

Submission Time: 11/23/2016 11:05

Name (last, first, mi): Talbert, Mark E

Address (Street Address): 28418 16th Ave S #304

City, Zip: Federal Way, 98003

Mailing Address (if different):

Contact Phone: 253-431-5515 **Email:** mark.talbert01@gmail.com

Employer: Highline College/StartZone

Employer Address: 2400 S. 240th St.

Employer Phone: 206-592-4385

Are you a registered Voter in King County? Yes

Have you lived in Federal Way for at least a Year? Yes

Have you previously serves on a City board or commission? No

If yes, please list:

Are you able to attend meetings?

Evening: Yes **Daytime:** Yes

1. Please identify the experience, knowledge and skills you believe that you possess which you could use in working as a City Councilmember, and specifically how they uniquely qualify you for this position. (150 Word Max.) *

I was born and raised in Columbia, South Carolina and have lived in Federal Way for about 14 years. As a Southerner, I found that I have different perspective than most Northwesterners. We Southerners speak plainly and speak our minds. People find it refreshing. People of all types have found me easy to talk to. I'm not bragging its just what people tell me.

The majority of my career has been in the Hospitality industry where I worked and served people from all over the world. I have worked with and managed people that have spoken little to no English and we found a way to get the job done. I have been fortunate enough to have the same diversity in my friendships and roommates. I have seen the beauty in our diversity and the commonality of our humanity. This is who I will be as a city councilmember!

2. What is your understanding of the role of a council member? (150 Word Max.) *

The role of a councilmember is to work with my fellow city council members to help govern Federal Way in the best interest of current and future residents. I will do this by ensuring all residents of Federal Way are being heard by the council. There are many invisible communities in Federal Way and they are not being adequately represented. I would not only take it as a personal mission to do this outreach, but I will also find ways to activate them in our communities!

There are many opportunities as a city councilmember to find gaps and to fill them by community involvement. We must be leaders of our communities and give them a sense of pride to live in the City of Federal Way. Our residents are suffering from a lack of pride in their city. I want them to see the beauty I see in Federal Way!

3. What ideas and suggestions do you have to enhance economic development in our downtown and around the City? (150 Word Max.) *

Federal Way can be a great place for business! The problem is no one believes that. I am interested in one day opening my own small coffee shop in Federal Way. Everyone I know has told me "Don't open it in Federal Way!" Sadly, it is a reputation we must overcome! I believe I can help do that.

My work with StartZone at Highline College and my interaction with our business community through the Greater Federal Way Chamber of Commerce has shown me we have real opportunities in our city. We need to be better facilitators of diverse small businesses, specifically ethnic businesses. They are the businesses that have the hardest time opening. If we can show what they can do here, then we can become a beacon to all other businesses!

4. Please identify what you feel are the top opportunities and priorities for the future of the City – how would you rank such issues, and how would you proceed with developing ideas and/or implementing them? (150 Word Max.) *

One of the opportunities, i would pursue is to help Dr. Tammy Campbell in improving our schools! I was invited to participate in this exact task. Our young people need to have facilities that make it easier to learn and not harder. I would list this as one of the top priorities to inform our citizens aware of this amazing work and to support this in the legislature.

I would continue to look for opportunities to improve our business sector. Federal Way needs a healthier business base. Rep. Linda Koshmar in many of the debates talked about how we do not have enough of a business base to support many city initiatives our residents want.

Getting our community more social! This cannot be overlooked. We do not have a sense of community in Federal Way. The Coffee with a Cop was an amazing success, we must have more!

5. If appointed to the Council, what changes would you like to see? How would you go about making any change? (150 Word Max.)

If I am fortunate enough to be chosen as a member of the Federal Way City Council I would go to work on reaching out to our diverse community in Federal Way. We need more community advocacy. I have been blessed enough to have the opportunity to work for Highline College. It has connections to various organizations and I would leverage this to serve our community better. We would work to develop more community leaders and liaisons to speak to their communities. I would urge them to work with the city to find solutions to their needs and ways for them to better serve their city. We want everyone to have a seat at the table! Many immigrant and refugees are looking for a city that welcomes them and encourages them to participate in their city. Federal Way can be that city!

