

From: postmaster@muniweb.com
To: [Hanson, Cortney](#)
Subject: Application for City Council
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 3:52:17 PM

Thank you for your interest

Name:

Priya Gurumurthy

Nickname, if preferred:

Priya

Address:

24781 Nottingham Dr

Preferred Phone Number:

6162832874

E-mail:

gpriya@gmail.com

Are you a registered voter in the City of Novi?

Yes

How long have you lived continuously in the City of Novi?

5 years

Employed by:

Yanfeng International

Educational Background:

Masters in Computer Science I 2000 - 2001 I University of Texas at Dallas, Texas Bachelors in Computer Science I 1996 - 2000 I University of Madras, India

Please describe your professional qualifications, skills and/or work experience, and how you would use these to benefit the community.

Results-driven IT director with over 22+ years of experience delivering IT solutions to drive the performance and revenue of global organizations in multiple industries to enhance strategic business growth. Thrive in building strong cross-functional teams in a highly challenging and global environment within medium (\$300M+) and large enterprises (\$1B+). Dynamic, resourceful, and extremely driven individual with a deep passion for creating and delivering programs and solutions that empower a team, company, and customer to meet and exceed desired expectations. Data-driven individual with proven ability to implement standards, procedures and processes that improve business functionality. Few highlights of my profession & skill sets that I will leverage to benefit the community: Strategic Thinker - I work closely with Business Leaders in Yanfeng, to create the 3-5 year strategy, develop digital transformation road map & implement solutions using technology as an enabler. As a visionary, I will be able to work together with the council members to look beyond this year, identify goals, understand community needs and work together with the council on the strategic roadmap for the city. Problem Solver - As an IT Leader, I deal with problems every

day, across the globe, at all levels. I use a methodical approach to problem-solving, whether it's technical or non-technical. I always make sure the problem statement is clear vs going after a solution, and narrow down options, discuss with the team and align with the right approach that will benefit not only our IT org but also the entire organization. I strongly believe this skillset of mine will add great value to the council discussions. People Leader - Best part of my job is being a coach/mentor & team leader. I manage a global team (EU, NA, China, India) learning from each other, celebrating our successes and creating a high comradery among the team members. I do set high standards of excellence, and based on individual skill sets, I outline how my team members can get there providing the right tools and support to do so. I believe in communicating, communicating & communicating and being transparent as well, good or bad news. I will be able to support the council by listening to different perspectives and being able to bring my viewpoint collectively with the team to benefit our community. Evaluating solutions: As I started my Automotive IT career in Engineering IT, I have been trained in approaching all technology demands through systematic assessment process (using pugh analysis), conducting review to help determine the right solution that will have the most impact to the organization. I have been very successful all through the years convincing the leaders on solution recommendations using the impact & criteria scoring model. This will be really beneficial as a council member to support the council & staff in evaluating the right solutions & options for the city. Diverse Perspective - As a woman of color in STEM, I do bring a diverse perspective to the table. Also, working in a global company, I am constantly challenged and educated from members across different regions on different areas of work, not just in my IT field. I believe that everyone has something to offer, hence I practice active listening & will speak up when necessary to explain my perspective to the discussion. I will be able to bring a different perspective representing the community. Data Driven - I use data to gain insights into what otherwise are abstract ideas and concepts. This guides me in the decisions we take as a team, which is backed by solid facts and reasoning, and throughout my professional career has encountered less resistance and gained more credibility from my customers. This helps remove any emotions during the discussion, and helps the group to rely on the data to drive our approach and decisions. I will leverage this data driven approach when supporting the council and city in making decisions. Data Analytics - the Data Analytics leader within the Corporate Applications COE, I have been able to bring Power BI reporting capability to the enterprise, which enables all functions to use the data visually. I am hoping to leverage this reporting skill sets to help look at community & city data from different perspectives. Program Management - During my term as IT leader in Yanfeng, I was selected to represent North America when we established the first IT PMO Office. This experience of working with the global leads to create a governance model for all projects across the organization has taught me a lot. Also, being a lean organization, I wear multiple hats managing the team. I am an excellent Program Director/Project Manager, that I coach my team to be proactive, create realistic timeline, milestones and identify risks way earlier in the project and most importantly communicate closely with the project team which has helped our team launch all projects successfully across the globe. Overall, with my experience and expertise that I have been able to gain through my professional experience, I will add true value to the Novi City Council team to provide the best in class service to the City. Being a results driven & customer focused individual, building trust and relationship with my customer - Novi Community has already come very natural through the boards I serve currently. Please see resume for more details.

