
Profile

Whenever possible, submit your application prior to the scheduled meeting of the affected advisory board so that they can consider all applications prior to making a recommendation to Council.

Public Records Statement

I acknowledge that all information submitted in this application becomes a public record and will be searchable online. The Town is not able to remove information from the public record once it has been posted.

☒ I Agree

Email Address

E. Strother

First Name

Middle
Initial

Murray-ndinga

Last Name

Street Address

Suite or Apt

Chapel Hill

City

NC

State

27514

Postal Code

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Residency within the Town limits is required for membership on most Council advisory bodies. Memberships of some committees and task forces may be composed of up to forty percent of non-Town residents.

What district do you live in? *

☒ Chapel Hill Town limits (Purple)

[Please consult the town maps HERE if you are unsure](#)

If you are a Chapel Hill Resident, How long have you lived here?

☒ 1-3 years

The Council encourages you to visit a meeting of the group that you are interested in serving on. Please choose no more than two groups from the list below to which you would like to apply.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Planning Commission: Appointed

E. Strother Murray-ndinga

Question applies to Housing Advisory Board

Select a Seat Category for the Housing Advisory Board *

☒ Homeowner or Tenant

Question applies to Planning Commission

Select a Seat Category for the Planning Commission *

☒ Chapel Hill Resident

Which Board is your First Choice? *

☒ Housing Advisory Board

How did you find out about this opportunity? (select all that apply)

- ☒ Email
- ☒ Internet
- ☒ Social Media
- ☒ Other (provide additional information below)

If you chose "Other" from the advertising opportunity listed above, please specify:

personal outreach from contacts

Interests & Experiences

Question applies to multiple boards

How do you describe your previous advisory board experience?

☒ Non-Chapel Hill Board Experience

What perspective(s) do you bring to the board(s), commission(s), committee(s) or task force(s) to which you are applying?

I love living in Chapel Hill! And I am immensely grateful that as a federal retiree and parent of school-aged children, I was able to move here, where I spent my early childhood, with my hardworking husband and our immigrant family. At the same time, I know many newcomers and/or those whose labor ensure our comfort and wellbeing cannot afford to be our neighbors. Through my parish's support with rental assistance to an Afghan family, as well as other outreach work, and based on my review of ARPA grant applications after completing the 2022 Peoples Academy, I am aware of the great income disparity in our community and additional complicating factors including food insecurity that further widen the gap. With ongoing development, I would like to be a voice for more truly affordable and workforce housing in Chapel Hill. Though I am white, my husband and our children aged 8, 11, 14, and 20 are originally from Congo; so I would also bring their perspective (and experiences with school authorities and law enforcement) as recently arrived immigrants of color to any assignment.

Please provide a brief summary of any other relevant qualifications (skills, abilities, interests and/or experience) you bring.

In my 23 years as a U.S. diplomat, I led large, small, and culturally diverse teams in seven countries and in Washington, DC. Prior to my Foreign Service career, I worked in local economic development in the State of Indiana, so I also understand the need to attract investment and create jobs. I speak Spanish and French fluently.

Question applies to Planning Commission

Do you have special interest, experience, or education/training in city planning, design field, environment, housing, transportation or related fields? If yes, please explain.

[Strother_Murray-Ndinga_resume_2023_.doc](#)

You may upload a supporting document (e.g., CV or resume). Please be advised that any information submitted becomes a public record and may be searchable online.

Demographics

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Ethnicity *

☒ Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Gender *

☒ Female

If other, please describe:

Please select your age from the following list. *

☒ 35-54

Retired

Occupation

Are you a caregiver for or identify with a disability?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Have you participated in the Peoples Academy?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Are you a Town of Chapel Hill employee?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Ethics Statement

ETHICS GUIDELINES FOR TOWN ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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☒ I Agree *

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Profile

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☒ I Agree

Email Address

Hailey

First Name

Middle Initial

Kowing

Last Name

Street Address

Unit A

Suite or Apt

Chapel Hill

City

NC

State

27514

Postal Code

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

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What district do you live in? *

☒ Chapel Hill Town limits (Purple)

[Please consult the town maps HERE if you are unsure](#)

If you are a Chapel Hill Resident, How long have you lived here?

