



REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

Approved by:

Alicia Gonzales

Alicia Gonzales, City Clerk

Arnoldo Rodriguez

Arnoldo Rodriguez, City Manager

Council Meeting of: January 25, 2021

Agenda Number: A-1

SUBJECT:

City Council Appointment to Fill Vacancy in Council District 5

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider the applications for the City Council District 5 seat and after selection adopt a Resolution making appointment to fill the vacancy or direct staff to bring a Resolution calling a special election to a special meeting set by the City Council no later than January 31, 2021

DISCUSSION:

On December 2, 2020, the City Council determined to proceed with an appointment to fill the vacancy created by the election of Santos Garcia to the Mayor seat. This mid-term vacancy requires that the Council fill the vacant Council seat by appointment or special election. At its regular Council meeting on December 2, 2020, the Council announced its intent to appoint a person to fill the Council District 5 seat vacated by the election of Santos Garcia to the At-large Mayor seat and authorized the issuance of applications for appointment. While Council decided to pursue the appointment process, the Council could still elect to fill the vacant seat by special election.

The deadline to submit applications for the City Council District 5 vacant seat was Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 5pm. An invitation to submit applications for appointment were posted in the Madera Tribune and the City's website and social media platforms.

Eligibility:

It is noted that the City adheres to California legislation and any person that meets the following may apply and be considered:

- a resident of District 5,
- a registered voter, and
- a United States citizen 18 years of age or older.

The City received four applications by the deadline date. One applicant withdrew after it was determined that the applicant lives outside of the Council district.

The three applicants are listed on Table 1 in alphabetical order.

Table 1: Applicants (listed in alphabetical order)
Christopher Mariscotti
Elsa Mejia
Matilda Villafan

The three applicants meet the required criteria.

Process:

During the meeting, it is recommended that eligible applicants may make up to a five-minute presentation to the City Council indicating their qualifications and interest in the position. After all the candidates make their presentation, members of the City Council may ask questions of candidates and members of the public will have an opportunity to comment on the applicants. The Council will then deliberate in open session and proceed to make its selection.

Once presentations by applicants, questions by Council, and public comment are concluded, the Council will proceed with selection. The Council may:

1. Motion and second to make an appointment
2. Deliberations
3. If the motion receives four affirmative votes, proceed to adopt the resolution making the appointment
4. If the motion does not receive four affirmative votes, entertain another motion and proceed as in section 3 above. If necessary, continue with subsequent motions until an applicant receives four affirmative votes.

If the Council is unable to make a selection or in the event of a tie vote after multiple votes, the Council would need to adopt a resolution calling a special election. In order to meet the language in Elections Code Section 36512 (b) (1) a special election may not occur before the next regularly established election date of November 2, 2021. The result is that the position would remain open for almost a year.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to fill the vacancy by appointment. The estimated cost of holding a special election in November 2021 is between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution
2. Applications (in alphabetical order):
 - a. Christopher Mariscotti
 - b. Elsa Mejia
 - c. Matilda Villafan

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADERA TO FILL THE DISTRICT 5 VACANCY ON THE CITY COUNCIL FOLLOWING AN APPLICATION AND INTERVIEW PROCESS

WHEREAS, City Council District 5 Councilmember Santos Garcia was elected to serve as the City's Mayor; and

WHEREAS, at a regular meeting of the City Council held on December 2, 2020, the City Council approved Resolution No. 20-163 adopting a process to fill an unscheduled vacancy on the City Council resulting from the election of Santos Garcia to the Mayor seat; and

WHEREAS, the application period ended at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, January 12, 2021; and

WHEREAS, four applications were received from District 5 residents who expressed their interest in serving on the City Council and their willingness to fulfill the remaining term of the vacated office which will expire in December 2022; and

WHEREAS, one applicant withdrew their application because they reside outside of the Council district; and

WHEREAS, at their special meeting held on January 25, 2021, the City Council considered the applications, allowed applicants to address the Council, and provided an opportunity for the public to comment upon the applicants.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Madera hereby resolve as follows:

1. Pursuant to Government Code Section 36512, _____ is hereby appointed to the vacant District 5 position on the City Council and shall serve as a member of the Madera City Council for the remainder of the unexpired term of former Councilmember Santos Garcia.
2. The person appointed shall take office effective immediately after taking the Oath of Office and shall serve exactly as if elected at a municipal election for the office for a term ending in December 2022.
3. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

* * * * *

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE MADERA CITY COUNCIL

This application is a public record and will be included with the applicable City Council materials and may be posted on the City's website. Thank you for your interest in serving on the City of Madera City Council.

