

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO MERCER ISLAND CITY COUNCIL POSITION #1

Applicant Information

(Please type or print)

Applicant Name Carrie Wernick Newman
 Residence Address 3422 97th Ave. SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040
 Home Phone 206-523-3510 Work Phone 206-446-6522 (cell)
 E-Mail Carrie@WernickNewman.com

Cover Letter & Resume

Please attach a one page cover letter and a resume of no more than two pages to this application.

Supplemental Questions

Please respond to the following questions regarding your interest in the position of Councilmember for the City of Mercer Island on separate pages using no more than 3 pages total:

1. Why are you interested in serving as a Mercer Island City Councilmember?
2. What strength would you bring to the Council?
3. What are the three highest priorities and/or issues you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?
4. Explain your current and past community involvement and/or service on city, nonprofit, or public boards, committees, task forces, or commissions and how this has contributed to the Mercer Island community. Address its relevance to the position of Mercer Island City Councilmember.
5. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as a Mercer Island City Councilmember?
6. What is your vision for our City and community?
7. Is there anything else that you may wish to add that would help us get to know you a little better?

Please return this form, your cover letter, resume and answers to the supplemental questions to the City Clerk at Mercer Island City Hall (9611 SE 36th Street) **no later than 5:00 pm on Thursday, December 30, 2010**. Applications received after 5:00 pm will not be accepted.

The application and any correspondence should be addressed to:

**Ali Spietz, City Clerk
 Councilmember Recruitment
 9611 SE 36th Street
 Mercer Island, WA 98040**

Carrie M. Wernick, LICSW-A

3422 97th Ave. SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040

Home: 206.523.3510 Cell: 206.446.6522 carrie@wernicknewman.com

December 26, 2010

Re: City Council Position #1

Mayor Jim Pearman and City Council Members,

I am very much interested in joining the Mercer Island City Council. The Councils' Vision Statement aligns with my values and what I would like to see here on the Island. I hope to contribute in making Mercer Island an even better place to live and work.

I am eligible for this position by: having continuously resided within the Mercer Island city limits for a minimum of one year and I am a registered voter in the City of Mercer Island. Additionally, I currently participate in the following volunteer activities that contract with the City of Mercer Island:

- The Mercer Island Parenting Commission (April 2010 – present). I have worked with the larger Commission to create a plan of action, and a smaller group (of 3) to draft the specifics of our plan. We are in the process of creating parenting recommendations specific to Island residents to increase the well being of youth and prevent risk-taking behaviors.
- Board Member of Mercer Island Youth and Family Services (June 2009 – present). Work towards increasing the quality of services to youth, families and the elderly (primarily youth) on Mercer Island.
- The Communities that Care Coalition (December 2008 – present). Collaborate with community stakeholders (e.g. schools, businesses, and residents) to reduce underage and binge drinking. I am an active member on this coalition. I attend and actively participated in the vast majority of the monthly meetings; help distribute flyers several times per year; have facilitated Café Conversations; have facilitated break-out group at the All-Island Forum; and have helped with behind-the-scenes work (e.g. helped with editing manual).

Being active on the Island, I have a good understanding of the needs of this Island: current strengths, areas of concern, and an understanding of how various organizations on the Island operate and interface. Off Island community involvement in the greater Seattle area has given me a better understanding of: inter-agency collaboration, how to work effectively with people who have very different views from my own, and the nuances of working with people from different cultures. These experiences would be helpful when working on the Mercer Island City Council.

My experience as a social worker has allowed me to work with diverse populations, be a creative problem solver, and to have strong/effective interpersonal skills. It has also trained me to be clear-headed under pressure, to maintain accurate and complete records, and to effectively multi-task and prioritize workload. Additionally, I am very organized and responsible: I do as I say, the best I can, in a timely manner. It appears there are a number of councilmen who have experience with business and finance. My background in education and social services would help to round out the membership of the Council -- to be able to make decisions not only from a financial or business perspective, but by virtue of my training and experience, from a psychosocial perspective. Additionally, as a woman, my appointment would add to the diversity of the City Council. Finally, I have the time, energy and dedication to work towards helping our community as a City Councilmember.

