the City of Gilroy. 27W62King			

for global hi-tech organizations allowed me to work with different ethnic groups in other countries and appreciate other cultures outside the United States. In the last several years, more ethnic groups have made Gilroy their home. It's been many years since I started appreciating other cultures, embracing diversity and breaking down stereotypes to become a responsible citizen and better person. 3. Other: No conflicts of interest Clean legal record or the ability to pass a background check if needed.

School: / Grade: null

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

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Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Planning Commission			
Name: ALEX LARSON					
Phone number(s):				email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?				Yes	
Physical Address*:					
Driver's License or ID No.:				Date of Birth*:	1961-07-30
				Last 4 of SSN:	
List your qualifications for this appointment:					
ALEXLARSON.COM - Alex's Life Story Alex Larson is a highly accomplished business leader with a 40-year track record of success, known for his persistence, dedication, and commitment to getting things done. A proud fourth-generation Gilroyan, Alex has deep roots in our community. His mother, Sandra Balanesi Larson, was a junior high school teacher in Gilroy, driven by her belief in making a meaningful impact on young lives. His father, Charles A Larson, was a Union Organizer for the United Brick and Clay workers, later transitioning to various roles, including a local car salesman. His twin Aunts were trailblazers, breaking the glass ceiling for women by working their way up to vice president auditor positions at a national bank, after helping to establish several local banks that were later sold for investor profit. Alex's other Aunt became one of the few women in management in the automobile dealership business. Alex and his brother, Charlie, grew up on Carla Way, just west of Las Animas Park which they helped to develop into the park it is today. Alex now lives just south of the park, off of Welburn Avenue. Alex's leadership skills, strategic vision, and experience have made him a driving force in every project he undertakes. His long-standing involvement in the 4-H Youth Program, both as a participant and an adult leader, has instilled in him a deep sense of community service and ethical responsibility. As a seasoned businessman, Alex understands the importance of ensuring that ethical practices are at the forefront of every decision in the educational setting as well as in business and personal relations. His ability to navigate complex business situations and work with governmental agencies at the federal, state, county and local levels have resulted in successful practical solutions. Alex served as an integral part of the Gilroy Garlic Festival for over 40 years, as a volunteer and vendor. At the very first Garlic Festival in 1979, he co-chaired the Garlic Rosemary Fries booth alongside Joyce Patereau and Sandra Larson, raising funds for Bonanza Days, which featured one of the largest parades in California, a Queens contest, Jr. King and Jr. Queen events, and numerous other activities supporting charity and community fun. Alex's selfless commitment to ethical practices in business, education, and personal relationships sets him apart as a trusted and valued leader in Gilroy. OPERATION FREEDOM					

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PAWS Alex Larson embodies compassion and dedication, as demonstrated by his incredible efforts to support Operation Freedom Paws. This organization plays a vital role in empowering veterans and individuals with disabilities to lead fulfilling lives. Through the healing bond of service dogs, Operation Freedom Paws transforms lives, offering hope and support to veterans, first responders, children, and those grappling with complex trauma, disabilities, and illnesses. Recently, Alex's commitment shone brightly when he raised an impressive \$12,000 at an auction event in Gilroy, helping to further the mission of this life-saving LOCAL organization, in addition to generous annual donations for Mary Cortanis CNN Heroes Award Organization. **ALEX** spreading joy as **SANTA CLAUS!** Alex Larson is a dedicated volunteer who embodies the true spirit of giving year-round. Together with his brother, he generously donates to numerous local charities, contributing gift baskets as well as his time and talents. As Santa Claus, Alex has brought joy and smiles to countless children and families through organizations like Make-A-Wish, including appearances at the renowned Pusateri Christmas House, which has raised over \$3 million for children in need. He also lends his Santa skills to local charities and schools, brightening the holidays for those seeking a jolly presence. With his twinkling eyes, infectious laugh, and heart full of kindness, Alex creates magical moments that families treasure for a lifetime. His performances not only bring Santa to life but also foster hope and happiness in the hearts of those in need. By spreading joy through his volunteer work, Alex helps make the world a little brighter—one visit at a time. Join him in his mission to bring smiles, warmth, and holiday cheer to all!