Cover Letter Attached:

<http://www.cityoffederalway.com/sites/default/files/webform/cover%20letter.pdf>

Resume Attached:

<http://www.cityoffederalway.com/sites/default/files/webform/Mark%20resume%202016.pdf>



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Federal Way City Council
33325 8th Ave. South
Federal Way, WA 98003

November 23, 2016

Dear Council Members,

I am applying for the City Council Position 2 to assist in making Federal Way the leader in South King County. I have been living in Federal Way for 14 years, and I have always loved this city. Many people ask me "Why do you live in Federal Way?" They ask this question because many people do not know Federal Way. They don't know what kind of city it is or why anyone would consider living here over other cities in King County. It comes off as a very condescending question. Luckily, I am a strong advocate for my city! I never have a problem telling people how I love our beautiful parks or how I never have to leave my city because I have everything I need in Federal Way. I brag about how diverse our city is and how much potential we have as a city. I love Federal Way, it's not too fast and not too slow.

Recently, many residents have become concerned about the direction of our city. I have attended several city council meetings where residents so eloquently speak to this concern. I understand their concerns and want to help mobilize our community to ensure our city's prosperous future. While we are having a healthy dialog with many of our community members, there are still many who are voiceless.

We have many invisible community members not sharing their own concerns of our city's direction. Community members like our city's youth, homeless, communities of color, immigrants, and refugees. I have been blessed to work with all these communities through my work and education at Highline College. Highline College is very active in Federal Way and I would like to use my connections at Highline to do more outreach to these communities.

I will work very hard as a councilmember to build on current and future project to improve our city! Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Talbert

Mark Talbert



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WORK EXPERIENCE

Business Liaison

Oct 2016– Present

Greater Federal Way Chamber of Commerce

As a Business Liaison, I assist the Chamber by connecting them to StartZone and Highline College. I also provide technical assistance to the Chamber by helping manage their database and website.

Program Support & Marketing Specialist

May 2015– Present

StartZone at Highline College

At StartZone, I work to continue their vision by providing a community where everyone has the opportunity to become financially self-sufficient by participating in a diverse, strong, and sustainable local economy. I accomplish this through outreach, technical assistance, and support to my colleagues and their clients.

President

Nov 2013– Present

Ncite Entertainment Inc.

Small Budget. Big Game! Ncite Games is an independent game company, we are currently working on our first title Domineer: The Accidental Hero.

Assistant Banquet Manager

July 2010– Oct 2012

Renaissance Seattle Hotel

Assisted the Banquet Manager by effectively supervising the evening events and nightly operations. Responsibilities include running multiple banquet functions, authoring and printing reports (captain reports, banquet checks, revenue spreadsheets), ordering banquet supplies, and coordinating banquet meetings.

- Lead Banquets to rank 3rd out of 82 Marriott Hotels in ESS Scores

Food & Beverage Outlets Manager

Mar 2007– July 2010

Renaissance Seattle Hotel

Managed the restaurant, two Bars, and Room Service. Supervised over 20+ Full-time employees. Responsible for enforcing standards, rules and regulations, performance reviews, time and attendance records, and maintaining budget expenses.

- Manager of the Quarter, Fourth Quarter of 2008
- Improved quality scores in 2009 for the restaurant (Maxwells) 14th out of 82 Marriott Hotels in North America (Property High)
- Improved quality scores in 2009 Room Service 1st out of 82 Marriott Hotels in North America (Property High)

Loss Prevention Supervisor

Dec 2005– Mar 2007

Renaissance Seattle Hotel

Conducted patrols of the hotel, wrote incident reports, cataloged incoming and outgoing shipments, and recorded lost & found.

- Employee of the Quarter and Year, 2006

Political Activities

- Member of the 30th District Democrats
- Elected PCO and acting PCO for 2016-2017
- Volunteered and caucused for the Hillary for America campaign
- Volunteered for Kristine Reeves for Representative

Additional Activities

- Founded Indie Game Development Club at Highline College
- Member of the Advertising Club at Highline College
- Member of the Student Legislative Action Committee (SLAC) at Highline College
- Member of the International Game Developers Association (IGDA)

Core Competencies

- Leader
- Excellent Communicator
- Effective Listener
- Critical Thinker
- Creative Problem Solver
- Excels at Conflict Resolution
- Quick Learner

Education

Highline College

Des Moines, WA

Associate of Applied Science in Business

March 2016

- Graduated with Honors

Full Sail Real World Education

Winter Park, FL

Associate of Science in

Game Design and Development

June 2002

Art Institute of Atlanta

Atlanta, GA

Complete courses toward a degree in Multimedia