City of Asheville
City Council Vacancy Application Form

Your name: Jonathan King Home Phone #: 828 242 3125

Street Address: 23 Shelburne Drive City: Asheville Zip Code: 28806

Mailing Address (if different): _____

Employer: Make Noise LLC

Position: Production Manager Office Phone # 828 242 3125

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

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

Race: White Sex: Male Age: 49

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
Jonathan David King
Key: 90d995faaf5d01d33d35162fadd2adcf

Applicant Signature
Date: 08/03/2020

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

Jonathan King

23 Shelburne Drive
Asheville, NC 28806
(828) 242 – 3125
cultjake@gmail.com

Skills –

Clear and precise communication. Negotiation and consensus building. Detail focus.

Work History –

Production Manager – Make Noise LLC, West Asheville
From 8/16 to present
Responsible for operations at a musical instrument manufacturer. This includes hiring, team management, procurement, manufacturing, and building maintenance.

Quality Engineer and Manager – Blue Ridge Metals, Fletcher
From 3/06 to 7/16
Responsible for problem solving in an automotive steel production facility. Required intimate knowledge of specifications and standards. Customer focused skill set. Responsible for maintaining our ISO certification.

Process and Project Engineer – Woodbridge Group, various locations
From 3/02 to 11/05
Responsible for product and quality on a chemical process line supporting the automotive seating industry. Worked at 4 different locations supporting equipment installations and upgrades.

Personal Information –
Avid cook, musician, reader, and record collector. Also the organist, singer, and leader of the Northside Gentlemen, Asheville's finest funk band.

References are available as needed.

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.**

Systemic racism and oppression exist and continue to be extended via racist policy in the United States as a whole, and Asheville locally. Racist policy is enacted to maintain white privilege, of which I am a beneficiary. I support reparations via policies that promote and maintain equity among all classes, races, faiths and genders.

As a member of Council, I would examine all new City policy closely for promotion and maintenance of equity. I would also regularly request examination of existing policies by Staff, in order to promote changes that will increase equitable outcomes.

I do completely understand that I am white man, and that my selection to Council would specifically not increase diversity. However, I have the time, skills, and desire to serve. I will absolutely champion the Asheville working class, of which I am a member.

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 cannot answer this question without a close examination of the current budget and effectiveness of APD benchmarked against other municipalities. I can say for certain that some APD officers have demonstrated unacceptable racist behavior. I can say for certain that police forces in the United States have become unnecessarily militarized. I can say that most, if not all, APD officers could benefit from de-escalation training.

I believe that significant steps must be taken in the next three months. I am not certain which seats are being contested in the November elections, but many of our citizens are angry. I am expecting single-issue protest candidates for any contested seats.

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

I have lived in Asheville for 15 years, and my partner and I own our home. Asheville is an excellent small city, but we are still struggling with many of the same problems that were present 15 years ago. Housing has become less affordable, despite every effort made by Council. Our city has become a tourist playground that relies on disadvantaged workers to function. I know dozens of people who came to Asheville, were ground down in the hospitality industries, and left disillusioned. Many hard-working residents of our city will never be able to own their home. It is not only unjust, but it exacerbates existing problems with racism. It is not a secret that the recent demonstrations were largely attended by young people who are struggling to survive economically.

I have 25 years of experience in Quality Assurance. I know how to reach equitable solutions and satisfy competing objectives. I love Asheville, and it would be an honor to serve my fellow citizens.

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.**

I am a concise and clear communicator. I have managed teams of up to 30 people in the automotive industry; an industry that operates on the thinnest of margins and tightest of deadlines. In my current job, I am responsible for all phases of product realization. This means that I must collaborate with the design team to turn ideas into products. I must collaborate with the sales team to get products to customers on time. I am also in charge of purchasing, so I regularly correspond with suppliers to get the raw materials we need. All of these activities require documented expectations, so that expectations can be assuredly met.

I have been working in industry for over 25 years, and working in general for 35 years. I am good at what I do.

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?**

Unaffordable housing is the most pressing problem in Asheville. It is a national problem, but given our mountain terrain, it is especially difficult here. We cannot annex. We cannot simply expand. I would work with businesses in the City to pay living wages. I don't yet know what enticements or penalties are available to encourage businesses to take these steps, but much more effort is needed.