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Carrie Wernick

Carrie M. Wernick, LICSW-A

3422 97th Ave. SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040

H: 206.523.3510 C: 206.446.6522 * carrie@wernicknewman.com

Work Experience:

Harborview Center for Sexual Assault and Traumatic Stress, Seattle, WA Nov. 2007 – March 2008

Social Worker (Interim position)

Administered Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) to children and their caregivers who have experienced trauma.

UC Davis Medical Center – CAARE Diagnostic and Treatment Center, Sacramento, CA

Clinical Specialist

Jan. 2005 – May 2007

Provided mental health therapy (individual, group, family, and PCIT) to children abuse &/or trauma survivors. Utilized standardized inventories, community observations, DSM IV-R, DC 0-3, behavior management techniques, psycho-education, and cognitive-behavioral play therapy. Attended on-going trainings, consultations, and supervision.

Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center – Odessa Brown Children's Clinic, Seattle, WA

Child Mental Health Therapist/Case Manager

Nov. 2002 – Dec. 2005

Conducted intake/assessments, determined diagnosis, and provided mental health treatment (PCIT and individual therapy) to low-income and minority clients. Contributed to the development and implementation of the ADHD Specialty Clinic.

Utilized Motivational Interviewing techniques and integrated primary care with mental health.

Highline School District, Burien, WA

Family Support Specialist, Early Childhood Education & Assistance Program

April 2001 - June 2002

Facilitated the recruitment, enrollment, and involvement of parents and children in Program. Determined family social service needs and assisted families in meeting those needs. Provided counseling, referrals, and crisis intervention.

Facilitated trainings in parenting and child development. Assisted teachers in classroom.

First Steps Maternity Case Manager, Teen Parent Program

Jan. 1996 - April 2001

Assessed bio-psychosocial needs of pregnant and parenting teens. Worked towards healthy pregnancy and birth outcome, positive parenting, pregnancy prevention, and attaining academic and vocational skills. Provided counseling, referrals, and crisis intervention via home visits, school visits, and interagency collaboration. Co-chaired Southwest (King County) Teen Pregnancy and Parenting Alliance, supervised clerical assistant, and facilitated 6th grade prevention groups and teen parent social/educational gatherings. Attended approximately two trainings per month.

Luther Child Center, Everett, WA

Crisis Intervention Specialist, A Turning Point

June 1994 - Dec. 1995

Visited clients' homes to determine level of crisis and to provide safety and stability for all residents. Provided training to guardians and children in areas such as social skills, behavior modification, and anger management.

MSW Intern & Counselor, Kids in Transition

Jan. 1994 - Aug. 1994

Provided intensive home-based case management and counseling services. Developed and coordinated a Family Support Team utilizing wrap-around services. Prepared comprehensive evaluations and recommendations for long-range planning.

Nathan Hale/Summit K-12 Teen Health Center, Seattle, WA

MSW Intern

Sept. 1994 - June 1995

Conducted assessments and implemented interventions for ethnically diverse students, grades 6-12, in a multi-disciplinary setting. Led group therapy sessions and provided case management and individual counseling. Addressed issues such as depression, suicide, homelessness, anger management, conflict resolution, immigration, and absenteeism.

Catholic Community Services - homeless and transitional housing programs, Seattle, WA

Full time and part-time Advocate/Counselor

Dec. 1991- Dec. 1995

Provided counseling, information and referrals, crisis intervention, and enforced program policies for diverse clientele, primarily clients who were chemically dependant and/or mentally ill.

Ruth Dykeman Children's Center - Boys Program, Burien, WA

Part time Residential Counselor

June 1992 - Oct. 1992

Intervened in dysfunctional interactions, modeled effective conflict resolution and problem-solving skills, and instructed and supervised emotionally impaired youth in self-care.

Kent Youth and Family Services, Kent, WA

Interim Teen Parent Coordinator

Feb. 1991 - Sept. 1991

Case managed and counseled pregnant and parenting teens. Facilitated an educational/support group.

