

Town of Jerome

Attn: Brett Klein – Town Manager/Clerk
600 Clark St.
PO Box 335
Jerome, AZ 86331

Jerome Town Council,

Please accept this letter as my expressed interest in serving the people of Jerome by being considered to fill Ms. Harvey's Council seat for the remainder of the current term. I am aware that one of the requirements to fill this vacancy is a residency term of at least 1 year and will meet this requirement effectively June 1, 2024.

Upon accepting a new position with my employer of 10 years, it gave my family and I the opportunity and ability to move to the town that has held our hearts for over a decade. For the past 20+ years I have worked in the Information Technology and Security industry, which includes my current position as West Coast Regional Sales Manager for 2N and Axis Communications. Some of the skillset necessary to being successful in this field are the ability to effectively manage multiple businesses and personality types, including problem solving complex situations and scenarios, to provide training on new upcoming, and sometimes complex, information and technology in an easily understandable way, as well as building and maintaining both professional and personal relationships with colleagues, partners, business owners and employees at various professional levels. It is my belief that these skills would also be of great benefit to the residents of the Town of Jerome as well as Council.

My family and I are philanthropic in nature, striving to be of assistance and providing support in any capacity we are able to. For example, days after arrival we began volunteering our time at Haven Methodist Church in the food pantry. We assisted in unloading and organizing food deliveries, and then provided additional help on Wednesdays during food pantry hours. While school and professional schedules have changed, limiting our availability, we still assist whenever our schedule permits. When later asked if I might have an interest to serve on a board, I jumped at the chance to bring my passion and skills to serve the community further. Having now been seated on the Planning and Zoning Commission for several months, I have found that my passion to serve this community only continues to grow further. For example my wife and I have initiated efforts to start a non-profit organization that will benefit the town as a whole. It will include sourcing funding to assist residents whether they be on a fixed income or simply unable to afford necessary major repairs, as well as provide an educational outlet for other community members who have an interest in learning proper restoration, maintenance and upkeep for historic residences and buildings, which may include learning simple electrical repairs, minor plumbing, etc.

If seated on Council, be it to fill the current vacancy or through future election, I will make every effort to help find and establish solutions that maintain and preserve the historic nature of our beloved town. I am deeply committed to exploring innovative ways to secure funding for the

restoration and revitalization of essential buildings and housing in town, so that in the future we might avoid having to fill a Council seat in the way that this unfortunate vacancy has come about. I am confident in my ability to contribute to the Town's endeavors, including advocating for the needs and interests of our community members, be it efforts regarding parking, infrastructure, short term rentals or finding funding to provide affordable housing, and feel that my appointment will bring a fresh set of ideas and perspective to the Town that will positively impact the community in a meaningful way.

I thank you in advance for your time and careful consideration filling this seat. I am more than happy to answer any additional questions you may have, or to expand further on new ideas, such as ways to make the blind intersections along 89A safer for our residents. Jerome has a vibrant and rich history, one that should be protected, and I look forward to contributing towards those efforts, as well as developing the means to keep its residents from being any further displaced.

With appreciation,

Issam (Izzy) Sharif