



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

DATE 2/18/2024
NAME Cory "Salty" Riggs
ADDRESS 6906 Vandaveer Ranch Road
CITY Salida STATE CO ZIP 81201
TELEPHONE # (home) _____ (work) _____
(cell) 405.517.4494
FAX # _____ E-MAIL Salty@betchsalida.org

APPLYING FOR:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Adjustment | <input type="checkbox"/> Salida/Chaffee County Airport Board |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Council | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Art Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Board |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PROST | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

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):

My extensive leadership experience and deep commitment to our community uniquely qualifies me for an appointment to the City Council. As the founder of BETCH, I've demonstrated my ability to advocate for workforce housing and empower our workforce to engage in advocacy for themselves. I've honed my skills in leadership and communication while becoming an expert on housing in Chaffee County.

My involvement in various boards and committees, including the CHA's Development Committee, Housing Leadership Roundtable, Regional Leadership Committee, Housing Grants Review Committee, and the Colorado Affordable Homeownership Alliance, demonstrates my dedication to driving meaningful change.

In the face of opposition, I've remained steadfast in my advocacy for the workforce and overall betterment of our community. Through my advocacy on many state level ballot measures, such as Prop 123, I have exhibited my expertise on housing policy. I've spearheaded successful campaigns on crucial local ballot measures such as 2A & 2B, 300, and 1A, leading to tangible benefits like funding for Jane's Place, Ark Valley Preschool, and Artspace. My active involvement in the planning of S. Ark Neighborhood and the Future Land Use Map showcases my commitment to shaping a brighter future for our community.

PERSONAL AND JOB RELATED INTERESTS:

My commitment to the future of Chaffee County is deeply intertwined with my love for the great outdoors and my dedication to community service. Beyond my advocacy for housing initiatives, I serve as the Program Director for The Boys and Girls Club, where I pour my energy into empowering our youth.

I've actively contributed to our community's welfare by serving on the Community Leaders Fellowship and the Indigenous Education Committee. I participated in creating the Chaffee County Sustainability Plan. Additionally, I've volunteered for Salida Mountain Trails and beloved events like FIBARK and the Christmas Run, and lent my expertise to the 2022 Chaffee Gives Campaign.

In 2022, I was recognized as Volunteer of the Year by the Chaffee County Community Foundation and The Mountain Mail. I was nominated again in 2023

REASONS FOR APPLYING:

I am applying for the position on Salida City Council because I have worked tirelessly for years, making significant progress on the housing crisis in our community. My growth and development in the last couple of years have brought me to this point, and it seems the next logical step in my progression.

Since I have already earned the esteemed position of public figure and community leader, I recognize the need to learn how to navigate upper level board and community leadership. Being appointed to the City Council would provide me with the opportunity to hone my leadership skills under expert guidance while using my understanding of affordable housing policy to benefit the broader community.

I am uniquely qualified for this appointment due to my extensive skills, experience, and unwavering commitment to our community. I bring a unique blend of workforce perspective and housing expertise, cultivated through my role as founder of BETCH. Throughout my tenure as President of BETCH and now as the Vice Chair of the Chaffee Housing Authority, I have demonstrated strong leadership, effective decision making, and a deep understanding of housing issues.

My current roles on the Finance, Executive, Ballot Issue, PR and Advocacy committees within the CHA, coupled with my involvement in the Chaffee County Youth Alliance, prove my ability to collaborate effectively with diverse groups and advocate for meaningful change. Moreover, my track record of success in spearheading initiatives, such as securing funding for childcare, affordable housing, and supporting ballot measures, underscores my dedication to addressing the needs of our community.

Thank you for applying, Salida City Council

Please return the completed application to:

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

A letter for Salty

Luke Gooding <mrlukegooding@gmail.com>

Tue 2/27/2024 2:43 PM

To: Sara Law <sara.law@cityofsalida.com>

You don't often get email from mrlukegooding@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To the Salida City Council members,

My name is Luke Gooding, a relatively new resident here. I have been in the valley working in the local economy since 2020. I had not even started working at Moonlight Pizza before meeting Salty, an excellent example of the average worker, neighbor and friend of so many here in Salida.

