

Mark Mendez

REDACTED

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the contact information of Mark Mendez.

July 9, 2025

The Honorable City Council Seattle City Hall 600 4th Ave Seattle, WA 98104

Subject: Application for Seattle City Council, District 5 Vacancy

Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic interest in serving as the next Councilmember for District 5. As someone born and raised in Seattle, specifically in the Lake City neighborhood, and with a lifetime dedicated to community building and public service, I believe I bring a unique blend of local insight, collaborative leadership, and a proven ability to deliver tangible results for our residents.

My educational background, with a BA in Political Science from the University of Washington and a Master of Public Administration from Seattle University, has equipped me with a strong foundation in policy and governance. However, it is my extensive hands-on experience working with diverse nonprofit, education, and public organizations that truly defines my approach. I have a clear record of **"getting things done"** by fostering partnerships and uniting a wide array of people and organizations to tackle some of our city's most pressing challenges.

District 5 is not just a place I've served; it's my home. I have deep connections within the community, having served as Co-Chair of the North District Council, on the board of the Lake City Neighborhood Alliance, and on the board of Meadowbrook Community Care. As a steering committee member of the Build Lake City Together project, I've been directly involved in shaping the future of our neighborhood. My work has involved close collaboration with immigrant and refugee families across District 5, and I have had the privilege of working alongside community organizers to empower underserved communities across cultures.

My commitment to empowering District 5 youth is evident in my creation of several community-based and career training programs. Furthermore, I initiated the **Lake City Mural Project**, bringing together community partners and local businesses to transform our public spaces, empower young people, support local businesses, enhance public safety, and build community pride through public art.

I am particularly proud of the successful advocacy efforts I've led, often by uniting diverse community organizations and partners, on critical equity issues within District 5. These include:

- Preserving public beach access at 130th Lake City Beach
- Fighting for equity at Cedar Park Elementary
- Advocating for the 130th light rail station
- Working towards a new Lake City Community Center
- Creating new parks and open spaces
- Championing safer streets and sidewalks
- Supporting small businesses

District 5 residents are ready for a **"new vision for District 5,"** one that prioritizes collaboration and tangible progress. I firmly believe that only by working together can we truly make District 5 the best place to live, work, learn, and play for everyone. My background, my passion for this community, and my track record demonstrate my readiness to contribute immediately to the Council's vital work.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I have attached my resume and the completed Financial Interest Statement for your review and welcome the opportunity to discuss how my experience and dedication can best serve the residents of District 5.

Sincerely,
Mark Mendez

Summary of Skills and Qualifications

- **Dedicated public servant with over 20 years of experience** in policy development, civic engagement, and strategic planning, poised to represent and advocate for District 5 residents. Proven expertise in coalition building, non-profit management, community and economic development, and translating community needs into actionable policy.
- **Deep lived experience and profound understanding** of the complex issues facing Black, Indigenous, Communities of Color, and low-income communities within Seattle, particularly District 5.
- **Exceptional track record in community outreach and engagement**, building trusted relationships and fostering critical collaboration among diverse stakeholders to achieve shared goals.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office software, including Excel, Word, MS Teams, and PowerPoint.
- Recipient of the **King County Martin Luther King Jr. Medal of Distinguished Service Award** - King County Council - District 1.

Education

Master of Public Administration, Seattle University, Seattle, WA, 2010 **Bachelor of Arts in Political Science**, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, 2007

Professional Experience

Recreation Leader | Seattle Parks and Recreation, Seattle, WA March 2016 – Present