☒ 1-3 years

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Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Planning Commission: Eligible

Question applies to Planning Commission

Select a Seat Category for the Planning Commission *

☒ Chapel Hill Resident

Which Board is your First Choice? *

☒ Planning Commission

How did you find out about this opportunity? (select all that apply)

☒ Advisory Board or Council member

If you chose "Other" from the advertising opportunity listed above, please specify:

Interests & Experiences

Question applies to multiple boards

How do you describe your previous advisory board experience?

☒ Little or No Experience

What perspective(s) do you bring to the board(s), commission(s), committee(s) or task force(s) to which you are applying?

As a student at UNC-Chapel Hill, I would bring a unique perspective to the Planning Commission. My daily experiences navigating campus and the broader Chapel Hill community provide me with firsthand insights into how transportation, housing, and public spaces impact both students and long-term residents. I live off-campus and commute primarily by bike (and sometimes bus), which gives me a direct and thorough understanding of Chapel Hill's bike transportation network, including its strengths and areas for improvement. Additionally, my status as a low-income tenant adds another layer to my unique perspective, and can help bring visibility to some of the issues renters face in Chapel Hill. My academic focus on urban planning and transportation systems gives me the tools to analyze issues from both a practical and theoretical standpoint. Also, my involvement on and off-campus in advocacy groups helps me stay connected with community interests.

Please provide a brief summary of any other relevant qualifications (skills, abilities, interests and/or experience) you bring.

I have a strong academic background in geography, with a minor in Urban Planning & Studies, as well as extensive coursework in Geographic Information Sciences (GIS). My GIS internship with the City of Madison gave me hands-on experience with transportation planning, including work on bike transportation networks and multi-modal accessibility. I have developed technical skills in spatial analysis, data visualization, and public communication, which are critical for understanding and addressing urban planning issues. Additionally, I am a member of the Build U.P. Urban Planning Advocacy Club at UNC, where I engage with topics like transportation, housing, and tactical urbanism.

Question applies to Planning Commission

Do you have special interest, experience, or education/training in city planning, design field, environment, housing, transportation or related fields? If yes, please explain.

Yes, I have a strong academic and practical foundation in urban planning, transportation, housing, and environmental sustainability. In addition to coursework in urban transportation planning and GIS, I am currently taking a graduate-level class on housing and gentrification, which has deepened my understanding of the complex social and economic issues surrounding urban development and housing equity. Next semester, I plan on taking courses on development planning techniques, which will strengthen my understanding of economics and planning. My experience as a GIS intern involved working on transportation networks, including updates to the Bike Level Traffic of Stress network, which supports accessibility analyses for pedestrians and cyclists. Furthermore, my previous courses in environmental sustainability allow me to consider the long-term impacts of urban planning decisions. I also have a strong interest in public transit advocacy, having co-founded a Transit Advocacy Club during my first year at college in St. Louis. This combination of academic focus, hands-on experience, and community engagement makes me well-equipped to contribute thoughtfully to discussions on transportation, housing, and city planning. Additionally, I plan on pursuing a master's degree at UNC's Department of City and Regional Planning, so I am thoroughly interested in the future of Chapel Hill and its residents—especially the community's relationship with the University. The hands-on, practical experience I can gain on the Planning Commission will enrich my academic journey here.

[Resume1112.pdf](#)

You may upload a supporting document (e.g., CV or resume). **Please be advised that any information submitted becomes a public record and may be searchable online.**

Demographics

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Ethnicity *

☒ Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Gender *

☒ Female

If other, please describe:

Please select your age from the following list. *

☒ 18-24

Student

Occupation

Are you a caregiver for or identify with a disability?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Have you participated in the Peoples Academy?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Are you a Town of Chapel Hill employee?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Ethics Statement

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☒ I Agree *

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Profile

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Public Records Statement

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☒ I Agree

Email Address

Courtland

First Name

Bartosik

Last Name

Middle
Initial

Street Address

Apt 23

Suite or Apt

Chapel Hill

City

NC

State

27514

Postal Code

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

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What district do you live in? *

☒ Chapel Hill Town limits (Purple)

[Please consult the town maps HERE if you are unsure](#)

If you are a Chapel Hill Resident, How long have you lived here?

