

Application

REVIEWED

By City Clerk's Office at 3:01 pm, Mar 15, 2021

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission : Submitted

Please read the following before completing an application:

The Oaks Initiative, also known as the "Taxpayer Protection Act," was adopted by Santa Monica voters in November 2000 and amended in November 2016. Its requirements affect all City-elected and appointed officials, including Council-appointed board and commission members. Additional information is available on the City's website in City Charter Article XXII – Taxpayer Protection.

All persons are invited to apply for membership on City Boards and Commissions regardless of race, age, sex, religion, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sexual preference, or disability. Applicants shall not, however, be under 18 years of age or serve on more than one Board, Commission or Corporation. Some Boards and Commissions do require special qualifications and requirements. Appointment of members will be made by Councilmembers at an open City Council meeting. Upon appointment, designated members will be required to file a Conflict of Interest disclosure statement. Please answer all questions on this application. This application will become a public record and will be available for public inspection or duplication.

[Additional Conflict of Interest Information for applicants](#)

Profile

Ms. Laurel J Schmidt
Prefix First Name Middle Initial Last Name Suffix

[Redacted]
Email Address

[Redacted]
Street Address

[Redacted]
Suite or Apt

[Redacted]
City

[Redacted]
State

[Redacted]
Postal Code

[Redacted]
Primary Phone

[Redacted]
Alternate Phone

Question applies to multiple boards

Reside in Santa Monica?

Yes No

Question applies to multiple boards

If yes, number of years residence in Santa Monica:

Question applies to Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission

Are you applying for the seats reserved for those ages 18-22 years old?

Yes No

Question applies to Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission

What is your occupation?

Writer, Educator

Written Request to Serve Additional Term/s

Interests & Experience

Question applies to multiple boards

Specify current or prior service on City Boards/Commissions:

I served on the Landmarks Commission for eight years, from approximately 1993--2001, stepping down because of term limits.

Question applies to multiple boards

List community activities in which you are involved:

Since leaving my position with the Santa Monica-Malibu School District I have focused on historic preservation and community education about the built environment. I served five years on the board of the Santa Monica Conservancy, helping to guide the vision and management of the group. I served on the design committee spearheading the renovation of the Shotgun House as a center for historic preservation. Once it was open I planned and supervised public events, wrote educational materials for adults and children and trained the volunteer docent corps to conduct interactive dialogues with the public at the Shotgun House, to teach about Santa Monica history and the value of historic preservation.

Personal qualities identified in the criteria include leadership, creativity, and innovation as well as the ability to work effectively in a group setting and an ability to balance competing needs. Provide examples of how you have demonstrated those qualities:

I'm a proud educator with a teaching and administrative credential. After 23 years teaching in very diverse communities in LAUSD—Hollywood, East Los Angeles and three years at SMASH---I became the principal of Franklin Elementary in Santa Monica. I then served as Director of Pupil Services for 11 years in SMMUSD, working closely with several superintendents and members of the Board of Education, SM City Health and Human services staff, the SMPD, and various mental health agencies. My initial administrative training included extensive work on institutionalized racism and social justice under the supervision of Superintendent Neil Schmidt. As Director, my work included the following responsibilities which required high levels of leadership, creativity, innovation and the ability to work with diverse groups, often with competing interests:

- Developed policies for the district, presented them to the board and the public for discussion and oversaw their implementation.
- Homeless Liaison in the district, responsible for insuring the civil rights and consistent instruction of unhoused students.
- Provided training for all administrators in Education Code and ADA, insuring appropriate programs and treatment for students with disabilities.
- Established a Training Academy for Assistant Principals to provide them with the knowledge to deal with disciplinary issues fairly and the tools to support academic and social success for all students.
- Conducted numerous focus groups with parents of special education students to improve delivery of services. Met with community members concerned about the treatment and welfare of minority students.

As principal I established a parent support group for Farsi speakers to help them navigate the educational system.

