

REVIEWED

By City Clerk's Office at 7:42 am, Jun 15, 2021

Housing Commission Applicant

Theresa H Marasco

Application Date: 06/14/21

Reside in Santa Monica: yes

If yes, number of years: 7 years 3 months

Hold an elected position: no

If yes, please specify:

Applying for the seat reserved for a Housing Authority Section 8 Program participant: yes

Applying for the seat reserved for a Housing Authority Section 8 Program participant who is over the age of 62: no

INTERESTS AND EXPERIENCE

Current or prior service on city boards/commissions:

None

Community activities:

Since moving to Santa Monica in March of 2014, I have been a volunteer advocate for individuals who are experiencing homelessness, and/or persons who are at risk of losing their housing, who are residents of the city. I assist people by guiding them and sharing my vast educational, professional, and personal knowledge and experience to help them navigate a complex system of services to apply for assistance to get into housing or keep them in their homes. Many individuals who are homeless or about to lose their housing become overwhelmed and have difficulty finding and accessing services that can be extremely difficult to obtain.

I have attended numerous City Council, Planning Commission, and Housing Commission meetings over the 7 years of my residency in Santa Monica and stay up to date on all issues related to housing.

Qualifications, experience, education, and technical or professional requirements:

PROFESSIONAL AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

I have a combined 25 years of experience working with low income, at-risk, communities both professionally and in a volunteer capacity in the following positions:

Colorado Legal Services - Paralegal (3 years)

Performed intake and advocated for legal services for domestic violence clients, people seeking divorce or custody actions who are low income, low-income clients needing legal assistance with housing issues such as eviction, and clients who needed representation regarding subsidized housing and Section 8/Housing Choice Vouchers.

Colorado Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice system - Paralegal (9 years)

Case Managed over 180 active cases

Maintained constant contact and advocated on behalf of clients represented in Dependency and Neglect cases.

Daily meetings and contact with social workers, probation officers, family members, care providers, and therapists to advocate on behalf of clients.

Assisted in conflict resolution by acting as a liaison between clients, social workers, probation officers, and care providers

Volunteer Advocacy

Family Preservationist, Renters Rights Advocate, Advocate for individuals experiencing homelessness and people who are at risk of losing their housing (20) years.

Areas of demonstrated expertise:

My professional experience working in law and my personal experience as formerly homeless, a Section 8 voucher holder of over 25 years, and a volunteer advocate combined has provided me knowledge of the following:

Knowledge and experience with ADA and Fair Housing laws; knowledge of HUD regulations, rules, and contracts; up to date knowledge of the current housing crisis on the local, state, and national level; legal knowledge regarding renters rights; education around socioeconomic issues that negatively impact communities and understanding of how to create policies meant to resolve income inequality and housing insecurity; knowledge of local, state, and international building and safety codes; basic understanding of Santa Monica's current geography, current zoning, growth pattern, transportation challenges and specific plans through attendance at commission meetings, reading past and current city council minutes, staying apprised of proposed changes in the aforementioned, and actively engaging with the community members and city officials on the above-mentioned topics.

Goals:

My goals are to work towards a happier, healthier Santa Monica by resolving homelessness and housing insecurity issues through working as a vital member of this commission. This will be my first experience

working with a commission in Santa Monica and I have a vested commitment to the goals of the Housing Commission as a Section 8/Housing Choice voucher holder.

Vision:

My vision is to represent the voices that are underrepresented in the City while helping to create better policies around housing for all and greater economic opportunity and income equality.

Personal Qualities:

I am highly efficient at working with groups of people who are from varied political and socioeconomic backgrounds. My experience working in the legal field has provided me with the negotiation, research, and analytical skills need for the position.

Will you be able to commit the necessary time to perform your duties if appointed to the board?

yes

How did you learn about the vacancy in this board or commission? (select all that apply)

Other

BUSINESS INFORMATION

Occupation: Disabled

Business name:

Business address:

Business phone: