

## WORKSESSION MEMORANDUM

DEPARTMENT Administration PRESENTED BY Christy Doon - Interim City Administrator

DATE October 3, 2023

### <u>ITEM</u>

Chaffee Housing Authority Applicant Interview

## BACKGROUND

Per the Intergovernmental Agreement creating the Chaffee Housing Authority, the City of Salida is responsible for appointing two board members. A call for applicants was sent out to the public in August and September. The City received interest from one applicant – Salty Riggs.

Attached to this memo is the submitted application. Staff also reached out to the CHA Executive Director, who provided the following questions, which are asked of other board applicants. These questions are noted below.

- 1. Please tell us a little bit about yourself, giving a high-level summary of you professionally and personally.
- 2. Why, specifically, is being on the Chaffee Housing Authority Board important to you?
- 3. What skills do you have that would contribute to supporting the Housing Authority?
- 4. How/Why would you best represent the community on the Housing Authority Board?
- 5. Realistically, how much time per month do you have to contribute to the CHA?
- 6. What direct housing challenges have you experienced or have heard in direct communication with others in the Chaffee Community?
- 7. Tell us about a time when you had to make a decisions or plan based on many different viewpoints.
- 8. Tell us about a time when you worked on a team where there were varying personalities and viewpoints.
- 9. Tell us about a time when you had to learn something new for your job or volunteer position.



#### APPLICATION FOR CITY OF SALIDA COMMITTEES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS

DATE <b>8/14/23</b>			
NAME Salty Riggs			
ADDRESS 218 Scott Street			
CITYSalida	STAT	те <b>СО</b>	<b>81201</b>
TELEPHONE # (home) 405 517 44		(work)	
(cell)			
FAX #	E-MAIL S	alty@bet	tchsalida.org
APPLYING FOR:			
Board of Adjustment		Salida/Chaf	fee County Airport Board
Board of Appeals		Public Art (	Commission
Historic Preservation Commission		Tree Board	С <i>і</i> н
Planning Commission PROST			y Committee

# Please fill out the following information about yourself and why you are applying for this position. (Attach resume or extra sheets if necessary)

#### BACKGROUND AND/OR EXPERIENCE (Business and/or Personal):

In 2015, I settled in Salida after three years of living on the road, building trails across the state. This experience developed my skills in advocacy, volunteer coordination, event planning, and leadership. Leaving behind an unaffordable Derver neighborhood, I found a comfortable apartment on G Street in Salida, where community quickly became integral. I worked at local eateries, supported Monarch, and embraced the town's outdoor activities.

When COVID-19 hit, I recognized a familiar cycle: rising rents, friends being displaced, and a lack of affordable housing for the working class. This reminded me of a similar situation I'd witnessed in Denver a decade earlier. I resolved to contribute to solving the crisis and applied for a Chaffee Housing Authority board seat, but my attempt was met with rejection. Undeterred, I founded my own housing authority, BETCH.

Through BETCH, I empowered over 100 working-class individuals to speak out for affordable housing in public meetings. We distributed 50 rental subsidies, preserving affordable housing and supporting essential workers. I focused on community education, backed individual housing projects, and endorsed local ballot measures. I also championed six state-level measures addressing housing issues, including Prop 123. Unfortunately, my efforts to garner local support for Prop 123 fell on deaf ears last year. Ironically, BETCH was excluded from the county wide Prop 123 meeting last week.

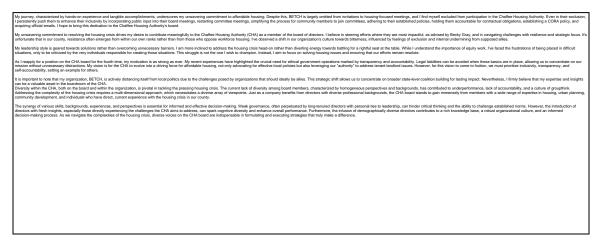
On the state level, I advocated for solutions like rent control, tenant rights, land use changes, and affordable housing measures, seeking to combat the housing crisis. Moreover, I worked towards raising income caps across the county to improve housing accessibility. I also stood against state-sponsored employer-influenced housing, aiming to prevent an imbalance of power and a return to a company-dominated Salida.

#### PERSONAL AND JOB RELATED INTERESTS:

I'm all about that mountain town outdoor vibe. I traveled the state building trails and I chose to settle in this town specifically. The character of Salida is like living in a reality show where every moment has that untamed energy and lasting impact. People move here and follow their dreams. My interests include all things outdoors and Elvis, the love of my life. He's always game for a hike, a toss of the ball, or just some laid-back hanging out.

By day, I'm the program director for the Boys and Girls Club, helping shape young minds and fuel their dreams. The outdoors keep me grounded and remind me of the simple pleasures that matter most, just like how Elvis lights up with a game of fetch or a trail to explore. In the middle of all this action, one thing's clear – I'm aiming for a permanent spot here for both me and Elvis in this bustling mountain community. Just as I'm learning to guide the kids to their dreams, I envision us carving out our own space to keep enjoying the outdoors, mingling at community bashes, and soaking in the vibes of local festivals.

REASONS FOR APPLYING:



Thank you for applying, Salida City Council

Please return the completed application to:

City of Salida 448 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 112 Salida, CO 81201 or email to: Clerk@cityofsalida.com