



Office of the City Attorney

Susan L. Segal
City Attorney

333 South 7th Street - Suite 300
Minneapolis MN 55402-2453

March 13, 2009

Office 612 673-2010
Civil Division Fax 612 673-3362
Criminal Division Fax 612 673-2189
CPED Fax 612 673-5112
TTY 612 673-2157

The Honorable R.T. Rybak
Mayor of Minneapolis
Room 331, City Hall
350 South Fifth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Council President Barbara Johnson
And Members of the City Council
Room 307, City Hall
350 South Fifth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Re: Finalist for Appointment to the Minneapolis Ethical Practices Board

Dear Mayor Rybak, Council President Johnson and Members of the City Council:

On behalf of the Appointing Committee for the Ethical Practices Board and pursuant to Minneapolis Code of Ordinances, section 15.210, I am pleased to forward to you the name of a finalist for an upcoming vacancy on the Ethical Practices Board. Section 15.210 requires a thirty day period for you to submit comments about the finalist to the Appointing Committee. The members of the Appointing Committee may be reached at the following numbers:

Dean Thomas Mengler, 651-962-4886;
Dean David Wippman, 612-625-4841; and
Chief Judge James Swenson, 612-348-5983.



www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us
Affirmative Action Employer

The Honorable R.T. Rybak
Council President Barbara Johnson
And Members of the City Council
March 13, 2009
Page 2

In addition to the comment period, the Ethics Code, section 15.210, requires, within five days of the date of this letter, that the City Council schedule a public hearing to solicit public input on the finalist. The Appointing Committee respectfully requests the scheduling of a public hearing at the Ways and Means Committee Meeting of April 6, 2009, 1:45 p.m. Ms. Garner is prepared to attend the meeting to answer questions.

The Appointing Committee is recommending appointment of Abigail Garner to fill a vacancy that has been created by the resignation of Juan Vega who is resigning due to an anticipated move out-of-state for employment purposes. Ms. Garner's appointment is to complete the term expiring on January 2, 2012. Ms. Garner's resume and Ethical Practices Board application are attached.

The appointing committee is confident that both Ms. Garner will provide excellent leadership on the City's Ethical Practices Board and promote high ethical standards of conduct and a healthy ethical culture throughout Minneapolis City government.

Sincerely,



Susan L. Trammell
Minneapolis Ethics Officer
On behalf of the Appointing Committee

cc:

Dean Thomas M. Mengler, University of St. Thomas School of Law (w/o attachments)
The Honorable James Swenson, Chief Judge, Hennepin County District Court (w/o attachments)
Dean David Wippman, University of Minnesota Law School (w/o attachments)
Anne Roth, City Council Committee Coordinator



APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS
ETHICAL PRACTICES BOARD

03 AUG -1 PM 3:32

NAME: Abigail Garner		CITY CLERK DEPARTMENT	DATE: August 1, 2008
ADDRESS:		ZIP -4: 55417-5004	
HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER:	WORK TELEPHONE NUMBER: N/A	WORK FAX NUMBER: N/A	
E-MAIL ADDRESS:			
OCCUPATION: Graduate Student (Until June 2009)	EMPLOYER: Full-time student at the College of St. Catherine (St. Paul) in Organizational Leadership with a concentration in Dispute Resolution in partnership with Hamline School of Law		
EMPLOYER ADDRESS: N/A			

Describe your background related to any required or desirable qualification listed in the Volunteer Opportunity Notice. Include any applicable experience with civic, professional or volunteer organizations and other city boards or commissions. List any awards or special recognition.

I regularly serve on committees and boards of nonprofit organizations. Previous places where I have volunteered include: University of Minnesota -- Queer Student Cultural Center, Philanthrofund, Women's Foundation of Minnesota, National Writer's Union, Family and Children's Service, Minneapolis South High Women's Resource Center, MacPhail Center for the Arts, and MAP for NonProfits.

Now I would like to apply my skills to getting involved with official City business. I am inspired by my interactions with engaged City Councilmembers and local state legislators who take their representation of the community's best interest to heart. My personal integrity relies on follow-through and doing what I say I will do. This includes attending meetings and responding to calls and emails in a timely manner. In my three years leading my condo association, I have had to miss only one board meeting.