DISTRICT RESIDENCY

Please note that candidates must reside in City Council District 5.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: CHRISTOPHER MARISCOTT

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Phone No.: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Occupation: [REDACTED] Employer: [REDACTED]

Number of years lived in Madera: 51 + 2 IN MADERA COUNTY

ATTACHMENTS:

In addition to completing this page, please attach:

1. A resume outlining your educational background and work experience
2. Applicant questionnaire

I hereby certify that all statements made in this application are true and complete. I legally reside in the City of Madera. I am 18 years of age or older. In compliance with State law, I understand that I will be required to file a statement of Economic Interests upon appointment to office and annually thereafter. I understand that my application and materials will be considered a public record and thus will be available for public inspection and copying. The completed applications may also be published on the City's website.

[Handwritten Signature]
Applicant's Signature

1.6.21
Date

Civic service is a privilege and responsibility of our citizens. The value and importance of the participation of our citizens cannot be measured. Your interest in serving on the City Council of the City of Madera is *greatly appreciated*.

Christopher Mariscotti

Education

Master of Business Administration, California State University Fresno, 1994
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, San Jose State University, 1979
San Joaquin Memorial High School 1973
St Joachim School 1969

Business Experience

1984 to present

Owner and General Manager of The Vineyard Restaurant

Previous experience in sales, construction, restaurant management, bouncer, bartender, farm work

Organizations

Board Member Hinds Hospice 2015-2019

Board Member San Joaquin River Parkway

Chairman of Board of Directors Madera Chamber of Commerce

Board Member Madera Chamber of Commerce

Chairman and founding member Slow Food Madera 2008-present

1/6/21

Christopher Mariscotti

I would like to be appointed to the City Council because I want to give something back to Madera. Madera has been good to us. I'm very grateful for that. I'd like to use my talents to help Madera to thrive and become an even greater community.

I believe my life experiences, my business experience. My exposure to other organizations and my education has given me tools to make intelligent, thoughtful decisions and be a good representative for Madera.

No one really knows what the post Covid world will look like. But we can be sure there will be new opportunities and challenges. Already we see an influx of new families moving into Madera looking for a less stressful, simpler more affordable life. New businesses may follow. Established styles of business, society and government are being disrupted. We are perfectly placed to take advantage of that momentum. Working remotely will allow people to live in Madera without having to leave in order to have a high paying job. The rise of online shopping reduces the need to drive to other communities to shop. It should also increase Madera's sales tax.

Madera is close enough to metropolitan areas to have the benefits without the costs. Madera is the center of the state and that location should be a great advantage for logistics.

We are safe from the natural disasters that plague other parts of California. Wildfire, earthquakes, floods.

As long as people eat, Ag will be important. Embracing the future of Ag and the changes in the industry can be a great opportunity for the city.

I will always give my best effort. I'll do the homework. Try to get pertinent information. Try to make informed, unbiased decisions. Madera has been and will probably always be our home. I want to see it be the best it can be.

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MADERA CITY COUNCIL**

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DISTRICT RESIDENCY

Please note that candidates must reside in City Council District 5.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: Elsa Mejia
Home Address: [REDACTED] Madera CA 93638
Phone No.: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Occupation: [REDACTED] Employer: [REDACTED]
Number of years lived in Madera: 31

ATTACHMENTS:

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Elsa Mejia
Applicant's Signature

01/12/2021
Date

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ELSA MEJÍA



OBJECTIVE

Accomplished media professional seeking to contribute a forward-thinking perspective and applying extensive experience in traditional and modern communication processes.

EDUCATION

Institute on Political Journalism, Washington D.C.