- **Led initiatives to develop civic capacity** in historically under-represented and underserved communities, significantly increasing access to the civic process.
- Awarded the prestigious **2016 and 2019 Seattle Parks and Recreation Denny Award for local partnerships**, recognizing successful community collaborations.
- Cultivated strong, authentic relationships and partnerships with Seattle community members and community-based organizations.
- Established a robust network of subject matter experts for guest speaking, training, and providing technical assistance.
- Facilitated the City of Seattle's "Race: The Power of an Illusion" Race and Social Justice Initiative training workshops.
- **Co-designed numerous civic engagement programs** in partnership with community-based organizations and program partners.
- Developed and implemented culturally relevant community outreach and engagement plans centered on the Race and Social Justice Initiative, including comprehensive language access strategies (translation and interpretation).
- Assisted with program recruitment, developed equitable evaluation applications and data collection tools, and managed follow-up with applicants and participants.
- Supported programs and initiatives by staffing meetings, assisting with recruitment and training, and ensuring adherence to charters, bylaws, and government requirements, including the Open Public Meeting Act (OPMA).
- **Collaborated with various city departments** on initiatives spanning pedestrian safety, small business support, beautification, civic engagement, and arts and culture.
- **Upheld principles of racial equity and social justice** in program delivery, empowering

- communities to forge their own solutions and fostering community resilience.
- Navigated politically challenging situations to build trust and gain critical buy-in from diverse stakeholders.
- **Facilitated complex meetings** with a strong emphasis on race and equity considerations.
- Organized and prioritized work effectively, adapting to changing priorities and situations to ensure project success.
- Successfully built and rebuilt programs rooted in equity and inclusion, enhancing community impact.
- Collaborated effectively with community members and stakeholders holding competing interests to find common ground.

Program Supervisor | AKIN/Children's Home Society of Washington, Seattle, WA January 2019 – January 2023

- **Developed civic capacity** in historically under-represented and underserved communities with limited access to the civic process.
- **Led collaborative efforts with BIPOC, immigrant, and refugee communities**, advocacy organizations, community groups, business associations, and local government to address community needs and implement solutions.
- Gained extensive experience working with various city departments and divisions on pedestrian safety, small business support, beautification, civic engagement, arts and culture, and community building initiatives.
- Built strong, authentic relationships and partnerships with Seattle community members and community-based organizations.
- Created a robust network of subject matter experts for guest speaking, training, and providing technical assistance.
- **Outreached to inform hundreds of small businesses** and neighborhood partners of grant opportunities, facilitating access to vital resources.
- Co-designed civic engagement programs in partnership with community-based organizations and other program partners.
- Developed and implemented culturally relevant community outreach and engagement plans centered on Race and Social Justice.
- Co-created culturally relevant and accessible outreach materials, including language access strategies such as translation and interpretation.
- Assisted with program recruitment, created equitable evaluation applications and data collection tools, and followed up with applicants and former participants.
- Scheduled and coordinated neighborhood tours, and compiled and coordinated storytelling to highlight neighborhoods and local businesses.
- Coordinated project-related activities and provided technical assistance to community groups, businesses, and organizations.
- Supported programs and initiatives by staffing meetings, assisting with recruitment and training, and ensuring adherence to charters, bylaws, and government requirements, including the Open Public Meeting Act (OPMA).
- Upheld principles of racial equity and social justice in program delivery, empowering communities to forge their own solutions.
- Navigated politically challenging situations to build trust and gain buy-in.
- Facilitated complex meetings with respect for race and equity considerations.
- Organized and prioritized work, adapting to changing priorities and situations.

- Built new programs rooted in equity and inclusion.
- Collaborated with community members and stakeholders with competing interests.
- Provided administrative support and scheduling for a Board, Commission, or Council.
- Created communications and web updates, continually improving standard operating procedures.
- Produced, tracked, and managed multiple deliverables with overlapping deadlines.
- Communicated with clarity and tact at all levels, creating trusted partnerships, and demonstrating strong interpersonal skills.