In November 2008 I will be finishing up a three-year term as the president of my condo association. This leadership role has provided me with a crash course in Minneapolis zoning and building codes, public safety, dispute resolution, and community building, not to mention the mortgage lending crisis. Because of this demanding position with a steep learning curve, I am even more committed to citizen involvement and government integrity, which makes my interests and background a strong fit for the Ethical Practice Board.

My awards and recognitions are listed on page 3 of my resume. Of particular interest to this application is the Twin Cities International Citizen Award, which was awarded through the Office of the Mayor in 1992.

List the reasons you want to serve on this body:

I have been a proud resident of Minneapolis since 1975 and attended the public schools from kindergarten through 12th grade. I have participated in my community in a variety of ways, from attending caucuses, to serving as a delegate, to being the captain of my block club to testifying at a committee hearing at the state capitol.

Currently I am pursuing a degree in Organizational Leadership, which has a strong focus on ethics. I have learned from my course work and from the peer feedback that my personal sense of ethics is noticed and admired by colleagues. I would bring this quality with me and take my role very seriously.

A strong City relies on the level of trust and faith its citizens have in its leaders and procedures. Constant review of ethical practices and procedures -- as well as transparency in those procedures are key to building and maintaining the relationship between citizens and government. I want to be a part of nurturing that dynamic to not only swiftly respond to ethical grievances, but also work to prevent real or perceived ethical issues from arising in the first place through clear policies with even enforcement.

ABIGAIL GARNER

Minneapolis, MN 55417

FEATURED COMPETENCIES

- Demonstrated leadership in diverse environments
- Life-long commitment to social justice
- A natural networker, convener and collaborator
- Published author with award-winning writing skills
- Media-savvy; seasoned public speaker / presenter

EDUCATION

Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA. Graduated with honors. B.A. in anthropology.

The College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, MN. Candidate for Master of Arts
in Organizational Leadership. (Anticipated graduation: June 2009)

Hamline University, St. Paul, MN. Dispute Resolution Institute.
(Anticipated certification: February 2009)

LEADERSHIP HISTORY

MINNEHAHA PLACE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION

President

September 2005 – present

- Elected president five-member board for 90-unit building shortly after construction was completed due to my early informal leadership connecting neighbors to respond to crime.
- Engaging members to develop a shared vision of a safe and peaceful home for a community diverse in ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.
- Managing an annual budget of \$250,000 and trouble-shooting financial challenges beyond the association's control in the wake of sub-prime lending and subsequent foreclosures.
- Overseeing contract with management company and employment agreement with on-site caretakers.

COLLEGE OF ST. CATHERINE

Gift Planning Officer

August 2007 – April 2008

- Cultivated, solicited, and stewarded rotating portfolio of 120 prospects and donors with capacity to give above \$25,000.
- Developed outreach strategies and traveled to cultivate prospects in six states.
- Lead internal culture shift to align advancement efforts with marketing and communications.
- Secured more than \$1 million in major and planned gifts.

FAMILIES LIKE MINE, LLC

Writer/Consultant

June 1999 – September 2007

Founded business to fill the unmet need of information for and about children with gay parents.

- Developed book proposal with extensive promotional plan. Sold proposal to HarperCollins publishers and worked closely with publicity department in creating media kit. Negotiated budget increase for book tour and marketing materials. Created grant-proposal to The Loft for additional funding for an outreach plan to creative markets; was one of four Loft grant recipients in 2004. *Families Like Mine* was named a finalist for the 2005 Lambda Literary Awards in the category of LGBT Studies. Book has been cited in peer-reviewed journals and adopted as a text for courses in gender studies and sociology.
- Developed, wrote and presented series of lectures and training workshops at colleges, conferences, and organizations in 27 states. Created all related marketing materials. Clients have included General Mills, United Way, National Security Agency, and the Association of Independent Maryland Schools.
- Regularly sought out as an expert for interviews with dozens of television and radio programs, as well as print media. Outlets have included *The New York Times*, CNN, NPR's "Talk of the Nation," *ABC World News Tonight*, *StarTribune* and *Pioneer Press*. Often consulted "behind the scenes" by producers and editors to identify sources to interview for stories, and assist in shaping angles that are fair and accurate.
- Created and maintained resource website. Wrote all content on site, and wrote a monthly e-newsletter distributed to more than 1500 opt-in subscribers from 48 states and 20 countries.
- Rotating Host/Producer of "Fresh Fruit," a community affairs program on KFAI (2000-2006). Developed theme for monthly show in 60-minute format. Researched and scheduled guests, wrote interview questions and on-air scripts. Conducted interviews and ran sound board.

