

January 8, 2025

City of Seattle
600 4th Ave, 3rd Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

To the City Clerk:

I am applying for the vacant District 2 council position because I care deeply about southeast Seattle. I grew up on Beacon Hill and my wife, two daughters and I live in Rainier Beach. It is heartbreaking to see neighbors and local businesses throughout the district struggling because of crime, drugs, the impacts of homelessness, affordability, and what people describe as a lack of investment in our neighborhoods and the safety of our roads. Southeast Seattle is a beautiful place, and if selected for the District 2 position, I commit to working collaboratively with my Councilmember colleagues, the Executive, and City departments to make it a more safe, welcoming, vibrant, and affordable place for everyone.

Like many parents, I want my children and their friends to feel safe. They should feel safe when they walk to the store, take the bus to school, or go to the playground. Not a day goes by in Rainier Beach when my family, our neighbors, and local businesses do not hear shots fired, experience car prowls, or are the victims of burglaries. The local restaurant was broken into twice over the holidays. Our own home was broken into a few years ago, once in November 2019 and again in February 2020.

As someone raising a family in Seattle and directly impacted by crime, I believe we can deter these incidents in a couple of different, but related ways. First, by continuing to bolster the pipeline of police recruits that come from the district. The goal is to increase the number of officers in the community who have genuine connections to their neighborhoods. The second is to invest more in youth mentoring services and programs that work to help young people choose a different path other than crime.

I also want to tap into additional sources to help people struggling with addiction, mental health issues, and homelessness. I believe people need to get stabilized with shelters or housing, into treatment, and connected to long-term care so that they can not only improve their lives, but also remain in the lives of the people and communities that care about them. This is very personal to me because my father struggled with alcohol and addiction. He ultimately died from his alcoholism. If he could have received the help he needed, he would have been in our lives growing up and still with us today.

As a kid, my mother and I lived in a small apartment on Beacon Hill. She did what she could to make ends meet and raise a young man without a father in the home. We were fortunate to connect with Fir State Golf Club - an organization of African-American community leaders based out of Jefferson Park Golf Course on Beacon Hill. They helped me get a job at the golf course, taught me how to play golf, and encouraged me to stay in school. This paid off because while at O'Dea High School, I won the Metro League Golf title at Jefferson Park, and was lucky to work as a ballboy for the Seattle SuperSonics during my junior and senior years of high school. I do not believe I would have had these opportunities if community organizations like Fir State did not reach out their hands to help.

After high school, and a couple years of college, I dropped out and for several years ran a small business and worked odd jobs. I ultimately found myself unemployed and barely able to afford to eat and pay rent. I found a path back to school through a Worker Retraining Program and earned an Associate of Arts from Seattle Central College. The opportunity at Seattle Central opened the door for my career path into

local government. I look forward to building on this experience and creating more pathways like the Worker Retraining Program so people can earn a wage that allows them to afford to live in Seattle.

I also believe we need to create more opportunities for housing and jobs. People tell me they feel forgotten and ignored when it comes to these types of opportunities in District 2. This is why we owe it to them to create a meaningful roadmap for more affordable and market-rate housing, opportunities for neighborhood-scale businesses, and investments in transportation options. If selected for the position, I want to tap into a coalition of residents, business owners, and organizations to make sure southeast Seattle voices are heard and represented in the adoption of the comprehensive plan update.

Meaningful community engagement is key to shaping effective public policy and I have a deep understanding of how this works. I attended the University of Washington and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies and a Master of Public Administration degree. I studied urban planning, land use, transportation, economics, and education policy. I interned with the City of Renton's Planning Department and SPU's Communications Division. After graduating, I worked for an outreach consulting firm supporting transit and infrastructure projects for Sound Transit, SPU, and SDOT.

Recognizing my community engagement work, SDOT brought me on board to manage the outreach and engagement for some of their most challenging and complex projects. Notably, I led the outreach for the 23rd Ave Corridor Improvements Project. It was on the 23rd Ave project that I learned how to show up for the community as they faced adversity. The project was having a major impact on residents and small businesses. I was able to facilitate hard conversations between the community and the City; ultimately uplifting community voices and encouraging City leaders to find tangible solutions.

I continued to take on increasing responsibilities at SDOT and ultimately was promoted to Deputy Chief of Staff where I started working on policy and operations. In 2023, Deputy Mayor Adiam Emery asked me to join her in the Mayor's Office as the Senior Transportation Policy and Operations Manager. In this role, I have successfully worked to get key policy and legislation adopted like the Seattle Transportation Plan and the 2024 Transportation Levy in partnership with the community, key stakeholders, and City Council.

I am incredibly grateful and humbled that my life and career has led me to this point. If given the opportunity, I look forward to working with the Council to implement a budget that increases investments in public safety and resources that help people who are struggling with addiction, mental health issues, and homelessness; collaborating with the community and Council to adopt a comprehensive plan that works for every neighborhood's unique needs; and kicking off the safety, transit, and mobility projects in the recently-approved Transportation Levy.

I appreciate this Council and their willingness to consider me for this appointment. My leadership, and experience with community engagement, coalition building, and policy development enables me to step in on day one and work with this Council to achieve our collective goals. I am committed to being accountable and working hard for the people of District 2 and making not only southeast Seattle, but all of Seattle, a safer, more welcoming, vibrant, and affordable place for everyone.