☒ 1-3 years

The Council encourages you to visit a meeting of the group that you are interested in serving on. Please choose no more than two groups from the list below to which you would like to apply.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Planning Commission: Eligible

Question applies to Community Design Commission

Select a Seat Category for the Community Design Commission

☒ Chapel Hill Resident

Question applies to Planning Commission

Select a Seat Category for the Planning Commission *

☒ Housing Advisory Board Champion

Which Board is your First Choice? *

☒ Housing Advisory Board

How did you find out about this opportunity? (select all that apply)

☒ Internet

If you chose "Other" from the advertising opportunity listed above, please specify:

Interests & Experiences

Question applies to multiple boards

How do you describe your previous advisory board experience?

☒ Non-Chapel Hill Board Experience

What perspective(s) do you bring to the board(s), commission(s), committee(s) or task force(s) to which you are applying?

As a young professional who dedicated my college years to advocating for affordable housing in Chapel Hill, I bring a fresh perspective to the Housing Advisory Board and/or the Human Services Advisory Board. My advocacy for affordable housing is deeply rooted in my own personal experiences within the community. Through conversations with many community members and colleagues who have been personally affected by housing disparities in Orange County, I bring a nuanced understanding of the struggles our community faces with affordable housing. Aside from this, as a young professional I bring a dynamic perspective to the table. I openly welcome the exploration of unconventional solutions and creative approaches to problems. I am eager to reframe existing standards to best fit the needs of the community I care so deeply about.

Please provide a brief summary of any other relevant qualifications (skills, abilities, interests and/or experience) you bring.

I currently hold the position of president of Habitat For Humanity's Triangle Young Professional Chapter, a position in which I lead a board of directors and manage an organization that works with the three Habitat affiliates in the Triangle region. In this role, I am responsible for facilitating communications with Habitat for Humanity, promoting participation at Habitat For Humanity build sites, and advocating for affordable housing education in the communities. I have had the opportunity to work alongside Habitat leaders in discussions regarding our role in mitigating the crisis and have effectively fostered relationships within the community that have allowed our organization to grow so quickly. Aside from my roles within the affordable housing community, I recently worked as advertising director at The Daily Tar Heel, a nonprofit student-run newspaper on UNC's campus. In this role, in which I manage a team of 7 account executives, I have developed leadership and communication skills that have allowed my team to consistently exceed sales goals and help keep the organization afloat month-over-month. Currently, I am in the Emerging Leader Program at Fidelity Investments, where I spend every day developing leadership skills in the corporate environment, only furthering my desire to bring change in my immediate community. I am confident that I will be an asset to these advisory boards as I not only have first-hand experience working in housing in the community, but I am motivated by the need for change in our community, and am confident I can be an asset to the board.

Question applies to Community Design Commission

Do you have special interest, experience, or education/training in design field, architecture, landscape design, horticulture, city planning, green design, place making or related fields? If yes, please explain.

While I don't have tangible training in the field, I have a special interest in the community design. I grew up in Carolina Beach, NC, where community design was always one of the top priorities on the local ballot. Seeing the design of my community greatly affected by tourism and the needs of the town, I found myself deeply interested in the decisions made on the local level that affected the way my community was planned.

Question applies to Planning Commission

Do you have special interest, experience, or education/training in city planning, design field, environment, housing, transportation or related fields? If yes, please explain.

Similarly to my responses above regarding my interests & experiences, I have a deep rooted passion for housing in my community. I recently attended Habitat for Humanity's Annual Legislative Conference as a scholarship recipient where I had the opportunity to indulge in the needs, both on a state and federal level, regarding to housing, and want to be a part of the discussions happening on the local level in regards to this topic (as well as the other associated topics). I also am greatly familiar with Chapel Hill's affordable housing plan for the next five years and the needs and wants of the community, so I can bring prior understanding of some of the conversations happening within the planning commission.

[Courtland Resume.pdf](#)

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Demographics

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Ethnicity *

☒ Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Gender *

☒ Female

If other, please describe:

Please select your age from the following list. *

☒ 18-24

Emerging Leader Program
Associate, Fidelity
Investments
Occupation

Are you a caregiver for or identify with a disability?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Have you participated in the Peoples Academy?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Are you a Town of Chapel Hill employee?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Ethics Statement

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☒ I Agree *

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Profile

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Public Records Statement

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☒ I Agree

Email Address

Judith

S

Miller

First Name

Middle Initial

Last Name

Street Address

Suite or Apt

Chapel Hill

NC

27514

City

State

Postal Code

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

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What district do you live in? *

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[Please consult the town maps HERE if you are unsure](#)

If you are a Chapel Hill Resident, How long have you lived here?