RAPAZZINI WINERY EST. 1962 Rapazzini Winery embodies the essence of Gilroy's rich heritage—wine, garlic, and deep family ties. The Balanesi Larson brothers, fourth-generation Gilroyans, have been crafting wine with their family since childhood, continuing a proud Italian tradition. Alex and his brother Charlie extend warm, welcoming hospitality in the winery's stunning three-story, open-beamed Tasting Room, making every visit an enjoyable and memorable experience. Alex, a professionally trained chef, graduated at the top of his class in 1982 from The California Culinary Academy after attending Gavilan College. He went on to successfully own and operate a four-star ristorante and bar for nearly nine years, earning a prestigious Wine Spectator Award of Excellence for his wine selection and service. Now, as a winemaker, Alex channels his culinary expertise into creating exceptional, well-aged red wines, using predominantly Santa Clara Valley grapes. Rapazzini Winery proudly offers vintages from 2018, 2013, and 2007, featuring rare Italian and French Bordeaux varietals, including a Bordeaux blend and the renowned "Rockin' Rott Red," with its iconic Rottweiler label. The winery also offers crisp whites, along with almond, raspberry, and peach champagnes. After closing to the public in 2020 following the passing of their 78-year-old aunt, Rapazzini Winery reopened on February 19, 2024. The closure was a protective measure for the health of their surviving aunt, now 82, and their guests, as there was no safe way to enjoy wine tastings while wearing masks. The family prioritized safety and well-being above all else, reflecting their deep care for both their loved ones and their community.

THE GARLIC SHOPPE since 1985 Chef Alex and his brother, Charlie Larson, have proudly owned and operated The Garlic Shoppe in Gilroy for 25 of its 39 years. The Garlic Shoppe is a wonderland of all things garlicky, offering an impressive array of products that celebrate Gilroy's world-famous garlic, grown locally and shipped across the globe. Since 1997, their website, GarlicShoppe.com, has brought the taste of Gilroy to the world, after starting the first garlic store in the world in 1985. Chef Alex, known for his culinary expertise from Grandma, Mom, 4-H National Winner and the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco has created over 40 unique food items, sauces, and seasonings under popular brands like Mama Raps, Garlic Dude, The Garlic Shoppe, and their fiery **PSYCHO** line. **PSYCHO** products include hot sauce, medium salsa, and roasted garlic and habanero mustard—each bursting with bold garlic flavor. These products are available wholesale to other retailers and their iconic shoppe. Over the years, the brothers have operated up to 22 Garlic Shoppes in malls around the Bay Area during the holidays, bringing the flavor of Gilroy to even more customers. Having weathered the dot-com bust of 2000, the financial crash of 2008, the 2009-2012 real estate collapse, and the subsequent climb back to stability. Alex and Charlie have shown remarkable resilience and have survived and even thrived due to their hard work and experience. The COVID-19 pandemic brought unprecedented challenges, forcing them to close their businesses for months due to stringent Health Department regulations in Santa Clara County—especially concerning, given Gilroy's position as a major crossroads for travel.

Through it all, Chef Alex and Charlie, who manages GarlicShoppe.com, have learned to navigate difficult times, save during the good times, grow when its possible by good marketing and make the financials work. They continue to market Gilroy and its famous garlic to the world, ensuring that the iconic Garlic Shoppe remains a destination recognized by people everywhere. Ask a friend, and they've likely heard of or know the exact location of this beloved Gilroy landmark.

List any service to the community including any prior appointments:

40 years Garlic Festival Volunteer and vendor, first Gilroy Visitors Bureau President,

What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?

To expedite, streamline, and help to maintain Gilroy's growth in a common sense, pragmatic way.

Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?

My more than 40 years of Business in Gilroy and Property ownership have afforded me an insiders view of the workings of our City government. I want the best for the future of our children and grandchildren. The decisions being made now are going to determine the path for the future hundred years. Let do this right.