She, like many others living and working here, has faced many challenges. The quality that sets her apart from most of her peers is her commitment to addressing these difficulties, endeavoring to improve the rights to basic needs that the residents of this town rely on in order to remain here. I believe that our community at large would like to see opportunities for our workforce to remain at work, and have access to housing to that end.

Salty is absolutely the choice for the Ward 3 vacancy. She has committed innumerable hours to learning about the state and county legislation pertaining to housing rights, as well programs dedicated to keeping Coloradans in their communities and boosting local economies. She truly cares about all issues and agendas that pertain to this community and exemplifies tenacity, commitment and diligence in addressing and generating solutions for them. In my opinion, Salty is up to the task of helping Salida provide for the residents, support our service industry and prevent further decline in our local economy.

Sincerely,

Luke Gooding

Bianka Isabella Martinez
319 E 4th St
Salida, CO, 81201
Bimartin35@gmail.com
(773) 799-7566
2/26/2024

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Cory Riggs in her candidacy for a seat on the Salida City Council. Cory's deep understanding of the housing issues facing our community, coupled with her passion for affordable housing advocacy, make her an ideal candidate to represent the interests of Salida residents.

As a longtime resident of Salida, Cory has witnessed firsthand the challenges that many of our community members face when it comes to finding safe, affordable housing. Her firsthand experiences have given her a unique perspective on these issues, and she is committed to finding innovative solutions that will benefit all residents of our city.

Cory's expertise in affordable housing and her dedication to this cause is unwavering. She understands the complexities of the housing market and is committed to collaborating with local shareholders to develop policies that will increase the availability of affordable housing in our community.

Electing Cory to the Salida City Council would be a significant step forward in our efforts to address the affordable housing crisis in our city. Her passion, dedication, and expertise make her an ideal candidate to represent the average working Salidan. I believe Cory Riggs can work towards a more equitable and affordable future for all residents of our city.

Sincerely,

Bianka Isabella Martinez

Bianka Isabella Martinez

Cory "Salty" Riggs Recommendation

Randi McCarty <randimmcc@gmail.com>

Sun 2/18/2024 4:43 PM

To: Sara Law <sara.law@cityofsalida.com>

You don't often get email from randimmcc@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing today to recommend Cory "Salty" Riggs for the vacant seat on the Salida City Council, Ward 3. I have been a Salida resident and registered voter for about 12 years now and have worked at State Farm, and currently work at Moonlight Pizza and High Country Bank. I met Salty as a coworker when we were both employed at Moonlight Pizza about 5 or 6 years ago. Throughout the time I have known her, Salty has grown not only as a person, but also as a citizen through her community involvement.

Salty is in touch with the needs of the citizens of Salida, specifically the work force population. She would offer a unique perspective to City Council due to her experiences as a full time employee in Salida, a renter in Salida, and also the vast experience she obtained through BETCH. She brings a positive spin to projects she is involved with, and is excellent at getting others involved as well. I think she has the ability to get more people to vote, since they can relate to her as a candidate.

Salty demonstrated extreme perseverance when she came up with the idea for BETCH, made the organization happen, and relentlessly pushed Salida in the direction of providing more affordable housing options to its citizens. Affordable housing will only continue to be a big topic within Salida, perhaps the biggest obstacle we face as a community. Salty lead the way on the campaign to stop amendment 300, which would have obliterated the city's affordable housing fund and possibly would have created legal problems for the city as well. I personally went door to door with Salty, spreading information on the matter and saw her hard at work. I believe the experience and connections Salty has gained through BETCH will translate over to a successful position on our city council.

If you would like a city council member who is hard working, a great leader, and an advocate for Salida's biggest issues, Salty is perfect for the position. Thanks for your consideration.

Randi McCarty
Salida Resident

February 26, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I work with Salty Riggs on the Chaffee County Youth Coalition's Law Enforcement Workgroup. I find her to be a thoughtful, collaborative group member who is also respectful and honest. She listens well and does not seem to push her agenda at the expense of the group's process. She is quite knowledgeable on issues related to affordable housing, which would be a plus on the City Council. I have been very impressed with how she conducts herself in the few months we have worked together on this workgroup.

Thank you for your time,

Dibby Olson

Cory Riggs

alexandra <alerestrepo88@gmail.com>

Fri 2/16/2024 5:28 PM

To:Sara Law <sara.law@cityofsalida.com>

You don't often get email from alerestrepo88@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Salida City Council, I am writing to commend Cory Riggs, a remarkable woman whose dedication, hard work, and leadership have significantly contributed to the affordable housing community in Chaffee County. Cory's unwavering commitment to her cause has driven positive change and fostered development in our community. As a woman in a field often dominated by men, Cory's journey of growth and development serves as a testament to the power of perseverance, passion, and purpose. Through her tireless efforts, she has led initiatives aimed at providing affordable and sustainable housing solutions for individuals and families in need, transforming lives and revitalizing neighborhoods. Cory's leadership style, characterized by empathy, collaboration, and inclusivity, has brought together diverse stakeholders and community members to work towards a common goal. Her ability to inspire and motivate others has been instrumental in building partnerships, mobilizing resources, and driving collective action to address the complex challenges facing our community. Cory's personal integrity, humility, and compassion serve as a shining example for others to emulate. She leads by example, demonstrating a genuine commitment to serving others and making a positive difference in the lives of those around her. As we celebrate Cory's remarkable contributions to the affordable housing community in Chaffee County, I urge the Salida City Council to recognize and support her efforts. Cory's dedication, hard work, and leadership have made a lasting impact on our community, and her legacy will continue to inspire us for years to come.

Sincerely,
Alexandra Restrepo

City Council Recommendation

Alysha Rushing <alyshar1693@gmail.com>

Tue 2/20/2024 1:39 PM

To: Sara Law <sara.law@cityofsalida.com>

You don't often get email from alyshar1693@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to offer my enthusiastic support for Salty Cory Riggs as a candidate for the vacant City Council seat in Salida, CO. In my role as a local school counselor here in Salida, I not only have been a recipient of rental assistance through Salty's nonprofit, BETCH, but I have also witnessed her profound impact on our community.

Salty's commitment to personal growth, tenacity, and love for the community make her an exceptional candidate. Her leadership style, characterized by leading through example and providing unwavering support, showcases her dedication to the well-being of Salida. I wholeheartedly recommend Salty Cory Riggs for the City Council seat, confident in her ability to bring positive change and represent the diverse needs of our community.

Sincerely,

Alysha Rushing
School Counselor
Horizons Exploratory Academy
Salida, CO

A Letter for Salty

Amanda Sharpless <asharpless@gmail.com>

Sun 2/25/2024 12:37 PM

To: Sara Law <sara.law@cityofsalida.com>

Cc: dan.shore@salidaelected.com <dan.shore@salidaelected.com>

You don't often get email from asharpless@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Salida City Council and Mayor Shore,

It has come to my attention that the Ward 3 seat on City Council will need to be filled soon. As someone who lives in Ward 3, I would like the seat filled by someone who is attuned to the needs of my community, as well as the underserved population in town.

I believe Salty Riggs is this very person. Having endured homelessness just last year, multiple hardships and myriad critics, she has proven herself resilient and optimistic in the face of these adversities.

Salty represents something intangible that the spirit of City Council needs. I believe some may call this grit. Opponents of hers will loudly declare her faults and vehemently display her shortcomings in attempts to humiliate her; all of which she has taken in stride. She is honest about her mistakes and moves on. This is why we love her.

As a brick-and-mortar Salida business owner and Colorado native, I have roots in this place that I would like to keep planted. I don't employ other people, but there are other contractors with whom I share my roof, and they would also like to be able to stay here.

Cassie, a native Salidan, shares my business space downtown and has recently moved back to see how much this place has grown. As people who have been demoted to the financial lower class due to the wealth moving in and recent inflation, we need someone who shares our unique experience and has our best interests at heart. In case you're curious, our interests are just being able to stay here and continue to be part of this integral community.

Cassie and I are embarking on dual mentorships where we will be teaching two young people our trade. Both are much younger than we are, work multiple jobs and are less financially stable despite how hard they work. They will be carrying our torch some day, and that means making sure they have some stability so they can work towards a legitimate career in the arts.

If Salty is part of Salida City Council, I know she will push to make affordable housing attainable for everyone. As you know, the entire community has pitched in to get her to where she is today.

In her application letter to you, you have been made aware of the achievements she has garnered, and she is well aware she couldn't have done it without support. She asks for help when she needs

it, as it isn't beneath her to realize that we all make each other stronger. Therefore, her strength is in the community of Salida and we want her to be our sounding voice.

Please consider all that she has done and her potential to come as a chair on Salida City Council.

Sincerely,
Amanda Sharpless
Centennial Tattoo LLC
110 W. 1st St.

Ward 3 recommendation

Heather Soderman <heathersoderman@gmail.com>

Mon 2/26/2024 12:00 PM

To:Sara Law <sara.law@cityofsalida.com>

You don't often get email from heathersoderman@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Sara,

I'm writing to voice my support for Salty Riggs in occupying the vacant Ward 3 seat for Salida City Council.

I've been a member of the Salida community for the last 12 years, living in Ward 3 for 9 of those years.

As a member of the Chaffee Housing Trust COC, I've had the opportunity to work directly with Salty. She is passionate about serving our community, specifically when it comes to affordable housing. Salty has represented the working class of Salida and has a proven track record of advocating for their needs.

Salty and I went door to door together sharing information regarding ballot issue 300 with our community members. Salty has shown through hard work and dedication her commitment to educating and empowering her neighbors. Salty has demonstrated her leadership skills and I believe becoming a city council member would be a great way for her to continue the tremendous growth I have witnessed.

Please consider her for the seat and contact me if you have any further questions.

Thank you,
Heather Soderman
508-735-6159

Recommendation of Cory Riggs

Laura Wancura <wonkika@hotmail.com>

Tue 2/27/2024 6:22 PM

To:Sara Law <sara.law@cityofsalida.com>

[You don't often get email from wonkika@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

To whom it may concern;

I would like to formally recommend Cory Riggs for appointment to the vacant Salida City Council seat in ward 3. In the seven years I have known Cory, she has demonstrated compassion, interest in the local community and a tremendous work ethic. In just the past few years, I have seen her growth as she founded a non profit organization, her maturity as she faced opposition for her forward thinking, and her fortitude as she refused to stop working for those she represented. I have no doubt she would continue this level of dedication while serving as a Salida City Council member. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura Wancura Atwood
970.396.1319

February 26, 2024

Eric Warner

9707 County Road 163

Salida, CO 81201

Re: Cory Riggs city council candidacy

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

I would like to endorse Cory "Salty" Riggs for the vacant city council seat and recommend that you appoint her for that position.

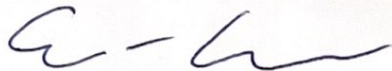
I've had the opportunity to get to know and work with Salty over the last 3 years in both a personal and professional capacity. I initially got to know her back when we were proposing the Salida Bottling company development to the planning commission and city council. Initially, she and BETCH were opposed, but she took the time to understand our project and make suggestions as to how we could modify it to further benefit the housing challenged in Salida. After we incorporated some of those suggestions, she and BETCH became some of our biggest supporters. I bring this up because I think sometimes there's a misperception that she has a "my way or the highway" attitude that gets miscast because of her strong beliefs on certain subjects.

More recently, I've had the opportunity to work with her on both subcommittees of and the Chaffee Housing authority board itself (she and I are both board members). Even within the last 9 months I've observed a tempering of her approach and a genuine willingness to learn and compromise to find the best path forward. There is no question that she would bring a strong policy background on what our community's single greatest challenge is. She has also become fluent in land use and zoning issues over the last couple of years. Is Salty passionate about what she believe in? 100%. I know you all understand the importance of housing affordability in our community, but she will elevate her passion to the level that the council member she's replacing demonstrated. I believe that is very important for our community.

I've watched Salty continue to grow over the last couple of years and she is eager to learn from your experience to make sure she's effective in representing her ward. I believe that when you consider

her experience, career aspirations and commitment to making Salida a better place for ALL of its residents you will conclude she is the best fit for the open council seat.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Warner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Eric Warner

Reference for Salty Riggs

Elizabeth Weiss <lizweiss11@gmail.com>

Sat 2/17/2024 10:34 AM

To:Sara Law <sara.law@cityofsalida.com>

You don't often get email from lizweiss11@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Sara,

My name is Liz Weiss, and am emailing you regarding a reference for Salty Riggs running for city council. A little background of myself is the following: I've lived in Salida since 2015 and have lived here ever since. I served on the SPOT board, created a bicycle education campaign in 2016 for my masters project at Wester State University, served on the BETCH board, worked at Cafe Dawn, Sunshine Market and Natural Grocers. Currently, I work for the Forest Service and have been employed with them since 2018.

I have known Salty for several years, and during those years I worked with her to develop BETCH from the very beginning back in the winter of 2021. Salty is brilliant to work with because she has the capacity and passion to see a problem that affects her community and she takes charge to make a change. Working with her to start a grassroots nonprofit to promote housing equality was eye opening, as I had never done such a thing. Salty knew what to do; she handled the paperwork required to get us our nonprofit status, assigned roles and tasks, and rallied people together like I've never seen before. She has a fun and unique leadership style, and I believe that this is why she is able to bring people together. Salty empowers the people that she works with and she makes everyone feel that they have the capacity to speak up, and she never shuts anyone down. While working with her on the BETCH board, I attended numerous meetings with her, and if I didn't know what the meeting was about, I didn't have to worry because she always does her homework. She always shows up to meetings extremely prepared, and even over prepared sometimes to the point that she surprises other people with her deep knowledge of the topic at hand. It's not difficult for her to do the extra work because of her passion for knowledge and her passion to share it with others.

I firmly feel that having Salty Riggs serve on city council would be an enormous benefit for the community of Salida. It would be a huge benefit to have someone on the council who represents the workforce, and who already has a wealth of knowledge about workforce needs and policies.

Thank you for taking the time to read my reference letter for Salty Riggs, and I hope that you have a great weekend.

Cheers,
Liz Weiss

Ward 3 : "Salty" Riggs

Brandon W <pshawgarden@gmail.com>

Thu 2/22/2024 4:06 PM

To:Sara Law <sara.law@cityofsalida.com>

You don't often get email from pshawgarden@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good afternoon Sara,

Salty has informed me that she is seeking to fill the Ward 3 seat. I write to you in support of her candidacy. This is not to disparage any other potential candidates, but to extol the virtues I have seen in Salty.

I want to be very clear that I am writing this as a citizen of Salida, and that my statement does not represent literally anything but my own opinion in my capacity as a private citizen.

I have noticed Salty at numerous events, hearings, meetings, panels, etc concerning various community issues. Primarily these have been for affordable housing. She has been a tireless advocate for this cause. So much so, that I'm not sure we could fill the Scout Hut with citizens who haven't heard of her by now. Additionally I am aware that she has been to multiple BoCC hearings to advocate for the working people of not only Salida, but also the larger Chaffee County. I think this also demonstrates the knowledge that Salida is not an island, and that real changes can only succeed if they involve the broader community. This is exactly what so many in Ward 3 need; an advocate who see them at eye-level, not from a high horse of relative economic comfort and privilege. Salty has, repeatedly, and often at great personal cost, demonstrated her knowledge and passion for public service, an open mind, an open ear, and a heart that never leaves her sleeve. I think she would make an excellent candidate for the seat and I very much wanted to share these thoughts with you.

Please feel free to reach out if desired.

Sincerely,

Brandon Wolff

(314) 749-4554

pshawgarden@gmail.com

Salty Briggs for City Council

mozeimet@aol.com <mozeimet@aol.com>

Mon 2/26/2024 12:49 PM

To:Sara Law <sara.law@cityofsalida.com>

You don't often get email from mozeimet@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Salida City Council,

As a member of Chaffee County's Continuum of Care, I have worked with Salty Briggs over the past 2 years. I would like to recommend her for the vacant ward 3 seat on Salida City Council and hope you will seriously consider her. Her input and direction in recognizing the need for workforce housing and her ability to take action has been positive for Salida. Salty listens to people and understands them. I have seen her in action at several city council meetings, demonstrating she understands the City Council's process. Her compassion and her intelligence will be assets to Salida City Council.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mo Zeimet, Board Member of Chaffe Hospitality Inc. (men and women's shelters in Salida)

Cory Riggs Letter of Recommendation

Jessica Shook <shookme30@yahoo.com>

Tue 2/27/2024 2:24 PM

To:Sara Law <sara.law@cityofsalida.com>

You don't often get email from shookme30@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Sara,

I'm writing you to express my support for Cory Riggs as a candidate for Salida City Council. I met Cory in the service industry and saw how easily she interacted with people from all walks of life. As the housing crisis in Salida worsened and began affecting us and our co-workers, Cory sought advise from as many people as she could as to how she could get involved in the solution. She knew of my background in nonprofit management and asked for advise. She continued gathering information about nonprofit management, business and government from as many people as she could over the next 6 months and within the year, had led the formation of BETCH.

BETCH has had a significant impact in our community made possible by Cory's dedication and creativity. The work of this nonprofit has facilitated great learning and growth in Cory and gives her strong qualifications for continued public service. As a council person, I think Cory would continue to learn and grow while upholding important convictions about what the population of Salida needs from their local government.

Please let me know if you would like more information or have any questions.

Best,

Jessica Shook

Recommending Salty for CC Ward 3

Madelyne Felsch <madelynefelsch@gmail.com>

Wed 3/13/2024 10:21 PM

To: Sara Law <sara.law@cityofsalida.com>

You don't often get email from madelynefelsch@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To Whom It May Concern,

Madelyne Felsch here, BETCH board & general community member in support of Salty Riggs for the vacant ward three position. I don't feel it necessary to list all of Salty's voluntary history, but she has more than proved herself as a worthy candidate in the public sector over the last few years. She has acted as a representative of a growing population of folks here in Salida, and she has made multiple personal sacrifices (not limited to, but including her housing security) in order to uphold her values in support of that community. She has mobilized the community & changed the trajectory of affordable housing here in Chaffee County through her work with BETCH as well as the CHA.

Salty has a very specific skill set, and she knows how to use it. She is tenaciously committed to being a part of the solution in any given situation, even when that situation might not benefit her cause directly. She has inspired many of us to speak up & take the initiative to make our voices heard with her compassion, dedication, & inclusive efforts- which do not go unnoticed by the community, and I personally believe she would bring an element of diversity to the city council that will become more & more valuable as time goes on. She has the potential to make a major & lasting impact on our community, please consider her appointment accordingly.

Thank you for your time,
Madelyne Felsch

Salty for Ward 3

William Harkcom <w.harkcom@gmail.com>

Wed 3/13/2024 11:56 PM

To:Sara Law <sara.law@cityofsalida.com>

You don't often get email from w.harkcom@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I'm writing in support of Cory "Salty" Riggs replacing Harald Kasper as the council member for Ward 3.