☒ 4-9 years

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Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Planning Commission: Eligible

Question applies to Board of Adjustment

Select a Seat Category for Board of Adjustment *

☒ Chapel Hill Town Resident

Question applies to Planning Commission

Select a Seat Category for the Planning Commission *

☒ Chapel Hill Resident

Which Board is your First Choice? *

☒ Board of Adjustment

How did you find out about this opportunity? (select all that apply)

☒ Advisory Board or Council member

If you chose "Other" from the advertising opportunity listed above, please specify:

Interests & Experiences

Question applies to multiple boards

How do you describe your previous advisory board experience?

☒ Non-Chapel Hill Board Experience

What perspective(s) do you bring to the board(s), commission(s), committee(s) or task force(s) to which you are applying?

I've served on numerous boards, committees and task forces, both public and private. I'm an attorney and have been a real estate developer, understanding governmental processes from top to bottom. My experience and comprehension include years of dealing with many inclusive and relevant factors including, but not limited to economic, environmental and humanistic realities. Am currently serving my first one-year term on the Board of Adjustment.

Please provide a brief summary of any other relevant qualifications (skills, abilities, interests and/or experience) you bring.

My work has included motion picture and theater production, global development of business opportunities working with foreign governments and entities on behalf of corporate interests in emerging economies, being a University Instructor of Business Law, an author, writer, business consultant. My avocation has always been politics and good government, justice and opportunity for all.

Question applies to Board of Adjustment

Do you have special interest, experience, or education/training in city planning or related fields? If yes, please explain.

One unique experience was my acquisition of a 2,000-acre "defunct" platted and zoned (since 1972) real estate development near Houston, Texas in 2007 where I then spent 8 years renovating, excavating and saving the investment. This required environmentally conscious excavation of lakes, miles of riverfront, campgrounds, roads, etc., implementing a sales and marketing department, working with County & School Taxing, Assessing & First Responder departments, rewriting the outdated CCRs completely, creating Architectural Guidelines for property owners, hiring and training a staff of 75 locals, rehabbing & operating the Water & Sewer systems that serviced the property, and every element of an independent community not governed by any City or County development rules. I built a construction company for lot improvements in the subdivision. It was a long 8 years! From there I moved here to the Triangle 5 years ago.

Question applies to Planning Commission

Do you have special interest, experience, or education/training in city planning, design field, environment, housing, transportation or related fields? If yes, please explain.

My previous answer would apply here as well.

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Ethnicity *

☒ Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Gender *

☒ Female

If other, please describe:

Please select your age from the following list. *

☒ over 55

Investments & Law

Occupation

Are you a caregiver for or identify with a disability?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Have you participated in the Peoples Academy?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Are you a Town of Chapel Hill employee?

☐ Yes ☒ No

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☒ I Agree

Email Address

Meredith

Rodemeyer

First Name

Middle Initial

Last Name

Street Address

Suite or Apt

Chapel Hill

NC

27514

City

State

Postal Code

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

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What district do you live in? *

☒ Chapel Hill Town limits (Purple)

[Please consult the town maps HERE if you are unsure](#)

If you are a Chapel Hill Resident, How long have you lived here?

None Selected

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Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Planning Commission: Eligible

Question applies to Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership

Where in the Downtown Service District are you a Resident, Employee, or (Property/Business) owner? (provide address if different than above)

Select a Seat Category for the Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership

☒ Chapel Hill Town Resident

Select a Seat Category for the Community Design Commission

None Selected

Question applies to Planning Commission

Select a Seat Category for the Planning Commission *

☒ Chapel Hill Resident

Which Board is your First Choice? *

☒ Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership

How did you find out about this opportunity? (select all that apply)

☒ Internet

If you chose "Other" from the advertising opportunity listed above, please specify:

Interests & Experiences

Question applies to multiple boards

How do you describe your previous advisory board experience?

