

Sarah Lechowich
24 East Sandra Lee Drive
Saint Paul, MN 55119

Saint Paul City Council
Suite 310
City Hall
15 West Kellogg Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55102

2/5/2015

Dear Esteemed Councilmembers:

Please accept my letter of interest for the Ward 7 interim councilmember. Whether in the community, in my previous career in the restaurant industry or teaching students in the classroom, I have been recognized for my innate ability to network, motivate, and actively involve those around me. My combined professional background, education, and community outreach make me the ideal candidate for this temporary public service position.

As demonstrated with my recent BOE campaign, and my additional service work, I am relevant and respected by community stakeholders. Within my community service I have accumulated over four years of quasi-judicial experience serving on hearing appeals regarding University of Minnesota policy and putting forth recommendations. Furthermore, I have a strong management background with a keen eye for overseeing budgeted funds at micro and macro levels. I am a progressive leader and systems thinker with a unique ability to connect unseen dots in order to project possible unintended outcomes, crucial for long-term strategic planning.

Ward 7 needs a leader and a neighbor who is able to monitor city operations and performance as well as make the tough decisions that will help Saint Paul become an even better place to live and work. As demonstrated in my resume, I have managed diverse groups, worked with various vendors and stakeholders. I have made strong community connections and built friendships with union leaders, small business owners, organizers and just the typical family down the block. Whether I am standing up for underrepresented voices at the DFL State Convention or teaching Girl Scouts money management skills, I do what it takes to put St. Paul and her community first. I am ready to serve my home Ward 7 as her interim councilmember.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. I look forward to meeting with councilmembers for an interview at your earliest convenience and welcome the opportunity to discuss the needs of Ward 7 and our great city.

Sincerely,

Sarah Lechowich

Sarah Lechowich | 24 East Sandra Lee Drive, Saint Paul, MN 55119
651-274-2521 | sarah.lechowich@gmail.com

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Summary of Qualifications:

Strong ties to local Ward-7 stakeholders through ongoing community outreach and engagement.

Seasoned leader with over 19 years experience overseeing diverse populations in a variety of settings including for profit, nonprofit, volunteer, and educational.

Experienced general manager overseeing a multi-million dollar budget and auditing multiple aspects of day-to-day operations.

Selected Professional Accomplishments:

Prevented changes to the MN DFL constitution through one-on-ones with stakeholders, built community alliances and created buy-in.

Implemented strategic and educational communications, led monthly meetings and training sessions, maintained communicates with all stakeholders, which resulted in greater product and policy awareness.

Taught college level communication courses, provided hands-on learning experiences, responsible for creating interactive lectures, designed in-class activities to promote critical thinking and social/cultural awareness, created and maintained course websites, and assisted diverse students in collegiate planning.

Spearheaded the development and implementation of an award winning regional employee safety program, built upon the idea that change occurs with buy-in from the staffing community, resulted in greater than a 20% reduction of worker compensation claims over prior year.

Lead new bakery café openings; managed healthy partnerships with corporate vendors; grew community image through philanthropic networking and outreach; and crafted developmental plans for subordinate café managers, shift leaders, and more than seventy staff resulting in greater retention and staff satisfaction scores.

Experienced in tabling events, phone banking, maintaining volunteer and delegate databases, coordinating campaign volunteers, managing campaign fundraising and coordinating citywide delegate mailings.

Organized a coalition of nine community groups to co-host community conversations on the 5 myths that support racism. Managed social media campaign. Designed literature.

Reduced employee turnover by researching and introducing a new recruitment program and enhanced employee training which directly resulted in dramatic and progressive improvement in overall customer service scores.

Professional Experience:

Faculty, North Hennepin Community College, January 2013 - present

Instructional Academic Staff, University of Wisconsin-River Falls, August 2013 - 2014

Former Candidate, Saint Paul School Board, January 2013 - June 2013

Safe Schools for All Coalition Organizer and Web Developer, OutFront Minnesota,
June 2012 - November 2012

Graduate Instructor, Teaching Assistant, and Research Assistant, University of Minnesota,
August 2010 - August 2012

General Manager, Panera Bread, November 2002 - August 2008

Guest Service Manager and Regional Safety Manager, Perkins Restaurants,
July 1997 - November 2002

Selected Service Work:

Commissioner, Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity, January 2014 - present

Outreach and Inclusion Officer, Board of Directors, Stonewall DFL, July 2013 - present

Committee Member, Legislative Outreach Committee, North Hennepin Community College,
Spring 2015 - present

Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) Coordinator, North Hennepin Community College,
academic year 2014 - 2015

Committee Member, Undergraduate Research Journal Development, North Hennepin
Community College, Fall 2014

Committee Member, Excellence in Education Committee, North Hennepin Community College,
Fall 2014

Commissioner, League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions, January 2014 - June 2014

Department Representative, Diversity Committee, Department of Communication
Studies, University of Minnesota, 2011 - 2012

Committee Member, Campus Committee on Student Behavior (CCSB), University of
Minnesota, 2008 - 2012

Education

M.A. Communication Studies, University of Minnesota (2012)

B.A. Communication Studies, University of Minnesota (2010)

Sarah Lechowich

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sarah.lechowich@gmail.com

Professional References

Shirley Johnson, MSED, ABD

President, NHCC Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF)
Faculty, Academic Development
North Hennepin Community College (NHCC)
763-424-0776
sjohnson2@nhcc.edu

Sylvia Perez

Commissioner, St. Paul HREEO
sylvia.per@comcast.net
651-558-7773

Megan Thomas

SD 65 Chair & President DFL Feminist Caucus
152 W Winifred St #2
Saint Paul, MN 55107
meganjanethomas1966@gmail.com
651-245-2211

Naylor, Racquel (CI-StPaul)

From: Moloney, Trudy (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 8:38 AM
To: Naylor, Racquel (CI-StPaul)
Subject: FW: Application Interim Ward 7 City Councilmember
Attachments: Cover_Letter_S_Lechowich.pdf; References_S_Lechowich.pdf; resume_S_Lechowich .pdf
Importance: High

Trudy Moloney
Director, City Council Operations
Office of the City Council
Suite 310, City Hall
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55102-1615
Phone: 651-266-8575
E-Mail: Trudy.moloney@ci.stpaul.mn.us

From: Sarah Lechowich [<mailto:sarah.lechowich@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2015 8:04 PM
To: Moloney, Trudy (CI-StPaul)
Cc: Moore, Shari (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Application Interim Ward 7 City Councilmember

Dear Trudy Moloney:

Please accept my attached application for the interim Ward 7 Saint Paul City Councilmember.

Sincerely,
Sarah Lechowich