



Rupa Venkatesh  
Assistant City Manager  
City of Fort Collins  
300 LaPorte Ave.  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

September 10, 2024

**RE: Poudre River Public Library District Board Appointment recommendation: Rick Rivera**

Dear Ms. Venkatesh,

Poudre Libraries has one opening on its Board of Trustees: an unfilled seat vacated by Randynn Heisserer-Miller this past August, who moved away from Colorado. The remainder of Heisserer-Miller's term runs through March 2025.

The Board received 15 applications for the vacancy and interviewed three excellent candidates. The Board of Trustees would like to recommend the following for Library Board appointment: **Rick Rivera to complete Randynn Heisserer-Miller's unfinished term, beginning October 14, 2024, and ending March 31, 2025.**

Mr. Rivera is a local attorney who has worked with a variety of nonprofit organizations and served on their boards. He brings experience in business management, employment law, fundraising, and community engagement. Mr. Rivera is also a graduate of the 2015 Leadership Fort Collins program with the Chamber of Commerce. He says, "The most important role the library can play is to be a strong destination for people to connect with their community without barriers." He recognizes that libraries are vital to the health of a community and would like "to ensure the Library District remains strong and a staple within the community."

The Library Board of Trustees respectfully requests that the City of Fort Collins City Council Members approve this appointment at its earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

*Matt Schild*

Matt Schild, President, Board of Trustees

cc: Larimer County Board of Commissioners

**Rick Rivera**

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2300 Purdue Rd, Fort Collins, CO, United States, 80525

LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/rick-rivera-427587b7/>

**PERSONAL SUMMARY**

I have been in the Front Range since 2011 and in Colorado since 2007. During that time, I have vastly shifted the goals in my life. I began in the restaurant industry, specifically managing for a local restaurant group. However, I decided to make a change and return to school in 2015 to finish my degree and pursue my wish of going to law school. I finished my Associates at Front Range Community College and eventually finished my undergraduate degree and attended law school at CU Boulder. Although we enjoyed Boulder, my family and I have always considered Fort Collins home and we returned June of this year.

During my time in Fort Collins, I have always tried to be engaged in the community. I volunteered for organizations such as FoCo Cafe, Homeward Alliance, and was part of Leadership Fort Collins. I also joined the Board of a Local Diaper bank and played a role in expanding its operations and scope. I have always tried to be engaged in my community and now that we have returned, I hope to continue as my family and I grow in Fort Collins.

**APPLICATION QUESTION AND ANSWERS****Why do you want to become a member of the Library Board of Trustees?**

I believe the library is extremely important to the community as a whole. It provides a place of enrichment for both children and adults and allows people to explore subjects they generally would not. Furthermore, so-called "third place" which do not have a cost are becoming less and less. Third places are places outside the home and work where people are able to go and connect with their community. I believe these places are vital to the health of a community, and the resources they provide are invaluable. I would like to help ensure the Library District remains strong and a staple within the community.

**What do you consider to be the most important community needs? How can the Library District help meet these needs?**

I believe the most important role the library can play is to be a strong destination for people to connect with their community without barriers. The ability to participate in programs, whether they are story times, crafting classes, or any other subject is needed more than ever. As life becomes more and more expensive for many people, its also important people are able to participate in community with little or no cost associated. This allows people to branch out and gives them an opportunity to still feel as if they are part of a community.

**What is your vision for the future of the Library District? What opportunities or challenges exist?**

I see the library as being a place which can enrich people's lives in a variety of ways. It can be a place where kids learn a passion for reading at a young age, or a safe place teenagers can go interact with less pressure. It can also be a place where adults can continue to learn about different subjects while also connecting with others in their community.

I believe the library will need to still be a place of inclusion at times when many are pushing back against inclusivity for marginalized groups. From book bans to anti-LGBTQ rhetoric, its important the library remain a place of safety and inclusion for everyone in the community, no matter personal or economic status.

**Describe any relevant experience that would make you a great addition to the Board. This can include, but is not limited to, work/professional experience, volunteer service, previous roles on other boards or committees, unique skills or training, and special interests.**

I have experience working with others from different backgrounds to achieve a common goal. I have done this while managing restaurants, working with non-profits, and now as an attorney. My skills as an attorney also allow me to navigate the challenging world of bureaucracy that can stall initiatives.

From a personal standpoint, the library was extremely important to me when I first moved to the area. I used the computers countless times as I was job hunting, and I was able to utilize the library space when I returned to school. Without the space the library afforded me, it would have been much more difficult to achieve my goals. I understand firsthand how vital the library can be and I believe this would make me an ideal candidate to serve on the board.

**Have you ever been convicted of a crime (except minor traffic offenses that resulted in only a fine)? If yes, please explain. NOTE: A "yes" answer does not necessarily disqualify you from serving on the Board of Trustees. A background check will be required for applicants selected for an interview.**

Yes. Misdemeanor DUI in 2009. I completed all court mandated action and have not had any issues since.