☒ Little or No Experience

What perspective(s) do you bring to the board(s), commission(s), committee(s) or task force(s) to which you are applying?

I have truly loved every city I've lived in and believe in the importance of getting involved in my community. I grew up in a historic neighborhood in Jacksonville, Florida that is still close to my heart. In college, I was a student ambassador to help incoming freshmen get acquainted with the great city of Boston. After serving a year with AmeriCorps in New York City, I then launched my career in one of the city's business improvement districts. While at Goldman Sachs, I had the incredible opportunity to help open the new GS London Headquarters. In 2022, I was fortunate enough to get to choose Chapel Hill as the city to raise our children so that we could be closer to family. We landed in a great neighborhood and have loved every minute since we've been here — and we plan on being here for a long time. I have the perspective of being a mom to young kids and imagining how as my kids grow up here, we can make this great town even greater. We are frequently out and about at parks, playgrounds, the library and sometimes we even brave restaurants (sitting still is hard). Even the dump is a favorite outing for my kids. My resume gives an overview of my professional experience and I've included more detail in the next question about my time working for a business improvement district. Mostly, I just want to get involved in some way and am happy to serve on an advisory board where my skills and experience would be most useful.

Please provide a brief summary of any other relevant qualifications (skills, abilities, interests and/or experience) you bring.

One of my earliest jobs in New York was working for the Meatpacking Business Improvement District. In my role I got to work with 200+ neighborhood businesses to help attract both tourists and locals to the area. It was one of the most interesting jobs I've had because it allowed me to meet all sorts of business owners and think of creative ways to market their businesses. We planned events together, partnered with outside brands for special promotions and also tried to help business employees feel connected to their community. It was real, hyper-local marketing that felt genuine and fun. On the flip side, I also sat through countless community board meetings (e.g., every time a new bar applied for a liquor license) knew the names of our local police officers and also knew who to call to get a permit approved. I figured out how to operate in and feel connected to a little community inside one of the world's biggest cities. I can hold a meeting with a CEO but also know that the building's superintendent should be your best friend. I value the importance of good relationships and hearing different perspectives. I would be excited to bring some of this experience to an advisory board here in Chapel Hill, and I'm also eager to learn more about this town, its challenges and how to shape it for a better future.

Question applies to Planning Commission

Do you have special interest, experience, or education/training in city planning, design field, environment, housing, transportation or related fields? If yes, please explain.

[MeredithRodemeyer_Resume_2025.pdf](#)

You may upload a supporting document (e.g., CV or resume). **Please be advised that any information submitted becomes a public record and may be searchable online.**

Demographics

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Ethnicity *

☒ Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Gender *

☒ Female

If other, please describe:

Please select your age from the following list. *

☒ 35-54

Occupation

Are you a caregiver for or identify with a disability?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Have you participated in the Peoples Academy?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Are you a Town of Chapel Hill employee?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Ethics Statement

ETHICS GUIDELINES FOR TOWN ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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☒ I Agree *

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test

Profile

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Public Records Statement

I acknowledge that all information submitted in this application becomes a public record and will be searchable online. The Town is not able to remove information from the public record once it has been posted.

☒ I Agree

Email Address

XilongZhao

First NameMiddle InitialLast Name

Street Address

Suite or Apt

Chapel HillNC27514

CityStatePostal Code

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Residency within the Town limits is required for membership on most Council advisory bodies. Memberships of some committees and task forces may be composed of up to forty percent of non-Town residents.

What district do you live in? *

☒ Chapel Hill Town limits (Purple)

[Please consult the town maps HERE if you are unsure](#)

If you are a Chapel Hill Resident, How long have you lived here?

☒ Greater than 10 years

The Council encourages you to visit a meeting of the group that you are interested in serving on. Please choose no more than two groups from the list below to which you would like to apply.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Planning Commission: Eligible

Question applies to Planning Commission

Select a Seat Category for the Planning Commission *

☒ Chapel Hill Resident

Which Board is your First Choice? *

☒ Planning Commission

How did you find out about this opportunity? (select all that apply)

☒ Internet

If you chose "Other" from the advertising opportunity listed above, please specify:

Interests & Experiences

Question applies to multiple boards

How do you describe your previous advisory board experience?

