City of Asheville
City Council Vacancy Application Form

Your name: Patsy Keever Home Phone #: 828-712-1121

Street Address: 17 Braddock Way City: Asheville Zip Code: 28803

Mailing Address (if different): _____

Employer: retired

Position: teacher Office Phone # _____

Resident of City of Asheville (required): ● Yes ☐ No

Registered Voter in the City of Asheville (required): ● Yes ☐ No

Race: white Sex: female Age: 72

Residence location (check one) Central ____ North ● South ____ East ____ West ____

Additional Information Required:

1. Resume
2. ½ page response to the essay questions below: (not attached)

eSigned via SeamlessDocs.com
Patricia Rouzer Keever
Key: 99699f5faaf6d01d33d35162fad62a3f

Applicant Signature
Date: 08/13/2020

All applications and attachments must be
Returned by **Noon, Thursday, August 20**, 2020 to:

Maggie Burleson, City Clerk
PO Box 7148
Asheville, NC 28802
Email: mburleson@ashevillenc.gov
Phone: 828-259-5601

Patsy Rouzer Keever

17 Braddock Way

Asheville, NC 2803

Personal

Born and raised in Charlotte, NC

Attended public schools

Father practiced civil law, Mother taught at Piedmont Community College, Two older sisters

Moved to Asheville in 1971

Married John F. Keever, Jr. 1968 (VP Sara Scott Furniture Ind./ Physician's Assistant (deceased 2003)

Two daughters, Five granddaughters (ages 7 - 19)

Married Jim Aycock 2006 (former publisher/owner Black Mountain Times)

Elective Experience

Chair of NCDemocratic Party 2015 - 2017

During my term as Chair of the party, we regained the public confidence and respect, raised the necessary funds to run the 2016 elections and worked through inner caucus issues within the African American Caucus of the North Carolina Democratic Party.

Democratic Nominee for Congress 10th 2012

After being drawn into the same NC House district as my colleague Susan Fisher, I chose to run for Congress in the newly drawn 10th District. Although I lost that race to the incumbent Republican, my campaign served to help unite the new district from Buncombe to Gaston Counties.

Served one term in North Carolina House of Representatives 2010 – 2013 (gerrymandered out)

During my term I stood up for education, equality and the environment. I received a Rising Star Award from the NC League of Conservation Voters for my support for environmental legislation. I met with constituents on a daily basis and published a newsletter to let my constituents know what was happening in the Legislature. One of my strongest memories was enabling an incarcerated constituent to move from one prison to another one closer to her home so that family members could visit her.

Democratic Candidate for Congress 11th District 2004

After my husband died in 2003, I decided to run for the 11th Congressional House seat against the 7 term Republican incumbent. We ran the strongest campaign that had been run against him and involved hundreds of volunteers of all ages throughout the 15 counties in the district. Working in my campaign was the spark that ignited many young people into political action. One of those young people is now a NC Senator.

Buncombe County Commissioner –12 years 1992 - 2004

I worked with my colleagues to build or improve libraries throughout the county, build the current state of the art landfill, and initiate Project Access which was a model program to provide medical care for indigent patients.

Community Service

Public School Teacher - 25 years - (retired in 2003 to care for husband)

The first several years of my teaching career were based on my husband's circumstances. I began my teaching career during the Vietnam era when my husband John was in the Army. I taught soldiers to read at Ft. Benning before they went to Vietnam and a postal class to returning soldiers at Ft. Bragg to help them have the necessary skills to get a job in the post office. I taught 4th grade in Charlotte, NC while Johnny was in Vietnam, 1st - 3rd grades in

an open classroom at Asheville Country Day School, 4th grade and kindergarten at Glen Arden, 7th grade social studies in Durham and 8th grade English and social studies at Valley Springs.

Then I had three excellent years at Venable Elementary, a K-8 school which enabled me to work with many of the same students in 5th - 8th grades. When Venable was closed and the new Enka Middle School was created, I taught there for the next 16 years until I took early retirement to care for my husband who had terminal prostate cancer.

Verner Center for Early Learning - Board Member (current)

Verner is a 5 star child development daycare center with 3 locations in Buncombe County. 48% of its children are from non-white families. During the pandemic, the Verner staff has continued to serve the children and families virtually and through delivery of food, diapers and books to the families. As a board member, I had the privilege of making socially distanced weekly deliveries throughout the spring and summer until classes began again in July.