June – Aug. 2015

- Certificate from The Fund for American Studies
- Completed Economics course at George Mason University

California State University, Fresno

Jan. 2012 – May 2015

- Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication and Journalism – multimedia option
- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science
- Certificate in Legal Studies

Università Di Torino, Italy

July – Aug. 2013

- Completed Economics and Politics in the EU and Introduction to Italian courses

Reedley College, Madera Center

June 2007 – Dec. 2011

- Associate of Arts in General Studies

EXPERIENCE

Service Employees International Union, Local 521, Communications Specialist

Oct. 4, 2018 – Present

- Design effective strategies to achieve communication goals
- Generate bilingual content in written, web, video, photo and audio formats
- Ensure organizational messaging is maintained in all communications

International Refugee Assistance Project, Translator

Oct. 19, 2017 – Present

- Translate oral intake and follow-up interviews
- Translate legal documents

United Health Centers, Community Information Specialist

April 2017 – July 2018

- Handle internal and external business communication
- Manage the production of biweekly, quarterly and annual publications
- Coordinate outreach and fundraising events

Instituto Oaxaqueño de Atención al Migrante, Analyst

August 2015 – July 2016

- Translated legal documents
- Filled out applications for birth certificates and Apostilles to aid U.S. citizens
- Educated migrants on their rights and on obtaining dual nationality and passports

Story Partners, Intern

June – July 2015

- Performed work focused on strategic communications, public affairs, media relations, digital advocacy, research, issues management, advertising and thought leadership events

The kNOw Youth Media, Reporter and Photographer

Jan. – May 2015

- Wrote articles and took photographs for the online edition and the annual print magazine

The Madera Tribune, Reporter and Photographer

June 2006 – May 2015

- Wrote daily articles covering local news
- Shot and edited photographs
- Translated
- Wrote and gathered editorial content for special sections
- Managed the production of an independent biweekly bilingual newspaper

SKILLS

Languages/Style

- Spanish, professional working
- Italian, elementary
- AP style
- Newswriting for print, broadcast and radio
- Typing speed: 85 wpm

Digital/Web

- Social media: Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat
- Html, WordPress, Weebly, Wix
- Mass e-mail marketing
- Google Drive

Software/Multimedia

- Rundown Creator
- SoundCloud
- Microsoft Office
- Final Cut Pro
- Adobe: Premiere, Photoshop, InDesign, Audition
- DLSR Photography
- Videography

HONORS

100 Strangers Gallery

- Photograph selected, from 8,000 entries, and featured in Fresno City Hall
- Oct. 24, 2016

Hermes Creative Awards

- Gold award recipient
- May 2015

Accolade Global Film Competition

- Award recipient
- March 2015

Mass Communication and Journalism Showcase

- Honorable Mention
- May 2, 2014

AFFILIATIONS

Kids In Need of Defense

Volunteer Interpreter

National Lawyers Guild

Volunteer Legal Observer

Please explain why you would like to be appointed to the City Council.

I would like to be appointed to City Council to be of service to my community, and especially, the district I have lived in for most of my life. As a service-oriented resident of Madera, I have continually identified and taken part in numerous and diverse volunteering opportunities with the purpose of improving my community. Some of these include my participation in local non-profit organizations, community projects, and supporting initiatives that foster civic participation, inclusion and growth.

As a Hispanic woman raised in a monolingual, low-income farmworker household, my appointment in local decision-making will help fulfill long needed representation that is truly reflective of our community.

Because I grew up in Madera and my family lived the experience of generations of newcomers, I can relate to many of my neighbors and I intend to use this position to advocate for all residents of district five. My family planted seeds in Madera, and I don't plan on leaving, so being a part of its improvement in any role is always priority.

What qualifies you to serve on the City Council?

My most important qualification is my desire to reciprocate well-being to the community that has given my family and I so much, including my education and upbringing. I am able to contribute a diverse set of skills, including my ability to communicate with all residents in my district. Because I grew up here, my neighbors and I are able to relate, and I understand our core common issues, which include infrastructure, jobs, education, accessibility to public services and economic opportunities, health and our quality of life, to list a few.

What are the greatest opportunities for the City from your perspective?

I envision a Madera where every single human has the opportunity to thrive. As the daughter of immigrants, I know there is no impossible that human resiliency cannot overcome, and collectively, that becomes power to improve our community.

We live, work and play in Madera, and part of building a stronger and more united community must include government transparency and accessibility. District five residents must see how local government addresses our collective needs, and be an active part of the decision-making process that impacts all our lives.