☒ Chapel Hill Board Experience

What perspective(s) do you bring to the board(s), commission(s), committee(s) or task force(s) to which you are applying?

As an 18-year Chapel Hill current resident, I see the city development in recent years. Also, I learned what the residents concern and needs to be improved. With my diversified educational, working, community service and minority Asian cultural background and living experiences in this area, I wish to convey and present some fresh views and practices to the planning cause of Chapel Hill from the residents and myself.

Please provide a brief summary of any other relevant qualifications (skills, abilities, interests and/or experience) you bring.

I have been serving the Cultural and Arts Commission of Chapel Hill for 6 years and the Park and Recreation Council of Orange County for 4 years. These advisory services enriched my knowledge and broadened my views on city development. With my longlasting community services as a dedicated volunteer by organizing or coordinating LightUp cultural events, monarch butterfly conservatory milkweeds planting and forestry Cleanups in Chapel Hill, and Asian Food and Cultural Festivals in Cary and Raleigh, and community recreational events, I can understand what the residents need and interested. I hope to promote the development potentials of Chapel Hill in different perspectives closely related to the daily living of current and future residents.

Question applies to Planning Commission

Do you have special interest, experience, or education/training in city planning, design field, environment, housing, transportation or related fields? If yes, please explain.

You may upload a supporting document (e.g., CV or resume). **Please be advised that any information submitted becomes a public record and may be searchable online.**

Demographics

The Town Council seeks to attract persons from diverse backgrounds and believes that childcare and transportation is a potential barrier for qualified and interested applicants. See the [Childcare and Transportation Assistance pilot](#) for further details. In order to consider this application and provide some balance to the various boards, this personal information is required:

Ethnicity *

☒ Asian or Pacific Islander

Gender *

☒ Male

If other, please describe:

Please select your age from the following list. *

☒ over 55

Occupation

Are you a caregiver for or identify with a disability?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Have you participated in the Peoples Academy?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Are you a Town of Chapel Hill employee?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Ethics Statement

ETHICS GUIDELINES FOR TOWN ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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☒ I Agree *

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test

Profile

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Public Records Statement

I acknowledge that all information submitted in this application becomes a public record and will be searchable online. The Town is not able to remove information from the public record once it has been posted.

☒ I Agree

Email Address

William

N

Ferris

First Name

Middle Initial

Last Name

Street Address

5a

Suite or Apt

Chapel Hill

NC

27514

City

State

Postal Code

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Residency within the Town limits is required for membership on most Council advisory bodies. Memberships of some committees and task forces may be composed of up to forty percent of non-Town residents.

What district do you live in? *

☒ Chapel Hill Town limits (Purple)

[Please consult the town maps HERE if you are unsure](#)

If you are a Chapel Hill Resident, How long have you lived here?

☒ 1-3 years

The Council encourages you to visit a meeting of the group that you are interested in serving on. Please choose no more than two groups from the list below to which you would like to apply.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Planning Commission: Eligible

Question applies to Planning Commission

Select a Seat Category for the Planning Commission *

☒ Chapel Hill Resident

Question applies to Stormwater Management Utility Advisory Board

Select a Seat Category for the Stormwater Management Utility Advisory Board *

☒ Chapel Hill Town Resident or Residential Property Owner

Which Board is your First Choice? *

☒ Planning Commission

How did you find out about this opportunity? (select all that apply)

☒ Internet

If you chose "Other" from the advertising opportunity listed above, please specify:

Interests & Experiences

Question applies to multiple boards

How do you describe your previous advisory board experience?

☒ Little or No Experience

What perspective(s) do you bring to the board(s), commission(s), committee(s) or task force(s) to which you are applying?

I am an applied economist whose focuses and expertise are on stormwater management policy and economic and community engagement. I have experience connecting with community members through fieldwork, local government officials, and members of industry to support decision-making related to economic development, community planning, and environmental policy analysis. I have engaged in extensive stormwater management research and community development work. I have previously been employed in municipal economic development work at the City of Williamsburg, Virginia, and at the Virginia Tech Center for Economic and Community Engagement. I am a published researcher in the context of stormwater management and did my Ph.D. at Virginia Tech, with heavy focus on related policy, as well as on development topics. I am the Executive Director of the Center for Innovation in Risk-analysis for Climate Adaptation and Decision-making and am an Economic Modeler at NC EcoTech, which gives me a nuanced perspective of how to balance community development with environmental goals.