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

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Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Planning Commission	
Name: Eva Lurker			
Phone number(s):		email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits? Yes			
Physical Address*:			
Driver's License or ID No.:		Date of Birth*: 1990-12-22	Last 4 of SSN:
List your qualifications for this appointment: I have over a decade of experience in Human Resources, currently working at the large tech company, HPE. I've spent many years volunteering through both my sorority and local non profits like the Junior League of San Jose where I've also served on the Board. I am passionate about community and the betterment for all.			
List any service to the community including any prior appointments: In recent years I've spent my time volunteering through the Junior League where our focus has been on foster youth. We've partnered with organizations like the Bill Wilson Center and CASA.			
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee? To feel a part of my local community and focus on the betterment for all. I love our town and want to not only be involved and invested, but to continue to see our community thrive.			
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee? I'm a mother of two young children who is passionate about the community I'm raising my family in. I have experience in business as well as community work and I'm driven to do what's best for those we impact.			
School: / Grade: null			

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understand that this application and any attachments are subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act and must complete mandatory Open Government Ordinance Training. I further understand that members of the Planning Commission, Building Boards of Appeals, and Physically Challenged Board of Appeals are also subject to filing the Fair Political Practice Commission's Statement of Economic Interest Form 700 relating to financial disclosures.



City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Planning Commission			
Name: Stefanie Okada-McCabe					
Phone number(s):				email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?				Yes	
Physical Address*:					
Driver's License or ID No.:				Date of Birth*:	1983-04-30
				Last 4 of SSN:	
List your qualifications for this appointment:					
As a passionate designer with a deep-rooted connection to Gilroy, I believe I possess the unique skills and perspective to contribute meaningfully to the city's Planning Commission. My years of experience in urban planning and design have equipped me with a keen eye for detail, a strong understanding of zoning regulations, and a commitment to creating sustainable, aesthetically pleasing, and functional communities.					
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:					
Previously served on the building board of Appeals and the Physically Challenged Board. I am a member of the chamber and born and raised in Gilroy.					
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?					
1. Preserving Gilroy's Character: * Protecting historic districts and landmarks. * Supporting local businesses and economic development. * Enhancing public spaces and community amenities. 2. Promoting Sustainable Growth: * Encouraging smart development practices that minimize environmental impact. * Promoting affordable housing options for all residents. * Implementing climate-friendly policies and practices. 3. Fostering Community Engagement: * Ensuring transparent and inclusive decision-making processes. * Actively seeking input from residents and stakeholders. * Educating the public about planning issues and encouraging participation.					
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?					
As a lifelong Gilroy resident and passionate designer, I bring a unique perspective and skill set to the Planning Commission. My deep-rooted connection to our community, coupled with my expertise in design and urban planning, makes me uniquely qualified to contribute to shaping Gilroy's future. Local Knowledge and Passion: * As a native Gilroyan, I have a profound					

understanding of our city's history, culture, and challenges. * My personal experiences as a resident have shaped my vision for a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable Gilroy. Design Expertise: * My design background allows me to envision innovative solutions to complex planning challenges. * I have a keen eye for aesthetics and functionality, ensuring that our city's development is both beautiful and practical. Community-Centric Approach: * I believe in the power of collaborative decision-making and actively seek input from diverse community members. * I am committed to creating spaces that foster a strong sense of community and enhance our quality of life. Sustainable Future: * I am passionate about sustainable development and believe that we can create a thriving city while protecting our environment. * I will advocate for policies that promote energy efficiency, reduce waste, and preserve our natural resources. By combining my local knowledge, design expertise, and community-centric approach, I am confident in my ability to make a significant contribution to the Planning Commission and help shape a brighter future for Gilroy.