# Rick Rivera

Phone: 512.294.6949

Email: a.rick.rivera@gmail.com

## Employment History:

### **Sherman & Howard- Denver, CO**

September 2023-Present

*Employment Associate Attorney*

- Assist clients in a variety of legal and administrative matters regarding their employees
- Assist clients in ensuring compliance with federal and state employment law
- Assist clients in crafting policies in compliance with federal and state law including handbooks and agreements
- Work with a variety of attorneys and staff to ensure client goals are met
- Work with attorneys in other fields such as civil litigation
- Worked at firm in both summer 2021 and 2022 during law school

### **Hot Corner Concepts – Fort Collins, CO**

May 2012 - October 2018

*Austin's American Grill*

June 2013 – October 2018

*Assistant General Manager - Bar Manager*

- Responsible for staff development including interviewing, hiring, and training.
- Maximize individual talent into successful team environment.
- Highest sales in company with 5 restaurants; competitive Fort Collins market.
- Profit/loss management, cash handling, and sales expertise.
- Ensuring positive guest experience through interpersonal experiences and data collection.
- Responsible for quarterly marketing, drink program development, and creative product updates.
- In charge of bi-monthly inventory management, tracking, invoice accountability, and product stock.
- Develop specialty cocktail menus based on fresh ingredients and innovative ideas.
- Left company to focus on studies and family.

### **The Moot House**

May 2012 – June 2013

*Staff Trainer – Bartender – Server*

- Began employment before concept update in 2013, stayed on until management promotion to Austin's.
- Provided crucial support in staff training around new and modern aesthetic for company re-launch.
- Responsible for developing standard operating procedure for customer service positions.
- Extensive knowledge of handcrafted food menu, specialty liquor, wine, and craft beers.
- Supported management in staffing: new staff trainer, floor lead, head bartender.
- Lead banquet server during peak holiday season.

## Organizations:

### **The Nappie Project- Loveland, CO**

September 2016-November 2017

*Board of Directors*

- Board member for the only non-profit branch of the National Diaper Bank north of Denver.
- Provide diapers for children in low income families with distribution through nine partner agencies.
- Organize donation drives and distribution events on a monthly or bi-monthly basis.
- Seek out cash and physical donations for fundraisers and events.
- Organized and host community events; direct advocacy through community drives and outreach.
- Collaborate with local businesses and advocacy groups to maximize donations and distribution.
- Advocate to end diaper need, accepted Fort Collins City Council Proclamation in September 2016.

### **Leadership Fort Collins – Fort Collins, CO**

September 2014 – May 2015

*Member of Class of 2015*

- One-year intensive program with the Fort Collins Chamber of Commerce.

- Integrated learning opportunities into the multiple facets of the city and it's inner workings.
- Special interest in local city policy and local government.
- Established a garden for the local non-profit, The FoCo Café; responsible for physical design and build; community networking and outreach; finding and sourcing fundraising.

**Homeward Alliance (formerly Homeless Gear); One Village, One Family – Fort Collins, CO**

January 2016 – February 2017

*Volunteer, Village Member*

- Supported single mom of four in transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing.
- Collaborated with six team members from Fort Collins community.
- Raised \$2000 through pancake breakfast fundraiser.
- Collaborated with community organizations such as The Murphy Center and La Familia.

**Poudre River Public Library District – Fort Collins, CO**

May 2015 – February 2016

*Volunteer*

- Supported staff in restocking shelving and book maintenance.
- Assisted patrons in locating reserves and other items.

**FoCo Café – Fort Collins, CO**

February 2015 – September 2015

*Volunteer*

- Acting as a daily volunteer for the non-profit café.
- Assisting in food safety, preparation and community outreach.
- Facilitated volunteer outreach with Leadership Fort Collins to build garden beds.
- Provided over \$1000 in fundraising to the Café after garden beds installed.

**Education:**

**University of Colorado Law- Boulder CO**

Completed May 2023

Juris Doctorate

**University of Colorado- Boulder, CO**

Completed May 2020

Political Science and Pre-Law; Minor in History

**Front Range Community College - Fort Collins, CO**

Completed December 2017

Associates Degree, Political Science

4.0 GPA – Pell Grant Recipient

**Colorado Mental Health First Aid – Fort Collins, CO**

April 2015

- Certification in Adult Mental Health First Aid through the Colorado Department of Health and Human Services and Touchstone Health Partners.

**References:**

**Patrick Miller**

Member Attorney- Sherman & Howard

303.299.8354

**Mark Culloton**

Associate Director- Banner Health

970.443.0964

**Jeff Brown**

Owner- Done Well Hospitality Group

970.232.4055