Thank you for considering me for the City Council District 2 position.

Sincerely,

Adonis Ducksworth

OBJECTIVE

To serve the City of Seattle by building on my leadership and experience of bringing people together.

SKILLS AND EXPERTISE

Over my professional career and involvement with the community, I have developed leadership skills that include: coalition building, public speaking, policy analysis, and problem solving.

EDUCATION

University of Washington, Seattle, WA
MPA, Master of Public Administration, 2012

University of Washington, Tacoma, WA
BA, Urban Studies, 2010

Seattle Central College, Seattle, WA
Associate of Arts, 2008

CERTIFICATIONS

London School of Economics, London, UK
Urban95 Academy, 2023

International Association of Public Participation
Certificate in Public Participation, 2015

University of Washington, Tacoma, WA
Maps & Geographic Information Systems (GIS), 2010

KEY EXPERIENCE

Senior Transportation Policy and Operations Manager

Office of Mayor Bruce Harrell, City of Seattle, 2023 - Present

I work in partnership with SDOT, City Budget Office, City Council, and Central Staff to develop and implement policies that support transportation infrastructure, safety, and access. I track and manage operational issues such as Revive I-5 and school zone camera installations. The key legislation and policy I have worked on to-date include the Seattle Transportation Plan and the recently voter-approved Transportation Levy.

Deputy Chief of Staff

Seattle Department of Transportation, 2021 – 2022

I supported the SDOT Director and Chief of Staff by implementing special projects and initiatives coming out of the Director's Office such as reinstating the 72-Hour parking rule and kicking off the early planning for the Major League All-Star game and FIFA. I worked across divisions to draft responses to SLIs and council generated reports. I also developed responses to public inquiries related to issues such as illegal vending, encampments in the ROW, and large capital projects.

Senior Outreach and Engagement Lead

Seattle Department of Transportation, 2016 – 2023

I led outreach and engagement for challenging and complex capital projects. I led a team of multiple staff for the central and south sectors of the city. I was the lead for major projects such as the 23rd Avenue Corridor Improvements Project and the West Seattle High-Bridge Closure project. I was the face of these projects in the community; developing and managing the communications, messaging, materials, correspondence with the public and media, and conducting the facilitation.

VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Program | 2015 - Present

When invited, I share my story with men who are struggling with addiction and homelessness and help get them connected with additional recovery groups and people. I also provide rides and transit options for men to meetings outside of the Salvation Army facility. To date, I have supported a number of men who have completed the program and are still in recovery.

Union Gospel Mission | 2015 - Present

For the last several years, when asked, I visit the Union Gospel Mission in Pioneer Square. I meet with and mentor men in their program. I advise and connect them to resources outside the Mission. To date, I have spoken at the Union Gospel Mission several times and mentored a number of men.

Rainier Beach Skatepark | 2015 - Present

When I moved to Rainier Beach in 2015, I started advocating for a skatepark in the neighborhood. C.H.A.M.P.S., a community group, initiated the process to get the park built. I've been involved with facilitating engagement around the development of the skatepark. I also participate in the planning, design, and community meetings. I also helped coordinate this fun story on King 5 News:

<https://www.king5.com/video/news/local/seattle/rainier-beach-neighborhood-pushes-for-community-skatepark/281-453af4ed-eea2-4141-8bff-41f2abb2f150>

All Together Skatepark | 2016 - Present

I volunteer my time to help kids and adults learn to skateboard. I help kids ages 6-12 and adults between the ages of 21 and 50 learn the fundamentals of skateboarding. I have taught countless kids and adults to learn to skateboard; many still do to this day.

RELEVANT WORK HISTORY

Sr. Transportation Operations and Policy Manager, Office of Mayor Bruce Harrell | 2023 - Present

Sr. Capital Projects Coordinator, City of Seattle (SDOT) | 2016 - 2023

Interim Deputy Chief of Staff, City of Seattle (SDOT) | 2021 - 2022

Associate, EnviroIssues | 2012 – 2016

Research Analyst, Benefit-Cost Analysis Center, UW | January – August 2012

Communications Intern, Seattle Public Utilities | 2011 – 2012

Planning Intern, City of Renton | 2009 - 2010

FUN FACTS ABOUT ME

I was born in Mississippi. My dad was in the military and we moved to Fort Lewis when I was 3. Between the ages of 9 and 10, we lived in places like Georgia and Hawaii before my mom and I settled down on Beacon Hill. Growing up I was an avid skateboarder and snowboarder, and played golf at Jefferson Park. I won the Metro League Golf title in high school shooting a 1-under-par 69. I was also a ballboy for the Seattle SuperSonics. Sonic players would ask me to teach them to play golf and come pick me up from school to get lessons. After high school, I kept skateboarding and snowboarding and started DJing and making music. Today, I still make music and DJ and enjoy skateboarding, snowboarding, and skiing with my family. Another fun fact. My wife and I were middle school sweethearts at Mercer Middle school on Beacon Hill over 35 years ago!

EXPLANATIONS FOR RESPONSES ON PAGE 1: (Use additional sheets if necessary. For assistance, please call the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission at 206-684-8500.)

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: Alena Ciecko
Position held with entity: Board of Directors (Jan 2020-Jan 2024)
Entity name: Southeast Youth and Family Services
Entity address: [REDACTED]

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