From the potholes on the road, to how we are able to make a living, to what services and goods are available to us, local government needs to prioritize our needs, and we must all be able to see that and have our input considered.

What other information do you think is relevant to your application?

Please see my attached resume.

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DISTRICT RESIDENCY

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: Matilda Villafan

Home Address: [REDACTED] Madera, CA 93638

Phone No.: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Occupation: [REDACTED]

Number of years lived in Madera: +46 years

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Matilda Villafan _____ 1/6/2021 _____

Applicant's Signature

Date

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MATILDA VILLAFAN



Madera, CA



OFFICE / COMPUTER SKILLS

Basic Computer Knowledge

Accounting

Cash Handling

File Maintenance

Scheduling

SOFT SKILLS

Interpersonal Skills

Customer Service

Multi-tasker

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Table Games Dealer with extensive customer service, cash handling, and technical support experience. Supervisory experience, highly organized and excellent at training other individuals. Extremely quick learner and highly motivated.

EXPERIENCE

LOAN REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

CITY OF MADERA GRANT COMMITTEE | 2018-Present

- Assist the Grant Specialist with loans that need approval and community input.

TABLE GAMES DEALER/ DUAL RATE

TABLE MOUNTAIN CASINO | February 1993 - Present

- Cash handling process and procedures, exchange guest's currency for gaming chips.
- Always maintain continuous security of assigned game.
- Maintain a friendly and cordial relationship with the customers by greeting and assisting them.
- Maintain game pace by handling chips, money, dice, and other equipment efficiently.
- Deals a combination of Blackjack, Carnival Games, and other specialty games such as Roulette.
- Performs all duties while providing maximum game protection.

SECRETARY OF TREASURER

FRESNO STATE TRABAJADORES DE LA RAZA ORGANIZATION | 2002 - 2003

- Collected annual organization fees.
- Scheduled appointments with guest speakers.
- Scheduled offsite tours.

SOCIAL WORK INTERN

WORKFORCE CONNECTION | 2002

- Assisted clients with assessment test for job search
- Coordinated events for community outreach and brought awareness of cultural events that took place in the area.

EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SOCIAL WORK CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
DECEMBER 2003

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CHICANO STUDIES CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
DECEMBER 2003

ASSOCIATE IN ARTS DEGREE IN GENERAL STUDIES
MAY 1999

Questionnaire

1. Please explain why you would like to be appointed to the City Council.

As a lifelong resident of Madera, I believe that I am qualified for this position because of my love for this city. I currently serve on the Grant Committee for the City of Madera where I assist with loan reviews and approvals. I am a strong advocate for Madera where I have seen the growth through the years, and I want to be a part of the positive community development of this city. As a resident of district five I personally know what changes and improvements are needed and can be made. If given the opportunity I will give the best leadership that I can offer to this position.

2. What qualifies you to serve on the City Council?

As an active community member, I serve on the grants committee for the city and other local community groups. I received my Bachelor's in Social Work which has prepared me with critical thinking, how to promote self determination and help people to have empathy with whatever situation is at hand. My educational experience also includes a professional internship with the Fresno Workforce Connection where I coordinated activities that focused on Cultural Diversity Awareness. My work experience as a Blackjack Table Games dealer has given me the skills to work with a diverse group of personalities in a fast-paced environment while being able to make quick decisions.

3. What are the greatest opportunities for the City from your perspective?

The greatest opportunity for this city and district five in my perspective is job growth and recovering from COVID-19. We can create good paying jobs by

revitalizing neighborhoods with sidewalks, and better streets to improve safety for the city. COVID-19 has forced many small businesses to close. As a city we need to do more to help our local businesses secure grants and support to remain open.

An additional opportunity that needs awareness is the Madera Rescue Mission and homelessness. As a city we need to be proactive on the mental health and seek additional resources to assist with the shelter needs and implement medical assistance to individuals in need.

4. What other information do you think is relevant to your application?

Living in Madera my whole life I see the opportunities for growth not only in our District, but as the City itself. I believe that with my education experience and interpersonal skills I can be a good representative for the residents of district five. Now more than ever we need people committed to bringing us together and moving our community forward.