Research Experience:

- Adolescent Clinic, University of Washington (PI: Robert M. Lehman, M.D.)** Jan. 1994 - May 1994
Conducted a national survey of school-linked health clinics and worked to set up a mall-based/school-linked multidisciplinary adolescent clinic. Studied survey techniques, fund-raising, grant writing, and inter-agency collaboration.
- Psychology, University of WI-Madison (PI: Tim Strauman, Ph.D.)** Jan. 1988 - May 1989
Examined construct formation and its relation to behavioral disorders among children. Analyzed the relationship between self-perception and emotional disorders.
- Educational Psychology, University of WI-Madison (PI: B. Bradford Brown, Ph.D.)** Sept. 1987-Dec.1988
Studied non-instructional influences on adolescent academic achievement with an emphasis on peer groups.
- Women Studies/Psychology, University of WI-Madison (PI: Janet Hyde, Ph.D.)** June 1987 - August 1987
Examined maternity leave and its effects on job performance, family dynamics and mental health.

Leadership/Volunteer Experience:

- Mercer Island Parenting Commission, Mercer Island, WA** April 2010 – present
Creating parenting recommendations specific to M.I. residents to increase well being of youth and prevent at-risk behaviors.
- Mercer Island Youth and Family Services, Mercer Island, WA** June 2009 – present
Board Member. Work towards increasing the quality of services to youth on Mercer Island.
- Communities that Care Coalition (CTC), Mercer Island, WA** Dec. 2008 – present
Board Member. Collaborate with community stakeholders (e.g. schools, businesses, and residents) to reduce underage and binge drinking. CTC representative on the MI Parent Commission.
- Lakeridge Elementary School, Mercer Island, WA** Sept. 2007 – June 2010
PTA Board Member (VP Family Services) for 2009/2010 school year. Assisted with various activities on a weekly basis.
- Anti-Defamation League (ADL), Seattle, WA** Sept. 2002 – Jan. 2005
Graduate of ADL Leadership Program and committee member. The ADL combats hate crimes and promotes equality.
- Fremont Arts Council, Seattle, WA** Nov. 1994 – Nov. 2004
Board member (secretary) for three years. Joined with commerce & citizens to create diverse arts in the community.
- DCFS - Community Protective Team, Seattle WA** April 1996 – Nov. 2002
Assessed risk and protective factors of high risk child abuse cases and provided recommendations to state Social Worker.
- African-American/Jewish Coalition for Justice, Seattle, WA** June 1999 - May 2001
Board member for two years in this organization that promotes economic and social justice. Member 1994 to 2005.
- Highline School Linked Youth Health Center, Burien, WA** Jan. 1997 - Feb. 1999
Member of Community Advisory Committee. Helped to create and maintain Youth Health Center.
- Dispute Resolution Center of Snohomish County, Everett, WA** Sept. 1994 – Jan. 1996
Volunteered with this organization as a mediator. Trained in basic and family mediation.
- Up With People, United States & Europe** Jan. 1990 - Dec. 1990
Interviewer, promotion representative, and performer with this international educational organization. Promoted cross-cultural communication and understanding. Stayed with 95 families in six countries. Participated in 100s of community service activities.
- Students for Alcohol and Drug Awareness, Madison, WI** Sept. 1988 - June 1989
Co-developer of a counseling, information and referral phone service at the University of Wisconsin focusing on substance abuse. Organized, trained, and managed volunteers in the implementation of this program.

Education:

- Master of Social Work, University of Washington - Seattle, June 1995, G.P.A.: 3.9
Bachelor of Arts - Psychology, University of Wisconsin -Madison, May 1989, G.P.A.: 3.7

Honors / Credentials:

- Recipient of WA State Golden Apple Award for top five educational programs (Teen Parent Program), 1998
Certified Washington State School Social Worker, September 1995 – Present
Graduated with honors from University of Wisconsin – Madison, 1989
Inducted into Psychology Honors Society - Psi Chi, 1988
Freshman Honors Society – Phi Eta Sigma, 1986

Supplemental Questions

Please respond to the following questions regarding your interest in the position of Councilmember for the City of Mercer Island on separate pages using no more than 3 pages total:

1. Why are you interested in serving as a Mercer Island City Councilmember?

The Councils' Vision Statement aligns with my values and what I would like to see here on the Island.

- I have always worked towards improving **education** for youth and would like to continue working towards excellence in education at this macro level.
- Mercer Island is a **diverse and proud community** with rich cultures and diversity in socioeconomics. I believe we can grow as a community and as individuals by (1) sharing our unique cultures, ideas, beliefs, and (2) keeping up Mercer Island pride and connectedness. Islanders are incredibly philanthropic in their donations to Island needs (MISD & YFS) and by way of their voting. I would like to continue to keep up the pride we have as a community, and enhance connection to this community so Islanders will not only continue to be philanthropic, but to feel a true sense of community.
- Giving attention to the **environment**, on a local level and a more global level, is another shared value. I would like to make sure that when making decisions on behalf of Island residents and the Island itself, that we not only look at monetary cost/benefit analysis, but also environmental cost/benefit analysis, and what will add to the **quality of life** here on the Island.
- I believe we need to look at many aspects of **safety**: roads, bike lanes, lighting, crosswalks, sidewalks, bullying, neighborhood block-watch groups, play-areas for kids, and substance abuse amongst our youth, just to name a few.
- **Transportation** has always been an important issue to many Islanders, as well as residents throughout King County. Given the new light rail will be coming across the Island in the not too distant future, I think it will be very important to work with community members, on and off Island, to help make this transition smooth. I can already see the Park-and-Ride as a "bone of contention." It is often completely full, and the Park-and-Ride will likely be used even more once the rail begins. Additional noise during the construction phase, and possibly once the rail begins, has already affected MI residents. Anticipating an increase in public transit (bus &/or rail) use, as well as the noise increase, are issues that need to be worked on well in advance. I believe **prevention is equally important, if not more important, than intervention**. This is said in regard to transportation issues, as well as many other issues. Transportation needs to also be in line with the area mentioned earlier: environment & quality of life. We need to make sure alternative forms of transportation (e.g. bike lanes) are kept, maintained, and if budget allows, improved. And, to continue working on preparing for the future (e.g. electric car stations).

2. What strength would you bring to the Council?

My experience as a social worker has allowed me to work with diverse populations, be a creative problem solver, and to have strong/effective interpersonal skills. It has also trained me to be clear-headed under pressure, to maintain accurate and complete records, and to effectively multi-task and prioritize workload. Additionally, I am very organized and responsible: I do as I say, the best I can, in a timely manner. It appears there are a number of councilmen who have experience with business and finance. My background in education and social services would help to round out the membership of the Council – to be able to make decisions not only from a financial or business perspective, but by virtue of my training and experience, from a psychosocial. Additionally, as a woman, my appointment would add to the diversity of the City Council. Finally, I have the time, energy and dedication to work towards helping our community as a City Councilmember.

3. What are the three highest priorities and/or issues you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?

1. Transportation Issues: Working with Metro and King County with (1) improve sound barrier of I-90 corridor and (2) figure out a better system for parking at the Park-and-Ride, prioritizing MI residents.
Solutions: (1) From what I have researched, I believe there could be better sound-barrier methods used between I-90 and local neighborhoods. Examples include: adding a material to the already existing walls, adding height to the walls, and planting more trees between I-90 and the neighborhoods. (2) I propose having a fee to park at the current Park-and-Ride lot. MI residents with a registered vehicle with zip code 98040 could park for free. It seems that many vehicles are coming from Bellevue and other East side suburbs. These people can park (for free) at their local Park-and-Ride.
2. Underage drinking, binge drinking, and drug use/abuse Issues: The city is already addressing this issue through the CTC and the Parenting Commission. However, I believe more safety nets need to be cast out. I often hear teens on the Island, as well as adults, say there is no where for teens to go on the Island after Starbucks closes. It's great we have the new PEAK center, but for many teens, hanging out at a Boys and Girls Club isn't "cool." We need to have more safe places for kids on the Island to spend their time.
3. Budgeting: We need to learning how to maintain (ideally, improve) the quality of living on the Island while staying within our budget. Simultaneously, we need to add to our "Rainy-Day Fund." We need to think outside the box – come up with creative ideas to bring in revenue and reduce spending. One example would be for community members to form committees and take on roles the city used to operate (e.g. summer activities).

4. Explain your current and past community involvement and/or service on city, nonprofit, or public boards, committees, task forces, or commissions and how this has contributed to the Mercer Island community. Address its relevance to the position of Mercer Island City Councilmember.

