



City of Seattle  
Council Position No. 8  
Applicant Summary

Applicant Name: Christiana ObeySumner

Yes/No	Description: The following provides a summary of relevant experience, as provided by applicant in his/her application materials submitted on or before October 1, 2017.
N	Does applicant express an understanding of Seattle city government operations and legislative processes?
N	Does applicant identify experience or knowledge of public sector budget processes?
N	Does applicant identify any prior work or volunteer experience developing a budget for an organization (e.g. for-profit company, non-profit organization)?
Y	Has applicant demonstrated or articulated a commitment to race and social justice—particularly, in recognition of the diverse populations who work and/or reside within the City of Seattle?
Y	Has applicant demonstrated or articulated an understanding of public policy issues (such as homelessness, affordable housing, public health, law and justice, etc.)?
N	Did applicant indicate whether he/she previously served in a publicly elected office?
Y	Did applicant indicate whether he/she has served—past or present—on a Seattle-area board or commission?
Y	Did applicant indicate whether he/she has played a role in social advocacy?
N	Did applicant identify managerial or supervisor work experience?
Y	Is the applicant a current or former City of Seattle employee?
N	Did applicant identify any potential conflicts of interest on the financial interest statement?
Y	If references were included in the application package, did applicant sign and return the Reference Checking Consent and Authorization Form?
	<b>Comment(s):</b> Former work study student with SDHR – separated January 2014.

**HR USE ONLY**

Date of Review: 10/2/17

Reviewer Initials: KJ



# City of Seattle

## FINANCIAL INTEREST STATEMENT – CANDIDATES FOR COUNCIL POSITION 8

All City of Seattle officials and employees are subject to the provisions of Seattle Municipal Code (SMC), Chapter 4.16, (the "Ethics Code"). The purpose of the Ethics Code is to ensure that no public office is used for personal gain; and that the public have confidence in the integrity of its government. An individual with certain financial interests may be prohibited from participating in City business, as specified in the Ethics Code. Please see SMC 4.16.070, attached as [Exhibit A](#), for a list of prohibited conduct.

The City Council is interested in knowing whether you have any financial interests that could be an issue with your service on the Council. Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability. Answering "Yes" does not necessarily disqualify you from consideration:

1. Do you, or any member of your family, **receive compensation** from any person or entity that engaged in any transactions or activities with Seattle City government in the past five years?  **No**  **Yes**, please complete item 1 on page 2.
2. Do you, or any member of your family, have a **direct financial interest** in any person or entity that engaged in any transactions or activities with Seattle City government in the past five years?  **No**  **Yes**, please complete item 2 on page 2.
3. Have you, or any member of your family, served in the past five years as an officer, director, trustee, or employee of an entity that engaged in any transactions or activities with Seattle City government?  **No**  **Yes**, please complete item 3 on page 2.
4. After referencing SMC 4.16.070, do you have any other relationships, employment history or financial interests that you feel could be an issue with your service on the Council under the Ethics Code?  **No**  **Yes**, please complete item 4 on page 3.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the information provided on this page and on page 2 and on all attached sheets is true and correct and that I have made reasonable inquiry to determine the truth, accuracy, and completeness of my responses.

Signature: Chris Timby Soma

Date: 10.1.2017

Signed at Seattle, Washington  
*(City or other location must be filled in.)*

*Note:* If you are appointed to the City Council, you will be required to complete a "Personal Financial Affairs Statement" on a form provided by the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission (SEEC). Please see SEEC Form F1, attached as [Exhibit B](#)

**EXPLANATIONS FOR RESPONSES ON PAGE 1:** *(Use additional sheets if necessary. For assistance, please call the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission at 684-8500.)*

1. Please provide the name and address of each person or entity for which you answered Yes on page 1

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Please provide the name and address of each entity for which you answered Yes on page 1.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Please indicate (i) the name of the person holding the position (you or an immediate family member); (ii) the title of the office, directorship, trusteeship or employment held; and (iii) the name and address of the entity.

**Person holding the position:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Position held with entity:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Entity name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Entity address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Please describe the relationships, employment history or financial interests for which you answered YES on page 1.

# ChrisTiana ObeySumner

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October 1, 2017

## City of Seattle

Seattle City Council

RE: Councilmember Vacant Position

Dear Members of the City Council,

I have been a staunch advocate for social justice from New Jersey to Washington State. Across the Ohio Valley, I spoke publicly in support of increased access and funding for mental and behavioral health services to local and state legislatures. These opportunities contributed towards a scholarship to attend Seattle University in 2010.

Today, I continue my civic engagement as the Housing Chair within the Seattle Commission of People with disAbilities, and a member of the new Seattle Renters Commission. For most of the council, you've likely seen me advocating for these communities directly, most recently at the 25th ADA Anniversary Lunch and Learn on 7.23.15 as one of the first speakers of the program. I've also submitted two media coverage articles highlighting my work with this application. Additionally, I have worked as a social services professional in housing and homelessness services for the past five years, and have obtained my Masters of Nonprofit Leadership.

I realized within this past year that my passion leans more towards policy and legislative work than direct service. As I have told those closest to me, I will always love to help persons, but I am shifting my focus to serve people. I have begun a career shift into the government/legal sectors, starting with a transfer to the Masters of Public Administration program at Seattle University January 2018, and a possibility of enrollment into the J.D. program as a joint candidate January 2019.

I have fallen in love with this city; and through my work, I've had the honor of knowing hundreds, if not thousands of narratives that confirm the greatness that is Seattle. But there's much work to be done to ensure equity and justice for all Seattleites. Unfortunately, in the roles I've held, I've also empathized with folks whose narratives reveal gaps and systems failures where they've fallen through the cracks of the housing market, employment market, or justice system. But that's where the opportunity for excellence lies! Seattle has championed measures and established it's leadership as an American city that refuses to be nothing more than the forefront example of a safe, just, and accessible city for all who seek refuge here.

If selected for this position, I will serve Seattle as an advocate who seeks to empower the citizens of this great city by amplifying the voices of the multitudes who may be too close to the ground to be heard or seen. As an individual with both direct and professional experience navigating these systems, I seek appointment to the council to collaborate and strategize

on how these narratives can lead to measures that strengthen our infrastructure so there are no longer cracks through which members of our community can fall. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**ChrisTiana ObeySumner**

# CHRISTIANA OBEYSUMNER

## WORK EXPERIENCES

**Housing Navigator**, Harborview Medical Center, *2016-Present*

- Established stable housing for 80 low income, high barrier, chronically ill individuals experiencing homelessness within an 11 month period.

**Clinical Support Specialist**, Downtown Emergency Services Center: Canaday House, *2014-2016*

- Led two successful employee/community in-kind donation drives culminating as number one team in the organization. Championed Ethnic Hair Care Salon for Permanent Supportive Housing Residents.

**Resident Counselor**, Compass Housing Alliance: Nyer Urness House, *2013-2015*

- Assisted inaugural program manager with establishment and beginning operations of the property.

**Community Health Coordinator**, Full Life Care: Solstice Behavioral Health—WSC Americorps, *2013-2014*

- Established nearly a dozen community partnerships providing primary funding to cooking class for low-income, disabled adults; Volunteer Lead; Wellness studio manager.

**Archiving and Database Assistant**, Seattle Office of the City Clerk, *2011-2012*

- Supported Seattle City Clerk staff through preservation, filing, and archiving of legislative documents; maintaining city databases, and researching pertinent information for City Clerk.

