



City of Seattle
Council District No. 4
Applicant Summary

Applicant Name: Luke Wigren

Yes/No	Description: The following provides a summary of relevant experience, as provided by applicant in his/her application materials submitted on or before April 5, 2019.
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? Does applicant identify any prior work or volunteer experience developing a budget for an organization (e.g. for-profit company, non-profit organization)?
N	Does applicant identify any previous planning, land use and zoning experience?
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?
N	Did applicant indicate whether he/she has served—past or present—on a Seattle-area board or commission?
N	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?
Y	Is the applicant a resident of District 4 for at least one-hundred twenty (120) days prior to the appointment, scheduled for April 22, 2019?
	Comment(s):

HR USE ONLY

1st Review Completed: 4/8/2019

2nd Review Completed: 4/7/2019

Reviewer Initials: JP

Reviewer Initials: PW



City of Seattle

FINANCIAL INTEREST STATEMENT AND ADDRESS VERIFICATION CANDIDATES FOR COUNCIL POSITION 4

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.

In order to be eligible for appointment to Council Position 4, you must be a resident of District 4 for at least 120 days (City Charter Article IV, Sec. 2; Article XIX). Please confirm your eligibility by clearly printing your current residential address and affirming the length of your residency at that address:

Street Address:

Zip Code:

Resident at this address since: September 2017

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: _____

Date: 4/5/2019

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

Luke Wiigren

Dear Seattle City Councilmembers,

Like many Seattleites, I have lived a precarious existence for several years now, in Beacon Hill homes on the verge of tear down and in Wallingford triplexes where the owners decided to sell months after move-in. I have seen my friends, many of them artists, service workers, and students in their 20s and 30s, move from place to place like birds of passage, losing family homes in the Central District and Rainier Valley, pushed from SROs to make way for luxury remodels, and outgrown of their studio apartments when children came along. They face a dilemma: pay more and more, or move farther and farther away.

I believe that for my friends and I, and so many others struggling to maintain a place here, the City of Seattle can do better and I believe, for the health of the city, it must do better. This is why I am submitting an application for the interim City Council seat for District 4. With the critical demand for affordable housing citywide, District 4 needs not just a caretaker, but a representative who can forward the dialogue around the city's joint crises of rising rents, houselessness, and the alarming trend of racial and economic resegregation.

As a Stanford graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity, I believe the overriding feature of our affordability crisis is that it cannot be decoupled from its disproportionate effects on historically underserved communities. With Seattle's egregious history of redlining, with equal rights protections for women and LGBTQIA+ still lagging, and rarely enough care afforded to immigrants, the disabled, the sick, and the elderly, Seattle's stark gaps in income and generational wealth have become deciding factors for who gets to belong in the city. The redlining has ended, true, but in more structural ways the line is now stretching to, and past, the city limits to keep out marginalized communities and the working poor altogether.

This is a damning reality that calls upon us to come together and make great sacrifice in the name of public housing, just as we have for light rail, stadiums, and the nearly \$3 billion waterfront tunnel, to name a few. While I support the recent Mandatory Housing and Affordability program, it simply does not guarantee the massive housing infrastructure recommended to stem economic displacement. The city has grown by an estimated 165,000 residents, nearly 30% in less than twenty years, and the promised 6,000 units to be developed over the next decade won't begin to address the crisis now, nor do I believe it can address the Seattle of 2030.

Over the next seven months, were I elected, I would join the council to work on the mayor's Anti-displacement Executive Order to implement a Community Preference Policy and support Lisa Herbold's ordinance to curb the impact of for-profit development in high-risk areas of displacement. As stop-gap measures, I support the recent tenant protections the council has passed, putting caps on move-in fees and prohibiting rent hikes on sub-standard units. I would also like to work on affordability related issues including, but not limited to, the following:

- I. We need higher percentages of mandatory affordable units in new developments across the city, particularly in new developments along the publicly subsidized waterfront
- II. We need to tax for-profit developers for empty luxury units, as well as taxing vacant units being used solely as short-term rentals such as AirBnBs.
- III. Private individuals owning more than one property should face tax on multiple places of residence and/or be incentivized, through a Housing Voucher program, to rent their units.
- IV. We should continue in the direction of Councilmember Mosqueda's "Build More Affordable Housing Using Surplus Land" to develop on, not sell, city-owned land.

Luke Wigren

- A. This should include plans for a new 100% affordable Yesler Terrace-style housing complex in the International District / Central District area.
- V. We need to investigate new "100% affordable" zoning designations for areas around transit to combat climate change and give low-income, carless residents access to Seattle.
- VI. We need to investigate how the city can incentivize cohousing and cooperative models of ownership, to move towards the elimination of the landlord class and help residents and businesses assume ownership of older buildings when the owner plans to sell.
- VII. We need to petition the state government for billions in funding for affordable housing OR demand they lift the ban on rent control

To not address these affordability issues and continue to enforce, as The Stranger writer Charles Mudede suggests, austerity policies on the general public in a time that is so clearly a "boom time," would be negligent on many levels, not least of which, I want to again remind the council, falls along the lines of race, class, and historic discrimination.