- Provided oversight of student suspensions and expulsions in the district, to ensure due process for students and monitor data to identify patterns of racial discrimination in the application of disciplinary measures.
- Provided conflict resolution in disputes between parents and school administrators.
- Led the crisis response team, training school leaders to prepare for various crises, including earthquakes and active shooters.
- Under Superintendent Deasy, created a small high school for students who were failing to thrive in our regular and continuation high schools by providing a project-based curriculum and strong social/emotional supports.
- Recruited, interviewed, hired and evaluated dozens of employees for a wide variety of positions from classroom teacher to occupational therapist.
- As a Board member of the Santa Monica Conservancy, I was intensely involved in strategic planning to fulfill the mission of the organization. I worked on the design committee to refurbish the Shotgun House as an educational center on historic preservation, spearheaded educational efforts and participated in fundraising, advocacy and training docents.
- Wrote and published four books that focus on leadership, excellence in education, social justice, and brain development in children.

Question applies to Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission

Please share any knowledge of or experience with law enforcement, public safety policies and issues, or social services policies and issues.

As the Director of Student Services of the SMMUSD for 11 years, the majority of my responsibilities focused on the safety and social well-being of the nearly 10,000 students in the district. This work included many opportunities to interact with law enforcement personnel and policies. Law Enforcement • Coordinated with police on crisis response plans and procedures involving schools, including lockdowns, active shooters, bomb threats. • Redesigned and supervised school attendance review board (SARB) with a focus on student needs assessments to improve attendance and family support. One member of SMPD always participated in the monthly meetings of the SARB board. • Trained school administrators on the rights and limits of police activity on campus, ensuring that principals and assistant principals followed the education code to preserve students' civil rights. • Convened meetings with SMPD representatives and education lawyers to clarify the rights and restrictions of police requesting school documents and information about specific students. Public Safety Policies and Issues • Responsible for emergency preparedness in all schools, coordinating with the city crisis team on communications and first responders. • Responsible for training all school administrators in crisis response, such as bomb threats or weapons on campus. As part of a team, I went to school campuses when police were called, especially during lock-downs, to coordinate the response between police and school staff, and document the incident for the district. • Liaison with SMPD child abuse investigators. • As Landmarks Commissioner, I dealt with the aftermath of the 1994 earthquake, assessing demolition permits for damaged buildings to ensure public safety as well as the preservation of historic resources. Social Services Policies and Issues • Provided training for all administrators on critical sections of the Education Code, including ADA and Section 504, insuring appropriate programs and treatment for students with disabilities. • As homeless liaison for the district, it was my responsibility to ensure that the civil and educational rights of homeless children and families were upheld by providing professional development for all school administrators and their office staff, and investigating complaints from homeless parents. • Supervised school nurses and school psychologists, providing training on policy issues, education code, community resources and crisis response. • Developed a training academy for assistant principals to acquaint them with social services available in the community for students and families, including referrals for mental health issues, child neglect and abuse.

Question applies to Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission

Why you are interested in serving on the Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission?

I spent my entire adult life trying to improve the communities in which I lived through my professional work in education with students and parents, my writing and through volunteer efforts. I believe that social justice is an indispensable foundation stone in building and maintaining a healthy community in which all citizens have the opportunity to thrive. Law enforcement can play a key role in demonstrating and encouraging social justice, especially when coupled with mental health resources and a strong social safety net. I would like to be a part of the process that puts a spotlight on best practices, and works to implement them in Santa Monica. I believe that with my experience, I can make a valuable contribution to this effort.

Question applies to multiple boards

Participation on the board requires a significant commitment over the length of the term including attendance at approximately two scheduled meetings per month, and possibly other tasks and meetings outside of board meetings. Will you be able to commit the necessary time to perform your duties if appointed to the board?

Yes No

Question applies to multiple boards

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

Word of Mouth- Council or Board/Commission member, City Staff, neighborhood groups, etc.

Business Information (Public)

Occupation:

Writer

Business name:

Business Address

2432 7TH Street Unit 5 Santa Monica, CA 90405

Business Phone

[REDACTED]

Notes

ALL INFORMATION, EXCEPT PERSONAL DATA ENTERED IN THE PROFILE SECTION, IS PUBLIC AND AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING AT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AND ON THE CITY'S WEB PAGE.

DISABILITY RELATED ASSISTANCE AND ALTERNATE FORMATS OF THIS DOCUMENT ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST BY CALLING (310) 458-8211.

After an application has been submitted, a confirmation page will be displayed. If an email address has been provided, an email confirmation will be sent. IF A CONFIRMATION IS NOT DISPLAYED, PLEASE RESUBMIT OR CONTACT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AT (310) 458-8211.