## EDUCATION

**M. Ed., Clinical Mental Health Counselling** (*In process*), Seattle University, *2016-2019*

**Master of Non-Profit Leadership**, Seattle University, *2014-2016*

**B. Sc., Psychology**, Dept. Honors. Magna Cum Laude, Seattle University, *2010-2013*

**A.A., Journalism**, Jefferson County Community and Technical College, *2008-2010*

## PUBLIC OFFICE

**City Commissioner, 2<sup>nd</sup> term**, Seattle Commission for People with disAbilities, *2013-Present*

**Housing Committee Chair, 1<sup>st</sup> term**, Seattle Commission for People with disAbilities, *2015- Present*

**City Commissioner, 1st term**, Seattle Renters Commission, *2017-Present*

## CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**Executive Director/Founder**, Eleanor Elizabeth Institute for Black Empowerment, *2017-Present*

- Currently developing Ethnic Hair Care Bank for homeless Black women, and planning an Intersectional Provider Database

**Think Tank Member**, Seattle Housing and Livability Agenda, *2016-2017*

- City appointed position. Legislative review and analysis of current housing climate and next steps towards equitable housing affordability.

**Racial, Social, and Economic Justice Representative**, Seattle University Graduate Student Council, *2016-2017*

- Organizer and liaison for students with marginalized identities and intersectionalities to advocate for equity and accommodation on campus and in the Seattle metro area

**Co-President**, Seattle University Arts and Sciences Graduate Council, *2015-2016*

- Supervisor of the Director of Marketing and their department. Championed university-wide graduate survey for Arts and Sciences majors. Co-planned and executed "Get Connected: Networking Night."

**Community Organizer**, Peers.org, *2013-2015*

- Lead advocate in support of ridesharing services in Seattle metro area. Public speaking, including on-screen press interviews. Planned and organized demonstrations leading to ongoing support of over 4500 citizens.

**From:** [ChrisTiana Obey](#)  
**To:** [LEG\\_CouncilAppointmentApplications](#)  
**Subject:** Application for the Council Appointment  
**Date:** Sunday, October 01, 2017 11:44:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [Seattle City Council Reference Checking Consent and Authorization Form.pdf](#)  
[Financial Disclosure Form \(1\).pdf](#)  
[Cover Letter.pdf](#)  
[ObeySumner ChrisTiana Resume2018.pdf.pdf](#)

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Hello,

Please see enclosed my applications materials for Council Appointment.

**Attached**

Resume  
Cover Letter  
Financial Interest Statement  
Reference Authorization Form

**Written below**

List of References  
Three links to articles highlighting civic engagement.

**References**

Cindi Laws, Co-Chair of Seattle Commission for People with disAbilities, [REDACTED]

Alouise Urness, Community Organizer, Washington Low Income Housing Alliance, [REDACTED]

Angel Asuncion-Reed, Asst. Director, Center for Student Involvement and Leadership--Seattle University, [REDACTED]

**Examples of past work:**

**FrontPorch Feature Article on Renter's Commission Appointment:**

<http://frontporch.seattle.gov/2017/09/13/seattle-renters-commission-christiana-obeysumner/>

**Ridesharing Advocacy at Seattle City Council, Geekwire interview:**

<https://www.geekwire.com/2013/ridesharing-fans-petition-seattle-council-reconsider-proposed-regulations/>

**Narrative Advocacy at City of Seattle ADA 25th Anniversary Lunch and Learn, (Start at 9:50.)**

<http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos?videoid=x57223>

Warmest Regards,

ChrisTiana ObeySumner

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



# LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

Human Resources

## Reference Checking Consent and Authorization Form

### Disclosure

Please read the information on this form carefully and completely.

I have applied for appointment to the Seattle City Council and have provided information about my previous employment and professional references. I authorize the City of Seattle to obtain my academic records and conduct a reference check with my present and/or past employers, professional references, and additional references provided by my present and/or past employers or professional references. I understand that reference information may include, but not be limited to, verbal inquiries or information about my employment performance, professional demeanor, rehire potential, dates of employment, salary, and employment history.

My signature below authorizes my former or current employers and references to release information regarding my employment record with their organizations and to provide any additional information that may be necessary for my application for appointment to the City Council. I knowingly and voluntarily release the City of Seattle and any and all persons or entities providing a reference from any and all liability arising from release or receipt of information about my employment history, my academic credentials or qualifications, and my suitability for appointment to the City Council.

ChrisTiana ObeySumner

Name



Signature

10.1.2017

Date