Lastly, to step away slightly from the ethics of the matter, there is also a point to be made around the vision for the future of Seattle, and most major American cities, which seem to rapidly be changing into zones of visitation, as opposed to habitation. I wrote my undergraduate thesis on the racial and class hierarchies inherent in global tourism and here in Seattle, with regards to city livability, I am beginning to see the two - tourism and urbanism - as interconnected phenomenon. With Seattle's recent prioritization on transience and simultaneous deprioritization of livability, it comes as no surprise that we now see \$12 million dollar condos being bought as second homes, the proliferation of AirBnBs where once you found tenants, and an abundance of frictionless downtown office parks designed for businessmen to take their lunch. In the worship of business, we are seeing a seemingly full-scale deprioritization in addressing the needs of the vast majority of Seattleites, like my friends and coworkers, who each day are having an increasingly difficult time putting down roots. Most appallingly, in this new city, at its extremes, the number of unimaginably wealthy CEOs grows at near the same rate as the houseless, who's dehumanization and criminalization will not make them disappear.

I may not have the Rob Johnson's management background, but I do have a strong record of public service in community groups and public schools. I hold, at times, five jobs in everything from event catering and film, to swim instruction and recently substitute teaching, and I try, at every opportunity, to give back to the community that gave to me. I believe a city is built upon dreams of radical inclusivity - that, fundamentally, the city should be home to multitudes - and, therefore, as a public servant I have an obligation to uplift all the people who dwell here, on the streets, not just the mansions. I also promise to fulfill the entirety of the term for which I am duly elected. Being candid I would say my weakest area of expertise is in budgeting, but somehow finding a way to get by spending more than 60% of my income on rent, and at times having lived on food stamps, I know that is not entirely true.

Thank you and good luck in the selection process.

Sincerely,



Luke Wigren

Renton High School / Stanford University

Luke Wiaren

REFERENCES

Aleta Konkol

Assistant Principal and Athletic Director at Renton High School, where I am Assistant Swim Coach.

Charles Roosendaal

Sodexo's Operations Supervisor at the Seattle Aquarium, where I cater events.

Bio:

I grew up in Renton, Washington where I attended Renton High School. I then went to Stanford University where I received a B.A. in Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity. My thesis investigated ways global tourism could be made more accessible, less commercial and anti-racist. I have a background in event and customer service working at film festivals, cafes, aquariums and movie theaters. I also have a background in filmmaking, journalism, and teaching media arts. My first feature film, *Reconquest of the Useless*, has been shown in film festivals around the world including Cuba, Mexico, Switzerland, Greece, and Woodstock, NY.

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Job	Employer	Time
Substitute Teacher	Renton School District	12/'18 → Present
Swim Instructor	Olympic Athletic Club	11/'18 → Present
Asst. Boys' & Girls' Swim Coach	Renton High School	9/'17 → Present
Server / Event Caterer	Seattle Aquarium / Sodexo	1/'17 → Present
Film Director / Editor	RoofDoggLove Productions	9/'12 → Present

PAST WORK EXPERIENCE

Job	Employer	Time
Music journalist	Coastal Elite / 206UpBlog	3/'16 → 3/'17
Film Director / Editor	"Reconquest of the Useless" Documentary	1/'11 → 10/'16
Theater Staff	Telluride Film Festival	Labor Day '14 & '15
Theater Staff	Cinemark Theatres	3/'15 → 9/'15
Film Intern	Brave New Films	3/'15 → 6/'15
Film Instructor	Palo Alto Children's Theater	Summer '12 & '13
Librarian Asst.	Stanford University Library	'08/'09 & '10/'11
Maintenance	Seattle Parks & Recreation	Summer '09 & '10
Lifeguard	Lakeridge Swim Club	6/'07 → 9/'07

EDUCATION

School	Time	Study & Activities
Stanford University	2007 → 2011	-BA w/ Honors: Race & Ethnicity (Focus: "Art, Social Movements, & Community Organizing") -Thesis on the topic of "Revolutionary Tourism"
Renton High School	2003 → 2007	-Outstanding Junior & Senior Awards -National Semifinalist in AMC math competition -Clubs: Tennis, Swim, Acapella, Youth Against War and Racism



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.

Luke Wigen

Name

[Signature]

Signature

4/5/2019

Date

From: [Luke Wigren](#)
To: [LEG_CouncilAppointmentApplications](#)
Subject: Wigren, Luke - Council Appointment Application
Date: Friday, April 05, 2019 4:53:07 PM
Attachments: [Wigren, Luke - Council Appointment Application.pdf](#)

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Good afternoon,

Attached is my council appointment application for District 4. Please alert me if I have missed any paperwork.

Thank you and have a nice weekend!

Luke W.