I know that Salty is well known among the current council members, so I won't waste your time listing all of her many accomplishments. I will simply add that, as a member of the board of BETCH, I have personally worked with Salty and seen her dedication to our community. I think she will do an excellent job as a member of city council, and I sincerely hope you select her for the role.

Thank you,
William Harkcom

Salty for ward 3

Rikki Boucher <rikkiboucher@gmail.com>

Wed 3/13/2024 5:39 PM

To:Sara Law <sara.law@cityofsalida.com>

Cc:dominique.naccarato@salidaelected.com <dominique.naccarato@salidaelected.com>;dan.shore@salidaelected.com

<dan.shore@salidaelected.com>;suzanne.fontana@salidaelected.com <suzanne.fontana@salidaelected.com>;

Justin.critelli@salidaelected.com <Justin.critelli@salidaelected.com>;aaron.stephens@salidaelected.com

<aaron.stephens@salidaelected.com>;alisa.pappenfort@salidaelected.com <alisa.pappenfort@salidaelected.com>

[You don't often get email from rikkiboucher@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear members of City Council and Mayor,

I attended the City Council meeting on February 6th. I was saddened to witness Harald Casper resign. He will be missed.

It will probably not shock any of you to know that I would love to see my friend and colleague Cory "Salty" Riggs in that seat. I've been friends with Salty since spring of 2020. We worked together at the Highside. It was obvious to me when I met her that she was one of the cool kids and I wanted to be her friend. People responded to her magnetism, wit, humor and kindness. They still do.

I remember helping Salty prepare for an interview she was very excited about. It was with the Chaffee Housing Authority. She was applying as an alternate on the board. This is a volunteer position. None the less she wanted it and her community wanted to see her achieve the goal of being potentially heard by the CHA. I don't quite understand her drive myself, but I'm proud to know someone with it.

Salty is so driven that years later we have successfully developed and grown a non-profit that advocates for housing, Salty's true passion. Bringing Everyone Together Through the Crisis of Housing (BETCH) is the result of Salty's persistence, the relationships she nurtures within our community, the very real housing crisis we are facing. Behind Salty's work is a formidable desire to make everyone's lives a little more livable.

I've watched closely throughout this time of growth and seen Salty mature and learn in a number of ways. She spends, what seems like, all of her time talking to mentors, attending meetings, looking for housing solutions and getting familiar with the FLUM. In fact, I've had mutual friends tell me, talking to Salty has become a challenge because she is so focused on finding solutions to the housing crisis. Please trust me when I say this issue has become somewhat all consuming for Salty in the best possible way. It feels as if she has discovered a calling and it has been magnificent to witness.

During this time she has also experienced a level of scrutiny usually reserved for public officials. Her life, even the hardest of times, has been put under a microscope. Her image has been used against her and she has been dismissed or trivialized, even by those that claim to support her cause. Salty faced and continues to face this prejudice with humor, grace and composure. She is ready to take on a city council role that requires this kind of fortitude.

But perhaps the most important qualification I see in Salty is her ability to root out unconscious bias and bring it to light. As a scholar of social justice and inequity I am constantly asking where and how our

privilege has limited our ability to produce effective change. This is where Salty and I are bound in ideology. She can do the hard work of asking, "what are we missing?" and "who's voices are not being heard?" One example is when Salty and BETCH pointed out how a ban on idling vehicles would disproportionately effect individuals with limited or no housing. This had not even occurred to council at the time. Most recently she pointed out the classist nature of critiques relating to the Salida Ridge apartments. And there are many more examples that show how Salty's experience offers a much needed perspective. This experience coupled with her eye for equality make her the most qualified for a position on City Council.

I have no doubt in my mind that if constituents of ward 3 were asked who they want to represent them they would select Salty. I hope you take my perspective into account and appoint Salty to City Council. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rikki Boucher, MA