Being active on the Island, I have a good understanding of the needs of this Island: current strengths, areas of concern, and an understanding of how various organizations on the Island operate. In the past three years, volunteerism on the Island has included:

- The Mercer Island Parenting Commission (April 2010 – present). I have worked with the larger Commission to create a plan of action, and a smaller group (of 3) to draft the specifics of our plan. We are in the process of creating parenting recommendations specific to M.I. residents to increase the well being of youth and prevent at-risk behaviors.
- Board Member of Mercer Island Youth and Family Services (June 2009 – present). Work towards increasing the quality of services to youth, families and the elderly (primarily youth) on Mercer Island. Membership includes volunteering with the Lion's Club Tree sale.
- The Communities that Care Coalition (December 2008 – present). Collaborate with community stakeholders (e.g. schools, businesses, and residents) to reduce underage and binge drinking. I am an active member on this coalition. I attend and actively participated in monthly meetings; help distribute flyers several times per year; have facilitated Café Conversations; have facilitated break-out group at the All-Island Forum; and have helped with behind-the-scenes work (e.g. helped with editing manual).
- Board Member of Lakeridge Elementary School PTA -VP Family Services (7/2009-6/2010). Oversaw six chair positions all having to do with assisting, educating, uniting, or rewarding parents/families of Lakeridge students.
- Volunteer Lakeridge Elementary (9/2008 – 6/2010): I have worked as a volunteer in many capacities beyond being the PTA Board. I volunteered in the classroom on a weekly basis for two

years, helped with a number of school-wide events, participated in the Bullying and Other Hurtful Behaviors Committee, and was a regular volunteer with Science Friday.

- Volunteer Islander Middle School (9/2007 – 6/2010): I have volunteered on an “as needed” basis with various school-wide events.
- Fruitland Landing Neighborhood Organizer (7/2008 – present): Organized three neighborhood “National Night Out” block parties for 78 families in the Fruitland Landing neighborhood. Created a neighborhood database (e-group) to better familiarize the neighbors with one another, communicate suspicious activity in the neighborhood, and provide important updates. I send out “news” updates as needed .

Off Island community involvement in the greater Seattle area has given me a better understanding of: inter-agency collaboration, how to work effectively with people who have very different views from my own, and the nuances of working with people from different cultures. These experiences would be very helpful when working on the Mercer Island City Council. Community involvement in the greater Seattle area has included the following:

- Anti-Defamation League (ADL), Seattle, WA (9/2002 – 1/ 2005): Graduate of ADL Leadership Program and committee member. The ADL combats hate crimes and promotes equality.
- Fremont Arts Council, Seattle, WA (11/1994 – 11/2004): Board member for three years (secretary). Joined with commerce and citizens to create diverse arts in the local and surrounding communities.
- Dept. of Children and Family Services - Community Protective Team, Seattle WA (4/1996 – 11/ 2002): Assessed risk and protective factors of high risk child abuse cases and provided recommendations to state Social Worker.
- African-American/Jewish Coalition for Justice, Seattle, WA (6/1999 – 5/2001): Board member for two years in this organization that promotes economic and social justice. Member 1994 to 2005.
- Highline School Linked Youth Health Center, Burien, WA (1/1997 – 2/1999): Member of Community Advisory Committee. Helped to create and maintain Youth Health Center.
- Dispute Resolution Center of Snohomish County, Everett, WA (9/1994 – 1/1996): Volunteered with this organization as a mediator. Trained in basic and family mediation.

5. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as a Mercer Island City Councilmember?

See question #3 & #6.

6. What is your vision for our City and community?

Generally speaking, I would like to see:

- **A safe community** for all segments of our population: children, youth, adults, the elderly, disabled, etc. regardless of their socio-economic status, political or religious views, etc.
- A City Council that is able to be **fiscally responsible**. Use existing community resources to best serve the population without going over-budget (e.g. save money by having a group of dedicated people fund-raise and organize putting on Music and Shakespeare in the Park).
- **Maintain excellence in education**: in our pre-schools, public schools, and the classes offered at the Community Center at Mercer View.
- **Maintain high quality of life**: keep parks and recreation a priority, maintain green space, be foreword thinking in regard to innovative ideas, technology, and a “green” way of living.
- **Pride in our community**: I hope that people living on Mercer Island will share a sense of pride in our community; not to have to give excuse why they moved here.

7. Is there anything else that you may wish to add that would help us get to know you a little better?

See attached resume.