WorkSource Career Embedded Specialist | South Seattle College, Seattle, WA December 2015 – March 2016

- Built and maintained effective working relationships with new and existing industry and community partners.
- Stayed current on employment trends and career development theory and practice.
- Collaborated with faculty to manage industry-specific employer relationships and obtain referrals to meet employers' recruiting needs.
- Partnered with industry employers to create recruiting pipelines and maintain relationships through Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings.
- Developed employment opportunities for constituencies in partnership with CBOs.
- Met with college students individually and in classroom settings to co-create career goals and facilitate career pathways.
- Provided information and advising to students regarding internships, work experience, registration deadlines, and funding policies.
- Raised awareness of resources and assisted students in navigating resources on and off-campus, including funding sources through community-based organizations (CBOs) in the WorkSource office and Worker Retraining office.
- Taught quarterly workshops on job search, company research, resume writing, interviewing, networking, and LinkedIn.
- Engaged students in career exploration through site visits, employer presentations, panels, mock interviews, and hiring events.
- Updated workshop curriculum to incorporate employer feedback and meet industry trends.
- Utilized Student Management System, Canvas, LinkedIn, Facebook, and social media to assist and engage students and employers.

Aerospace/Advanced Manufacturing Program Supervisor (May 2013 - June 2015)

Seattle Goodwill, Marysville, WA

- Managed and developed Seattle Goodwill's first Aerospace/Advanced Manufacturing Employment Readiness Program.
- Led a team of workforce professionals in developing and implementing an employment services program for students in professional technical programs.
- Supervised community development staff and oversaw various community development projects.
- Managed key community partnerships with nonprofits, the public sector, and the private sector supporting internships, employment, and leadership development.
- Built and maintained relationships with industry and community partners.

- Supervised program staff: case manager, college navigator, program assistants, and interns.
- Provided advising and educational planning for professional technical students.
- Coordinated industry tours, guest speakers, internship opportunities, in-class recruitment, and job events with faculty, administrators, and stakeholders.
- Monitored student progress, communicated with students and instructors, and identified areas for improvement.
- Presented workshops on professional technical college and career topics.
- Collaborated with community college and WorkSource partners to host career fairs and create informational materials.
- Stayed current on employment trends and career development theory and practice.
- Provided instruction on leadership development, civic participation, soft skills, computer literacy, environmental stewardship, and college and career readiness.
- Coordinated job placements and internships with employers.
- Secured \$240,000 in grants from Boeing Company and Key Bank for program expansion.
- Established relationships with Washington State legislators.
- Advocated in Washington D.C. for youth job-training program funding, leading the Seattle Goodwill delegation to meet with Senator Maria Cantwell.
- Served on the Washington STEM advisory council.

Community Leadership & Board Affiliations

- **Current Board President, Sphere One**
- **Former Co-Chair**, North District Council
- **Former Board Member**, Lake City Neighborhood Alliance
- **Former Board Member**, Meadowbrook Community Care
- **Former Steering Committee Member**, Build Lake City Together Project
- **Creator, Lake City Mural Project** (with community partners, empowering youth, supporting local businesses, improving public safety, and building community through public art)
- **Creator, Community-Based & Career Training Programs for District 5 Youth** (e.g., Little Brook Youth Corps, Lake City Young Leaders)
- **Lead Advocate for District 5 Equity Issues:** Successfully advocated for preserving public beach access at 130th Lake City Beach, fighting for equity at Cedar Park Elementary, securing the 130th Light Rail Station, a new Lake City Community Center, new parks and open spaces, and creating more safe streets and sidewalks.



City of Seattle

FINANCIAL INTEREST STATEMENT AND ADDRESS VERIFICATION

CANDIDATES FOR COUNCIL DISTRICT 5

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 click [HERE](#) to see SMC 4.16.070, 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 5, you must be a resident of District 5 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: REDACTED
 Zip Code: REDACTED
 Resident at this address since: 47

Name of Candidate (as registered with King County Elections): Mark Anthony Mendez

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: Mark Mendez

Signed at Seattle, Washington

Date: 7/03/1978

(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). You can see SEEC Form F1 by clicking [HERE](#).

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: _____

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.

I am a City of Seattle employee. I answered No, but I want to make it clear to be transparent. Thank you