Please provide a brief summary of any other relevant qualifications (skills, abilities, interests and/or experience) you bring.

-Ph.D. in economics, through the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Virginia Tech, with focuses on environmental and development economics. -Executive Director of two climate resilience centers at Duke University (RESILE and the Center for Innovation in Risk-analysis for Climate Adaptation and Decision-making) -Published stormwater researcher. -Extensive whitepaper publications in the context of economic and community development. -Extensive community engagement and outreach experience. - Skilled technical writer. -Skilled project manager. -Skilled policy analyst.

Question applies to Planning Commission

Do you have special interest, experience, or education/training in city planning, design field, environment, housing, transportation or related fields? If yes, please explain.

Yes; I have extensive experience in the context of economic and community development. My expertise is strongest in the context of balancing economic development and environmental goals. I am a skilled economic development researcher and focus heavily on how to support environmental improvements through policy. I am an academic looking to engage in tangible community work. I have a strong passion for getting out of the lab, so to speak, and so I want to do what I can to serve the town I call home.

[FerrisCVFall24.pdf](#)

You may upload a supporting document (e.g., CV or resume). **Please be advised that any information submitted becomes a public record and may be searchable online.**

Demographics

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Ethnicity *

☒ Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Gender *

☒ Male

If other, please describe:

Please select your age from the following list. *

☒ 25-34

Academia

Occupation

Are you a caregiver for or identify with a disability?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Have you participated in the Peoples Academy?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Are you a Town of Chapel Hill employee?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Ethics Statement

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☒ I Agree *

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test

Profile

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Public Records Statement

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☒ I Agree

Email Address

Erik

First Name

Valera

Last Name

Middle
Initial

Street Address

Suite or Apt

Chapel Hill

City

NC

State

27516

Postal Code

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

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What district do you live in? *

☒ Chapel Hill Town limits (Purple)

[Please consult the town maps HERE if you are unsure](#)

If you are a Chapel Hill Resident, How long have you lived here?

☒ Greater than 10 years

The Council encourages you to visit a meeting of the group that you are interested in serving on. Please choose no more than two groups from the list below to which you would like to apply.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Planning Commission: Appointed

Question applies to Planning Commission

Select a Seat Category for the Planning Commission *

☒ Chapel Hill Resident

Which Board is your First Choice? *

☒ Planning Commission

How did you find out about this opportunity? (select all that apply)

☒ Advisory Board or Council member

If you chose "Other" from the advertising opportunity listed above, please specify:

Interests & Experiences

Question applies to multiple boards

How do you describe your previous advisory board experience?

☒ Non-Chapel Hill Board Experience

What perspective(s) do you bring to the board(s), commission(s), committee(s) or task force(s) to which you are applying?

I am an engaged resident of Chapel Hill. Furthermore, I'm the Chief Operating Officer at El Centro Hispano. I oversee five departments including; economic development, education, community and civic participation, community health, and community support. I approach this work from the perspective of the social determinate of health, that is the conditions in the environment by which people are born, live, play, learn, and work.

Please provide a brief summary of any other relevant qualifications (skills, abilities, interests and/or experience) you bring.

I bring experience in community engagement, community assessments, strategic planning, and operations. Furthermore, I am a parent of East Chapel Hill High Graduate and a local artist.

Question applies to Planning Commission

Do you have special interest, experience, or education/training in city planning, design field, environment, housing, transportation or related fields? If yes, please explain.

In addition to the experienced described above and on my CV I have an acute interest art and cultural representation.

[Erik Valera CV 3-25.pdf](#)

You may upload a supporting document (e.g., CV or resume). **Please be advised that any information submitted becomes a public record and may be searchable online.**

Demographics

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Ethnicity *

☒ Hispanic

Gender *

☒ Male

If other, please describe:

Please select your age from the following list. *

☒ 35-54

Nonprofit Executive

Occupation

Are you a caregiver for or identify with a disability?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Have you participated in the Peoples Academy?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Are you a Town of Chapel Hill employee?

☐ Yes ☒ No

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☒ I Agree *

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