Please list any City Board or Commission, or community group(s) you are currently or have previously been active. Describe your role and how your involvement contributed to the community.

Current - Novi Library Trustee I am really proud of being part of the Novi Library Board along with other esteemed leaders. During this term, I was not only able to understand all the policies and procedures of the library but also contribute to the library being part of various Committees. As a board member, I was able to understand the operation and what is involved in making NPL successful. I took pride in representing the board at various events including "Reading to students at Novi Woods"

Current - Library Strategic Committee - I am very glad to be a part of this committee this year where we worked together to execute the strategic review process for the library, including consultant vendor selection, providing feedback on survey questions & participating in the retreat and final review sessions, aligning on our focus areas. This is something I am passionate about, being involved in getting community feedback & using data in creating a strategic plan for NPL. Looking forward to supporting the staff in putting together a work plan with milestones to help execute the plan. I'd like to help with the overall goals for the library and come up with the right committee goals that align to the overall goals so it's all driven by community data.

Current - Chair Events & Marketing Committee - We are working together to formulate ways to reach out and serve more community members, brainstorm different fundraising options and bringing awareness to all even through my board term, and I was happy to be a part of the MLK day event representing the board along with my son who was able to present as well. The NPL team has made a lot of great updates to their programs/website/app that helps with marketing and promotion. With Finance, we are exploring different ways/various areas to fundraise for the library to enable a more positive financial balance to help with financial sustainability of the library.

Current - DEI Committee Member - Everyone we meet will have different perspectives, and I believe that we can learn, respect and celebrate each other. I was involved in reviewing and updating the DEI goals for library, review and approval of the Collections Development Policy, presentation of Indian culture & traditions to the NPL staff and providing input to discussions related to DEI at NPL, using data. In the DEI space, we are working on NPL scorecard to help evaluate ourselves and set some clear action plan to fill the gaps and raise our bar with the scores

Current - Vice Chair Novi Youth Assistance – have been involved since 2021, working with the rest of the Board to showcase what NYA does for the community, represent NYA at various event booth/tables to bring awareness about NYA & what we can offer, provide insights to several NYA Programs and how we can enhance the same, and volunteer at NYA events throughout the year. From 2021-2023, I was selected as the secretary and performed my duties. Vishal Swamy (Youth representative) and I worked together to bring a Mental Health Awareness Playbook to the Novi Meadows School community in 2022.

Current - City of Novi Housing & Community Development Advisory Board Member – collectively work with the board to select the organizations that receive the annual funding. Co-Founder of Diversity & Inclusion Group and Currently Women's Resource Network (WRN) Chair in Yanfeng - Was one of the founding members of the DIG (Diversity and Inclusion Group) in Yanfeng which was established to bring more awareness to the organization, ways to celebrate together and bring specific initiatives to make Yanfeng more inclusive. As a WRN Chair, I lead a team of WRN members and together we implement various initiatives throughout the organization to make a positive impact. I spearheaded a team in conducting a WRN survey in North America, for which we got an overwhelming 400+ responses with so much data and insights to leverage. This drove our WRN cornerstones and helped us prioritize the initiatives for 3 years.. We had several accomplishments including implementing Voluntary Paid Time off policy, Flexible work policy, Women's Service Day, Mentoring Program & publishing a number of training programs. MCWT Volunteer Lead - Co-Lead the Mentoring Program at Michigan Council of Women in Technology (MCWT) for Careers & Leadership Workstream - Worked with the Council to implement a brand new speed mentoring event for women in stem and helped connect mentees with mentors. Currently supporting the Members &

Partnership workstream in creating a playbook for meetup events for MCWT. When I was in Holland, I believed in the same mantra of serving the community you live in. I was elected and appointed on the board for different organizations: Trustee - Herrick District Library Board Member of Tulip Time Board Member of First International Festival hosted by City of Holland Board Member of Ready for School Organization

Describe your current and past volunteer involvement in or for the City?