North Carolina Foundation for Public School Children -Board Member (current)

This is a statewide organization which helps students and families when there are financial emergencies which cannot be met through the usual agencies. It also funds the Teacher Cadet program which encourages and trains high school students, particularly males and people of color, to go into the teaching profession.

Buncombe County Board of Health - 1992 - 2004

As a member of this board, I learned the importance of public health and how the Health Department functions in our county. We were discussing ethical health issues and consequences of a pandemic 25 years ago!

Governor's Western Residence Advisory Board - Secretary of the Board (current)

CarePartners Health Services Board Member

Asheville Buncombe League of Women Voters -Past President and Voter Service Chair

North Carolina Association of Educators - Past President of local and district chapters

Buncombe County Library System - Past Board Chair

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

Criminal Justice Partnership Project - Chair

Pack Place Education, Arts and Science Center, Inc. - Board Member

Education

AB Duke University - 1969 Elementary Education/History

MA Ed Western Carolina University 1979- Early Childhood Education/Reading

The following questions may be answered directly on this form, or responses uploaded as attachments upon form submission.

1. With the death of George Floyd the country was thrust into a new civil rights movement. Policing in America was scrutinized even more and even here locally reparations were passed. Please explain if you believe that systemic racism and oppression exist, if yes do you or do you not support reparations and what it all means in the context of equity and Inclusion.

It is very clear to me that systemic racism and oppression exist. The murder of George Floyd in full sight of the public was a wakeup call to all Americans, and has put an undeniable face on the issue of police abuse. I am encouraged by Asheville City Council's Reparations Resolution to begin the healing process. I fully support investing in those areas which offer the best opportunities to uplift the Black citizens of Asheville - particularly families and education.

2. Do you support Black Asheville Demands call for defunding the APD by 50%? If no, please explain why and if yes, what sort of timeline do you envision to reach that goal?

I do not support Black Asheville Demands' call for defunding APD by 50% without more factual information. Although I absolutely support investing in areas which are now lacking like mental health, housing and education, I do not believe in stripping funding from any department without a strong, well thought out plan for replacing the functions it serves. Rather, I look forward to hearing the recommendations from the Re-imaging Public Safety task force and moving forward from there.

3. **Explain why you want to serve on City Council.**

I have 2 main objectives in applying for a seat on the Council.
First, the south end needs representation on the Council. I have lived in the same house in south Asheville for 49 years. In fact, when I moved here in 1971, we lived in the county but were annexed within ten years. I have watched south Asheville grow from a sleepy little suburb to a traffic laden, apartment packed area of the city. The growth is not all bad, of course, but we do need to think ahead and plan for that growth.
Secondly, with all the unrest in the city right now - including concern over the Asheville Police Department, conflict over the Vance Monument, a pandemic which is wreaking havoc on our economy and health, and the achievement gap between our Black and White students - I think that my experience as a teacher for 25 years, a Buncombe County commissioner for 12 years, my tenure on the Board of Health, my experience with criminal justice programs and my service as a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives - will enable me to bring another perspective to the team which is currently serving.
We need to listen to and respect all points of view. Then we must act in the best interest of our citizens as a whole, rather than make snap decisions.

4. **If selected, how do you plan to communicate and work with the other Council members? To help us understand, please give examples of your working collaboratively in the past.**

Communication is the key to solving any problem. Nobody can accomplish anything entirely by themselves, and good ideas from anyone need the support of the rest of the team. Therefore, I will want to build a personal relationship with each of the Council members through telephone conversations, emails or zoom - but always in compliance with the law which forbids a majority of members to discuss issues in private.
As a teacher, commissioner, state representative and chair of the North Carolina Democratic Party, I have worked with people from all walks of life. Perhaps most interesting was working with the scrap car dealers in Leicester to come up with an acceptable junk yard ordinance for the county. I met individually with people who would be affected to understand their points of view and concerns. I certainly learned a great deal during that process!

5. **What do you consider the most pressing problem, need, or cause for the citizens of Asheville today? How would you approach its resolution or champion the cause?**

The divisiveness which has taken hold of this country is also alive and well in Asheville. Racial unrest is clearly an issue we need to work on, and it needs to be addressed within the context of poverty and education. The achievement gap between our students of color and our white students in the Asheville City Schools is unacceptable. The problem does not begin in the schools, however. Every difficult issue we have is intertwined with our business community, our health community and our social communities. We must address housing, transportation and jobs as well as the schools. We need to get input from people affected by Council decisions before those decisions are made, and the Council needs to be accountable for those decisions. In all matters, let us focus on the problem rather than the factions. If we stay focused, we can accomplish great things for all of our citizens.