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Youth Commission	
Name: Sean Ethan Diep			
Phone number(s):		email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits? No			
Physical Address*:			
Driver's License or ID No.:	N/A	Date of Birth*:	Last 4 of SSN:
List your qualifications for this appointment:			
I was a 7th grader in middle school when we just got off from the COVID Pandemic lockdown. We were back to in-person learning, and I ran and became the Vice-President of Gilroy Prep School's student council for the school year 2021-22. The following school year, I ran and became elected again to the council as President. Taking on these important roles helped me learn a lot about respect and responsibility, and taking the initiative towards pursuing projects, collaborating with others, and serving my community. I have continued to use these skills and uphold these values by currently serving on the Gilroy Foundation Youth Board and the Gilroy Library Teen Advisory Board. As an active member of the Asian Student Union at GECA, I am passionate about promoting, sharing, and learning more about AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander). I would love for the City of Gilroy to hold AAPI events to celebrate our rich culture and heritage. 2024-25, Board Member, Gilroy Foundation Youth Board 2024-25 Board Member, Gilroy Library Teen Advisory Board 2023-Present, Member, GECA Asian Student Union 2022-23, President, Gilroy Prep School ASB 2021-22, Vice-President, Gilroy Prep School ASB			
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:			
I care deeply about our City and am very dedicated to serving the community I live in and have been volunteering extensively at various nonprofits and agencies not just here in the City of Gilroy, but also around Santa Clara County. This past year-and-a-half alone, I logged over 200 hours of volunteer work. I am proud to contribute in my own way to the betterment of our little City. Before the pandemic, I, together with my younger brother, performed on the piano and violin, and displayed our art work at Merrill Gardens, a local senior community. Every year my violin class also volunteers to spread holiday cheer at Valley Pines Senior Community in Morgan Hill. We are happy to volunteer our time and talents to entertain our local seniors. 2024-present, Youth Board Member, Gilroy Foundation (Illuminate the Night, Youth Board Events, etc) 2024-present, Teen Advisory Board Member, Gilroy Library (Teen Advisory Board Events, etc) 2023-			

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present, Regular Volunteer, City of Gilroy (Monthly City-wide Clean-up, Coastal Clean-up, Party in the Park, National Night Out, Breakfast with Santa, Adaptive Dance, etc) 2023-present, Regular Volunteer, Gilroy Center for the Arts (Art Walk, Artist Video Series, Easter Egg Hunt, Artist Reception, etc) 2023-present, Regular Volunteer, Downtown Business Association (Gilroy Rodeo, La Ofrenda Festival, Beer Crawl, etc) 2023-present, Regular Volunteer, St. Catherine's Parish Church (Reach Out Pantry, Reach Out Closet, etc) 2023-present, Regular Volunteer, Gilroy Prep School (Percussion Band, Middle School Dances, Book Fair, Library, etc) July 2024, Volunteer, Sacred Heart (Pack-a-Bag) April 2024, Volunteer, Gavilan College (Science Alive) June 2023, Volunteer, Gilroy Gardens (Nature Program)

What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?

As a Filipino-Vietnamese-Chinese American, I am passionate about spreading awareness about AAPI culture and heritage in the City of Gilroy. I would love to help the City promote AAPI culture through events and celebrations. I am sure the City of Gilroy will enjoy festivals celebrating rich AAPI cultures. I would live for Gilroy residents to enjoy delicious AAPI food and vibrant dances and events!

Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?

I am the optimal candidate to serve on the City of Gilroy Youth Commission because I am passionate about serving our City through various projects geared towards the promotion of AAPI culture and awareness. As a Gilroy citizen, I am dedicated to serving the Gilroy community through numerous volunteer work. Moreover, not only do I possess extensive leadership experience but also collaborative, organizational, and time management skills. I believe I will be able to contribute greatly to the betterment of our City by sharing my talents, knowledge, and experiences.