GARNER GRANTS

Independent Consultant/Owner

July 1997 – June 2001

- Hired by foundations for assignments on contract, including screening proposals for the Dayton Hudson Foundation and conducting site visits for the StarTribune Foundation.
- Hired by non-profit organizations to create funding proposals for new projects and to improve existing proposals to increase foundation responses. Clients included Women's Foundation of Minnesota, Storefront Group, Working Opportunities for Women, Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota, and Family and Children's Service, Community Solutions Fund, CLUES, and Volunteer Resource Center.
- Developed communication pieces for various non-profits, such as executive ghostwriting, punchy copy for promotional pieces, donor profiles for newsletters, and direct mailing.

AWARDS

- Lambda Literary Foundation, finalist for Lambda Book Award, 2005.
- Rainbow Families, Community Hero Award, 2004.
- Loft Career Initiative Grant (funded by the Jerome Foundation), 2004.
- National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association, Excellence in Journalism Award, 2002.
- Minnesota Magazine and Publications Association, Best Column, 2000 and 1999.
- Do Something Foundation, Grant Recipient, New York, NY, 1997.
- Offices of the Mayors, Twin Cities International Citizen Award, 1992.
- National Council of Jewish Women - Minneapolis Section, Rose Rees Peace Award, 1990.

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

- Minnehaha Place Condo Association, President (elected by owners of 90-unit building).
- PFLAG Twin Cities, Vice President.
- Wellesley Club of Minnesota, Vice President.
- Minneapolis South High School Foundation, Board Member.
- University of Minnesota, Queer Student Cultural Center, advisory board.
- Philanthrofund, grantmaking committee.
- Women's Foundation of Minnesota, grantmaking committee.
- National Writer's Union, Twin Cities Chapter, steering committee; national assembly delegate.
- Family and Children's Service, advisory committee.
- Minneapolis South High Women's Resource Center, advisory board.
- MacPhail Center for the Arts, special events committee.
- MAP for NonProfits, membership and development committee.

NOTABLE LIFE EXPERIENCES THAT DEFY CATEGORIZATION

- First "class" of the Guthrie Active Teen Ensemble (GATE), an arts immersion collaboration between the Minneapolis Public Schools and The Guthrie Theater.
- Taught English to teenagers in China.
- Served in President Clinton's Americorps pilot program in Newark, NJ.
- Trench Supervisor at an archaeological site in Armenia.
- Taught English and sorted/distributed donations in Nicaragua as a volunteer with Project Minnesota/León.
- Planted trees in the rainforests in Costa Rica with youth from the U.S. and the former Soviet Union.
- Castmember in a pro-peace musical in Kazakhstan, performed in Russian.
- Represented Minnesota at an anti-racist conference on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.
- Personal assistant to Jean Kilbourne, creator of the documentary, *Killing us Softly*.

LANGUAGES

Proficient Spanish, basic Russian, beginning Arabic.

ABIGAIL GARNER

Minneapolis, MN 55417

REFERENCES

Ronald A. McKinley
Project Director, Kellogg Action Lab Project
Fieldstone Alliance
60 Plato Boulevard East
Suite 150
Saint Paul, MN 55107
651-556-4511
rmckinley@fieldstonealliance.org

Charlie Rounds
President, RSVP Vacations
314 West 38th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55409
612-203-8358
roundscharlie@hotmail.com

Laura Smidzik
Executive Director
Project 515
PO Box 50143
Minneapolis, MN 55405-0143
651-917-2849
smidzik@msn.com