Being part of the board, I am able to serve as a volunteer in various roles and capacities. I am able to do this on top of my full time job as Global Director of IT and full time job of being a mom of 2 boys - 1 middle schooler and 1 high schooler. Following are some of the areas I was able to get involved as a volunteer along with being on the Board listed above: Prior to being on the board of Novi Public Library, I took time to come up with some of the areas/ideas that I shared with Julie as potential opportunities to help patrons. She was very open and welcoming in not only discussing ideas, but also able to follow through. As a coach of the Novi First Lego League team of elementary school kids, I was able to teach kids STEM - Robotics, and help them with their Innovation project. As part of their innovation project, we were able to introduce a new "Be Active Bag" as a rental item for Novi Public Library, that patrons can borrow similar to a book. This is still available at NPL today and thanks to their NPL staff for their support. Currently I am the outreach mentor for Novi Robo Titans FTC team, where I help organize STEM camps for Novi kids, and support local community organization through volunteerism. Last season, we won the state competition and represented not only Michigan, but Novi at the World's championship in Houston in April 2023. Was able to support as a volunteer at the new NO-VI Chess club that was introduced to the community as an NPL program,, which has been very well received by the community. Along with a couple of Yanfeng Women's Resource Network leads, I was able to create a South East Women's Service Day for all the women in SE Michigan to come together to serve the SE community. It was a popular community service day in the West Side, and I am proud to bring this to SE Michigan, and we are in our third year of WSD in 2023, and hoping to continue providing this opportunity not only to bring women in the community together, but for a purpose to give back to all the organizations that need help. This year, we exceeded our goal of 100 voluntary hours giving back to the community. As a parent of an elementary school kid, in 2019, I was on the Deerfield PTO helping the team with various activities, and specifically enjoyed making it so special for the teachers. As a woman, mom and stem professional, I have been able to contribute to the Novi city where I can through different spaces serving different populations. I am thankful for various opportunities and how the Novi community is always open and warm in welcoming individuals like me to give back in whatever ways I can.

What motivated you to apply to serve on City Council?

As a professional and community member, I set clear goals and work towards milestones to reach those goals. Being a Novi citizen, I always believed that my duty is to serve the city by being part of the City Boards, not only as a volunteer but also as that representation to provide feedback and insights. Before joining any board, I graduated from the Ambassador Academy program which actually increased my curiosity and motivation to give back to the wonderful Novi community. I was proud to be that Ambassador for Novi. At that point, my short term goal was to serve on the board of Novi library and my long term goal was to serve on the City Council. Being on the Housing/Community Advisory Board and the Novi Public Library Board not only enlightened me about what goes behind the scenes in the local government & entities but also helped me realize how I can play a crucial role bridging the thoughts between people and the city, both ways. . Even though I had a desire to serve on the city council, it was not until my well wisher pointed out recently that I could be a potentially a good candidate for

this city council open position. This reinforced my desire, eagerness and motivation to serve and I am very much looking forward to being a part of this amazing group.

If appointed, what do you hope to accomplish during your term? What do you hope to learn?

Being part of the city boards taught me a lot of things and also kindled my desire to serve the city at a bigger capacity. I strongly believe that this role will enable me to focus on the following areas of opportunities that will bring meaningful impact to the Novi community:

Inflation & Staff Recruitment - Post COVID, nationwide, we see inflation and a struggle with local staff recruitment in various areas, which has an impact within Novi. I'd like to work with the city to find ways to minimize this impact to our local community. Through surveys and personal interviews, understand the gaps and come up with realistic action together with the council - both from the recruitment & retention perspective. Also with inflation, see if there are ways to help minimize this for our community. According to the U.S Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey & SEMCOG 2045 Regional Development Forecast, the numbers show 19K as the forecast for older adults 60 and over in the Novi City community over the next 30 years. I want to work closely with our seniors and understand how we can make their Novi experience even better. There are so many opportunities to offer to our Seniors to help them connect with the younger population and get their support to educate the community on so many wonderful histories of Novi. I am passionate about

Climate Change & Sustainability - Review the sustainability goals for the city, offer my expertise in this area to make our city more sustainable in all aspects. Some areas I want to explore would be in terms of adding more green spaces, improving public transportation, reducing waste, improving building practices and installing renewable energy. I want to focus more on how we can educate our community in working towards our sustainable goals.

Enhance the inclusive culture - Novi is well known for its diversity and the culture of the community coming together and celebrating several occasions. We should be really proud of living in such a diverse community where you can learn from each other and contribute as well. I want to continue putting energy in this area to increase public engagement, understanding inherited histories, being mindful of unique challenges and removing barriers to opportunity and continue to create an inclusive & warm Novi to all.

Transport Mobility - With 10+ years of experience in the Automotive industry, I believe in the future of mobility and the importance of how cities have to strategically think and implement solutions to get ready for the future. Autonomous vehicles, electric powertrains, vehicle sharing and other advances are transforming urban mobility and it is key for us to stay ahead of the game. I will contribute in developing a vision for what integrated mobility ought to look like and how Novi might evolve accordingly. We want to find ways to manage this transition well so that its benefits are maximized in line with local priorities for improving residents' quality of life.