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Youth Commission			
Name:					
LOLITA HARDWICKE					
Phone number(s):				email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?				No	
Physical Address*:					
Driver's License or ID No.:				Date of Birth*:	2009-03-18
				Last 4 of SSN:	
List your qualifications for this appointment:					
As a 15-year-old passionate about contributing to my community, I believe I bring a unique perspective to the Youth Commission. At 14, I published my first fiction book, Red Watson and The Gifted Land, which is over 100 pages long. This accomplishment not only reflects my creativity and determination but has also inspired my peers, teachers, and community members to pursue their passions. I am deeply committed to engaging with and empowering young people. I can relate to the challenges and aspirations of today's youth and aim to inspire them to pursue meaningful and impactful endeavors. Joining the Youth Commission, which meets every second Monday of the month, aligns perfectly with my dedication to making a difference. Through this role, I hope to collaborate with like-minded individuals, share fresh ideas, and represent the voices of young people in a way that encourages positive change in our community.					
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:					
I have been involved in various community activities over the years. I was a member of the Teen Advisory Board at the Gilroy Library, where I contributed to youth-oriented initiatives. I also supported a friend during a panic attack, using skills I gained from studying psychology classes to better understand myself and help others facing similar challenges. Additionally, I participated in the STAR Arts Education program, initially as a performer. Last summer, I took on a different role by assisting the production team, which served as a valuable leadership experience. I have also volunteered at the Garlic Festival, supported activities at Gilroy Preparatory School, and contributed to the GPS Food Bank. These experiences have helped me grow personally and give back to my community.					
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?					

My goal while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee is to contribute to the community especially the youth by supporting initiatives that create a meaningful impact. I aim to use my skills and experiences to collaborate with others in fostering positive change and addressing the needs of those we serve. I also aspire to grow personally and professionally by learning from the perspectives of fellow members and the community. Together, I believe we can build a stronger, more connected, and inclusive environment for everyone.

Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?

I believe I am well-suited to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee because of my genuine passion for making a positive impact in the community and my willingness to collaborate and learn from others. My background and experiences have given me a unique perspective and the skills to contribute meaningfully to our shared goals. I am committed to listening, understanding diverse viewpoints, and working with the team to create thoughtful solutions that benefit everyone. While I know there is always more to learn, I am confident that my dedication and eagerness to serve will allow me to support the mission of this group effectively.

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Youth Commission	
Name: Lysandra Jaimes			
Phone number(s):		email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits? Yes			
Physical Address*:			
Driver's License or ID No.:	N/A	Date of Birth*:	
		Last 4 of SSN:	N/A
List your qualifications for this appointment:			
I am a leadership student, play on the school varsity girls soccer team, currently employed at In-N-Out Burger, and have keep up with all As and Bs grades.			
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:			
During summer I volunteered at a youth soccer club, my position would be to coach kids who could not afford paying a club fee. I also have 50+ community service hours at the moment.			
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?			
My main goals are to experience working with the city, meeting new people, and all of the opportunities that come with working with the city.			
Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?			
I am most qualified to work on the Commission due to my characteristic to work well with people. Working at In-N-Out requires great interactions with people, this allows me to have great charisma and work well with others.			

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Youth Commission			
Name: Zara Owens					
Phone number(s):				email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits?				No	
Physical Address*:					
Driver's License or ID No.:		N/A		Date of Birth*:	
				Last 4 of SSN:	N/A
List your qualifications for this appointment:					
I am currently in ASB, as a commissioner of Awareness, where I've been able to develop leadership skills and put on Multicultural Week at Christopher High School. I am founder and president of Key Club at my school, where I've been able to become more open and provide hours for almost 40 people at our most recent meeting. I also am academically on track and am organized and dedicated. I also will be attending a 2 week National Student Leadership Conference Architecture program, at Georgetown University. This is one of my biggest accomplishments, as I've always wanted to be an architect. I've also gained leadership experience recently this summer attending California Association of Student Leaders (CADA CASL) at UC Santa Barbara. I also serve as the Fundraiser Head for Black Student Union (BSU) at my school, and have been involved with the club for 3 years now.					
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:					
I am currently a tutor at a non-profit organization, Ciel. There, I am able to work with kids of all ages, grades, and personalities. I've learned so much since I started tutoring there during the summer. I've learned to be patient, inviting, and optimistic. Teaching children is one of the most rewarding and impactful things I've done. I love when they leave with a big smile and feeling of accomplishment, every time, it makes me feel so proud and accomplished. I always want to make sure that they feel proud of themselves and open to speak with me. One girl that I've tutored even drew me a flower and expressed how much she appreciates me, saying that she wants me to continue being her tutor. That statement was so heart warming and made me want to tutor even more, because I never realized how big of an impact I could have on young children.					
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?					

