City of Asheville
City Council Vacancy Application Form

Your name: Cory Michael Boughton Home Phone #: 407.415.5217

Street Address: 25 Cub Rd City: Asheville Zip Code: 28806

Mailing Address (if different): _____

Employer: Self-Employed

Position: Actor/Writer/Filmmaker Office Phone # _____

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

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

Race: Caucasian Sex: Male Age: 40

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
Cory Michael Boughton
Key: 005995faaf0d01d33d35162fad62a43f

Applicant Signature
Date: 08/12/2020

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

Cory Boughton

4 Carmel Ridge Cir #208
Asheville, NC 28806
(407) 415-5217 (C)
coryboughton@gmail.com

Education

University of Central Florida - Orlando, FL
B.A. - Interdisciplinary Studies (Fine Arts, Anthropology, English) May 2012
A.A - Seminole State College - Lake Mary, FL - 2010

Experience

1/14 - 7/19 - SAG-AFTRA, New York, NY - Stand-In/Photo Double
Responsible for interpreting principal actors movements and set positions for shot set-up
Ability to perform and take direction under high-pressure set conditions
Maintaining professional working relationships with high-status actors and celebrities
Recreate precise repetitive movements after viewing a single take of actor's motion

5/13 - 1/14 - Gourmet Garage, New York, NY - Deli Supervisor
Quality-control checks on all food products served in house
Scheduling of employees, Inventory, P&L, conducting meetings
Creating specialty lunch & dinner menus/daily specials
Nighttime closing supervisor duties, overnight work details, Deposits

11/12 - 5/13 - Eleni's New York, New York, NY - Sales Associate
"Keyholder" position, responsible for opening/closing duties
Running sales floor and registers while maintaining store presentation
Delivery of products as well as Receiving/Loading and Inventory
Providing solid customer service in fast-paced retail environment

6/12 – 9/12 - Relax In Comfort, Orlando, FL - Sales Representative
Conducting in-depth education-based sales on the benefits of Restorative Sleep
Maintaining showroom sales floor integrity and presentation throughout day
Handling credit checks and credit approvals for customer transactions
Creating client/customer relations for repeat customers and referrals

2009-2012 - Full-Time Student

11/08 - 4/09 - Antonio's Cafe and Deli, Maitland, FL - Deli Manager
Running and maintaining full service deli and imported cheese counter
Running effective front end of restaurant (cashiering, expo and sales floor)
Creating solid customer relations with repeat and guest clientele
Inventory and Ordering, P&L, Stocking and Displays

Computer Skills: PC and MAC Knowledge, MS Word/Bean, Powerpoint, Prezi, Celtx, Final Cut, Photoshop

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 is sadly a part of America's history dating back to the very first English settlers' aggressions toward the Native Americans. Oppression sits hand-in-hand with this and we must continue in the path of leaders who advocate Equality and of righting old wrongs that still have lasting effects on our community and the grandchildren and great-grandchildren who are affected. Reparations are something I would be excited to be a part of bringing about but also helping navigate the complexities of the issue to bring forth the most useful reparation plan, assisting those communities that are most negatively impacted in the most beneficial ways. I also believe that a rigorous re-training program for all current and incoming officers in new de-escalation techniques for non-violent situations as well as non-lethal weapon use in violent situations. Asheville could be a shining light in a turbulent time of how a new and modern approach to American Policing can be accomplished. Asheville to me has always been a beacon of possibility for me since my younger years and still today, having moved back here after living in both Florida and eventually New York City, I always saw Asheville as something special. I believe that we can achieve things here as a city and as a community that can lead this nation by example and I want to be a part of that.

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?**

De-Funding the Police is a lot of necessary action thrown under a purposely charged title. Yes, we need reform in policing. Yes, we need to have funds that are currently directed towards an adequate department be re-directed to an underfunded department within the city's control. But so much more of this could come down to redirecting some of their current funds towards re-training. This also goes hand-in-hand with higher sentencing guidelines for officers who commit grievous acts on the job, from showing favor to someone they know to sadly, murder. These acts can no longer be protected by a badge which first and foremost states "To Serve and Protect." Again, Asheville should be a guiding light for other troubled cities in our nation on a path to correcting the age-old wrongs which are choking us all now.

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

Asheville means a lot to me. I have family here. I am starting my own business here. But most importantly, I am dedicated to seeing positive change in our city. There has been a sense of acceptance here since I first visited in 1999. Living here from 2000 to 2008, I participated heavily with the theatre community and also created several independent feature films and the care, support and general helpfulness of the people who we came in contact with left a lasting impression. When I returned in 2018 to make a short film, I was again struck with the feeling that the Asheville community was a richer one than most. Diverse, eclectic and still, very accepting. I wouldn't soon forget it. I moved back here in 2019 after seven years in New York City, missing that general warmth and better attitude towards life. It has paid off immensely. I am now investing in a film production company here to help bring the beauty of this area back to the big screen. I have always been moved by cinema and well-told stories, the medium being one many of us today appreciate regularly. So I have goals for where I would like to see the city and surrounding area go artistically. On another note, there are many goals associated with making our city something others look up to and not just somewhere to see beautiful leaves and eat at great restaurants and see great music and theatre (all of which yes, we have in spades!) But what makes me unique and an asset to City Council is that I am a problem solver. My degree is in Interdisciplinary Studies which is a practice of being able to come to solutions from outside a particular area. Sometimes a creative solution is a scientific and logical one. Other times, the best solution might come from an entirely different place and by approaching larger, complex issues from "outside the box," that form of forward thinking is exactly what makes a place like Asheville so special. I also have debate and mediation skills which I have used professionally as well as managerial and directorial positions in both the professional and artistic realms which have honed my skills to lead and listen.

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.**

As a previous director on projects, I am extremely comfortable communicating via any means necessary. We live in an unprecedented time, one where we can be reached in so many numerous ways, we have lost count. But I am comfortable with all forms, my favorite being person-to-person. I have spent years on phone calls in my early working career and as we have progressed I have become efficient in all forms of text and video conferencing. Working with a close and trusted team is one of my favorite ways to work and I have seen the real benefits of open and on-going communication during a project from start to finish. I have adapted this into my work behavior and consider myself highly reachable and highly responsive.

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?**

I believe a city-wide youth organization could greatly influence and help direct our younger at-risk residents towards positive goals and opportunities. I remember the early years and the Patton Ave cruisers and we may have come a long way since then but having a volunteer outreach throughout our city for land owners, residents with special skill sets, older residents with historical tales and people with interesting careers or hobbies could influence kids that otherwise have no access to these kinds of activities or more importantly, these ideas. We are a rich and diverse community with great culture and uniqueness. I would like to see that really made available to the children anywhere and everywhere in the city and surrounding area to be afforded that, the kind of reward a community would reap from that sort of interaction down the line is immeasurable. I believe many retired citizens and interesting people with a random day off would find great joy in sharing their lives with the youth of today and our leaders of tomorrow.