STEM education & GIRLS in STEM - From the early ages in life, when I grew up in India, I realized quickly that girls were not exposed to STEM education, and it was up to the individual family or student to explore the possibilities. I am thankful for parents who were doctorates in Biochemistry & Archaeology that encouraged me to pursue a STEM career, but this is not the case in all households. I have been a strong advocate for promoting girls in STEM through various collaborations whether its being a mentor, hosting a speed mentoring event, coaching Robotics team or volunteering for Michigan Council of Womens in technology. Would like to continue making Novi and the education it provides top class, promoting more STEM education and specifically giving more girls exposure to STEM careers. I want to continue being the Ambassador for Novi and an advocate for the City and the people to make Novi the best in class city in Michigan. Most of all I am ready with the courage to act, and the humility to learn... again and again

What do you think the City is doing well or could be doing differently when you think about the areas of responsibility for City Council?

Novi is a super welcoming and safe community, and has been receiving A+ in the category of “good for families”. Living in Novi offers residents a dense suburban feel. There are various restaurants, coffee shops, and recreational parks for everyone to enjoy. Novi is home to one of the best public school districts in Michigan, with superior shopping, diverse population and short commute to areas with many auto manufacturers. The majority of the public schools rate above average, especially the high school being recognized for how well it prepares students for higher education. Novi has a lot of resources and has access to quality doctors and specialists. With a diversity score of 94 out of 100, Novi is much more diverse than other US cities. It gives the opportunity for people to live, learn and celebrate together. Maintaining the roads during winter is something Novi team does so well. As a community member, I am thankful for a great snow plowing team that takes care of our safety in winter, very promptly. Overall, I am a proud and very satisfied Novi resident. As with every city, there are opportunities to make us better. Following are the areas where I could see us putting more focus:

- Roads & Construction** - This is a known issue across the state, and it becomes harder when construction is planned across multiple areas at the same time. This is not easy, as we have only a few months to do this with the winter season, but an opportunity to keep optimizing the construction planning cycles to ensure very little impact to the traffic and the mobility of the community. Both construction and maintenance goes hand in hand, so constant evaluation of wear and tear of the roads & construction planning will help residents have a better experience in Novi.
- Parks & Trails** - Even though we have fewer parks and trails in the city, I feel like the community is either not aware or not leveraging these treasures. So spending time to engage the community outdoors, by either enhancing their experience & educating them, will help to use our outdoor spaces better. Along with existing options, it will be great to assess areas to implement sidewalk with more shade, for easier walking, and places people can go to unwind that are easily accessible on foot.
- Pulse Survey** - At work, similar to doing a yearly pulse survey, I would like to see an engagement & experience survey/listening sessions if not already, to gather community feedback to identify the opportunities to enhance the Novi residents life.
- Novi Collective Force and a hub** - When I first came to Novi, being an extrovert, I was able to go and find resources/organization/information in the city that would be beneficial to my family, but the amazing resources that we have today sometimes goes unknown. As an ambassador, I do promote all the different organizations/resources that the community can leverage, but we need to do more. Create a Novi Collective Force and a hub, where newer residents have all the information they need (including resources related to their diverse community) in one stop shop. It’s like a Novi resident on-boarding packet, so they are aware of all the great things about Novi and how they can benefit & get involved.
- Home Affordability** - Novi home prices attract less people to become residents or stay as residents, and this is something that we need to understand, evaluate and see how we can help those groups of people who want to live here, but cannot.
- Community Space** - As a city, Novi has everything, malls, restaurants, shops for all communities etc, but we lack one common place to bring the community together. Without a downtown, the community finds ways through Suburban Palace and Novi Civic Center to create that space, but it will be great to create that shared space to invite more residents to come together and spend time as a community throughout all seasons. We have several groups of people, it will be great to bring them all together for certain occasions.
- Environmental Sustainability** - I would like to see more focus on Climate Change & Sustainability goals and educating the community to work towards those goals, taking small steps.

Do you foresee any conflict of interest if you were appointed to serve as a Council

Member?

No, I don't foresee any conflict of interest.

Is there anything else you would like City Council to be aware of, or know about you?

As a full time mom and working Automotive STEM professional, I strongly believe that I will add great value to the existing council and work together to make our city even better. I will bring a diverse perspective to the team & learn through this experience.