To be more involved with Gilroy and participate in community service events. I enjoy meeting new people and would definitely be looking forward to doing so, upon my acceptance. One goal would be to get more in touch with the environment and people in Gilroy. For example, I believe that downtown could be the most eye-capturing spot in Gilroy. I want to help people feel invited and excited to go walking downtown. If there's any way we can improve that area, I'd absolutely love to help with that.

Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?

As I've mentioned I have leadership experiences and I am willing to socialize and communicate on behalf of our community. I am organized and attentive as well. I am also very open to new ideas, people, and experiences, so I know that serving on this board would expand my overall knowledge and care for the community.

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City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

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Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:		Youth Commission	
Name: Thanmay Sarath			
Phone number(s):		email address*:	
Are you a registered voter within the City limits? No			
Physical Address*:			
Driver's License or ID No.:		Date of Birth*:	Last 4 of SSN:
List your qualifications for this appointment:			
•Started a Cyber Security Business, and helped small businesses to secure their digital presence. •Worked with The Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and identified and remediated security flaws in over 200 government systems. •Started Vets & Tech, to help veterans with technology. •Volunteered at Merrill Gardens to help elderly with technology. •Volunteered at the Veteran Affairs Clinic in Monterey. •Currently in Youth Commission from 2023-2024. •Won EC2 Community Fund and started The Recycle Reward Program in the City of Gilroy and saved 3000 milk jugs from getting in the landfill. •Started LidLoop program in Gilroy to recycle coffee lids and create Christmas toys. •Level One Archery Coach for USA Archery			
List any service to the community including any prior appointments:			
•Started a Cyber Security Business, and helped small businesses to secure their digital presence. •Worked with The Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and identified and remediated security flaws in over 200 government systems. •Started Vets & Tech, to help veterans with technology. •Volunteered at Merrill Gardens to help elderly with technology. •Volunteered at the Veteran Affairs Clinic in Monterey. •Currently in Youth Commission from 2023-2024. •Won EC2 Community Fund and started The Recycle Reward Program in the City of Gilroy and saved 3000 milk jugs from getting in the landfill. •Started LidLoop program in Gilroy to recycle coffee lids and create Christmas toys. •Level One Archery Coach for USA Archery			
What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?			
My goals whilst serving this commission are for Youth Empowerment: to advocate for initiatives for the youth of Gilroy with opportunities to develop leadership skills, access mentorship, and			

participate in civic engagement. **Community Partnership:** to strengthen collaborations between the city, local businesses, and nonprofit organizations to create impactful programs. Lastly, **Job Creation:** through the CalWORKs Program, to focus on connecting youth with job opportunities and training resources.

Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?

With extensive experience in leadership, community service, and environmental and technological advocacy, I am qualified for a position to serve on this commission. As the Youth Commissioner for 2023-2024, I have experience representing youth interests and encouraging civic engagement. My achievements include: Founded a cybersecurity company and partnered with federal agencies to strengthen digital security for more than 200 government systems. Founding community programs like Vets & Tech, helping veterans with technology, and providing service hours at Merrill Gardens and the VA Clinic in Monterey. I have started several environment-linked projects, such as the Recycle Reward Program and LidLoop Program, and has contributed much toward sustainability in Gilroy. Being a Level One Archery Coach certified with USA Archery, demonstrating leadership and mentorship capability. My goals of youth empowerment, community partnerships, and job creation go in line with my proven ability to implement impactful programs and promote meaningful change. This diverse experience equips me to contribute valuably to the commission.

School: Monte Vista Christian School / Grade: 10th

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