

Mary Petrie  
852 ound Street  
Saint Paul, MN. 55106

February 4, 2015

Trudy Moloney  
Director of City Council Operations  
City Council Offices Suite 310  
15 West Kellogg Blvd  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Ms. Moloney and Saint Paul City Councilmembers,

Please consider my application to serve as an interim Ward 7 city councilmember: I have the skills, knowledge, and sensibility to be an effective and collegial councilmember for both Ward 7 and the city of Saint Paul.

From non-profits to public institutions, I have wide-ranging leadership experience in complex organizations. Throughout my varied career, I've managed budgets, written grants, supervised employees, coordinated programs and charted organizational futures. As a Gender and Women's Studies scholar, I am attuned to the social and economic inequities that run as a fault line across so many of our communities, including those on the East Side; much of my academic and volunteer work has been spent addressing these core issues. I would bring this knowledge and extensive experience with diverse communities to work for the city. A leader, yes, but also a good team player: prepared, efficient, diplomatic.

I'm knowledgeable about city government and its operations. I have served as a District Council Member and on the Capital Improvement Budgetary Committee (CIB). Both experiences immersed me in the intricacies of city operations; the CIB, in particular, was a window into the interplay between all levels of government--federal, state, and city. A co-founder of the environmental initiative Clean Energy Now, I led a successful drive to convince Xcel Energy to convert all metro area coal plants to natural gas, working with city and state officials to nudge corporate policy for the greater good. My understanding of city government took another uptick when I served as the campaign manager for the Green Party's Elizabeth Dickinson's 2005 mayoral run. Later, as Executive Director of Farm in the City, I managed this nonprofit's community gardening partnership with the city. An informed and active citizen, I am attuned to the key issues and concerns the city faces; I share the vision and core values steering Saint Paul as a national leader in livability, neighborhood revitalization, social justice and economic development.

I have a long track record of spirited service to both the East Side and other communities. For example, in 2002 when Mounds Park ire grew about odors from The Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant, I didn't grouse: I organized. Working with the treatment plant staff and neighbors, we began a phone campaign reporting odors, allowing the treatment plant staff to track and fix the problem. When my son signed up for Parkway Little League, I not only became a Board Member but wrote their successful 2007 STAR grant proposal. I mined the block I live on to recruit a "Mounds Park Team," that now provides meals for a homeless day shelter, The Family Place. I have volunteered at every school my three children have attended, from Site Council to lunchroom duties.

People who rely on me aren't disappointed. If there's a problem -- dicey corner needs a stop sign or a nuisance dog barking-- why complain when you can roll up your sleeves and get busy? Pair a conversation with a commitment to the greater good, and you have the first step toward a solution. That is the spirit of service I would bring to the City Council, Ward 7, and the city of Saint Paul, as a thoughtful colleague, trusted neighbor and fierce advocate for our communities.

Thank you for considering my application.

Sincerely,

*Mary Petrie*

Mary Petrie

## Mary Petrie, Ph.D.

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### Summary

Recognized writer, teacher, and leader with rich professional and volunteer successes in education, non-profit, and civic endeavors. Award-winning classroom educator with extensive college and university-wide administrative experience designing and implementing key institutional initiatives. Consensus builder able to navigate complex organizational dynamics and challenges, but equally capable of strong independent decisions. Excellent communicator who has effectively mobilized, organized and engaged neighbors and citizens in service of St. Paul. Published writer with credits from novel to *New York Times*.

### Work History

#### **Inver Hills Community College 2008-present**

- Tenured faculty member in English Department and Gender and Women's Studies Department
- Designed Gender and Women's Studies Program including all courses and degree paths
- Head writer and Chair leading stakeholders through year-long process of rewriting the college's mission, vision and values statement
- Highlights of service to the college: Academic Affairs Committee, Institutional Effectiveness Council, Student Parent Support Initiative (founder), Safe Space Leader, ACQUIP (accreditation), Professional Development Presenter, Online Peer Mentor Program Leadership
- Certified Quality Matters Peer Reviewer evaluating quality of college courses within MnSCU and throughout the Midwest

#### **Farm in the City 2006-2008**

- Executive Director tapped from Board to chart an emergency course for this non-profit arts and education organization during an era of acute financial and personnel crisis
- Managed six community gardens and a year-long environmental arts program for children
- Developed successful multi-tiered fundraising strategies to save organization
- Supervised seasonal staff of 22
- Worked with diverse community partners on gardens and programs for food security in low-income neighborhoods

#### **Metropolitan State University 1999-2007**

- Community Faculty Member in English Department
- Developed first online course in English Department

#### **University of Minnesota, Minneapolis Campus 1989-1998**

- Administrative Fellow for the Commission on Women and Consultant to the Commission
  - Reporting to the Associate Provost, part of team creating institutional change toward gender equity through programing, policy-making, research and mentoring
  - Coordinated university-wide programs, retreats, meetings and projects for commission
  - Managed commission data and conducted research

- Administrative Fellow for Student Support Services
  - Created and coordinated Coffman Memorial education and entertainment schedule
  - Responsible for logistical and technical needs of large (5000+) audiences
  - In charge of all publicity, communication and public relations for Coffman events
- Administrative Fellow, Worldspan Center for Global Perspectives
  - Created and sustained community of international and U.S. students
  - Supervised two salaried workers and 10-15 volunteers
  - Develop, manage and grow program budget and community goodwill
- Instructor in Composition, English, and Women's Studies Departments
  - Developed and taught (multiple times) over a dozen courses in these departments
  - Training team for new graduate student instructors in Composition
- Recognition
  - President's Leadership Award
  - Continuing Education, Extension Senior Teaching Fellowship
  - Loft McKnight Creative Nonfiction Award
  - Minnesota State Arts Board Grant
  - Creative Nonfiction Mentor Series
  - Norcroft Writing Residency

### **Select Civic Engagement**

Volunteer, Twin Cities Academy Middle School (2014-present)  
 Volunteer, The Family Place (Homeless Day Shelter 2012-present)  
 Volunteer, Youth Performance Company, 2011-present  
 Friend of Mounds Park/Mounds Park Association, 2003-present  
 Volunteer, JJ Hill Montessori, 2001-2013  
 Foster Home Volunteer, Small Dog Minnesota, 2010-12  
 Co-Chair, JJ Hill Montessori Parent Teacher Organization, Fall, 2011  
 Recipient of Award for Excellence in Civic Engagement, Inver Hills 2008  
 Capital Improvement Budgetary Committee, St. Paul, 2006- 2008  
 Board Member, Parkway Little League (East Side), 2006-2008  
 JJ Hill Montessori School Site Council, 2005- 2007  
 Campaign Manager, Elizabeth Dickinson For Mayor (Green Party) St. Paul 2005  
 Principal Selection Committee, JJ Hill Montessori, 2004  
 Computers Lab Teacher at JJ Hill Montessori 2001- 2005  
 Founder and member, Clean Energy Now, 2001-2003  
 Co-Chair, West Side Citizen's Organization Environment Committee, 2000-2002  
 Board Member, West Side Citizen's Organization, 2000-2002  
 Board Member, West Side Early Childhood and Family Education, 1997-98

### **Education**

PhD: 2000, University of Minnesota, English, Minor: Feminist Studies  
 MA: 1993, University of Minnesota, English, Minor: Feminist Studies  
 BA: 1984 *magna cum laude*, Hamline University, East Asian Studies