City of Birmingham
A Walkable Community

MEMORANDUM

City Manager's Office

DATE: **January 28, 2015**

TO: **Joseph A. Valentine, City Manager**

FROM: **Amanda Thomas, Management Analyst**

SUBJECT: **2015 Student Appointments**

In 1996, the City Commission approved a Birmingham Public Schools (BPS) program placing student representatives who are residents of the city on city boards and commissions. This program was designed to establish an educational partnership that has been very successful since its inception.

Students wanting to serve as representatives to city boards and commissions complete an application and go through a selection process by a school district pre-screening committee. The committee membership reviews student applications based on specific criteria and then forward approved applications to the city for appointment consideration.

The following students are being recommended by Birmingham Public Schools for appointment to their respective board by the City Commission for calendar year 2015. The students will receive agenda packets and are able to participate in all discussions, but will serve as non-voting members of the boards to which they are appointed.

Student(s)	Board / Commission
Scott Caspersen Andrea Laverty	Planning Board
Zoe Bowers Patrick Rogers	Historic District Commission / Design Review Board
Ellery Benson	Historic District Study Committee
Shahanna Sarkisian Paige White	Parks and Recreation Board
Sydney Rosen Maya Salinas	Public Arts Board
Daniel Evans Rebecca Mendel	Multi-Modal Transportation Board
Maria Graham	Museum Board

Enclosed is a copy of the BPS program with the city along with application materials submitted by the students in the course of the application process.

SUGGESTED RESOLUTION:
To appoint students as non-voting members to the following city boards for calendar year 2015:

- Scott Caspersen and Andrea Laverty to the Planning Board
- Zoe Bowers and Patrick Rogers to the HDC-DRB
- Ellery Benson to the Historic District Study Committee
- Shahanna Sarkisian and Paige White to the Parks & Recreation Board
- Sydney Rosen and Maya Salinas to the Public Arts Board
- Daniel Evans and Rebecca Mendel to the Multi-Modal Transportation Board
- Maria Graham to the Museum Board

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FOR

EXCELLENCE
IN
EDUCATION

BIRMINGHAM
SEAHOLM
HIGH SCHOOL
2436 WEST LINCOLN – BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009
248-203-3700 FAX 248-203-3706

To: Joe Valentine
From: Cheryl Shettel
Date: January 28, 2015

I've enclosed the information and application materials on the BPS students who will be serving on City Boards and Commissions this coming year. I will send the students a letter notifying them of their appointment at the City Commission meeting on February 9th. They will be arriving around 7:15PM. I will also send letters to the students whose terms are expiring to let them know that they will also be recognized at this meeting. I look forward to seeing you at the Commission meeting.

Planning Board	Scott Caspersen- Seaholm Andrea Laverty- Seaholm
HDC-DRB	Zoe Bowers- Groves Patrick Rogers- Seaholm
HDSC	Ellery Benson- Seaholm
Parks Board	Shahanna Sarkisian- Seaholm Paige White- Groves
Arts Board	Sydney Rosen- IA Maya Salinas- Seaholm
Transportation	Daniel Evans- Seaholm Rebecca Mendel- Seaholm
Museum Board	Maria Graham- Seaholm

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ON CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BPS *Birmingham Public Schools*
Community Relations Office

Application Form
Due January 12, 2015

31301 Evergreen • Beverly Hills, MI 48025

Name: Scott Caspersen Grade: 11 Age: 17

Address: 1688 Northlawn

Zip Code: 48009 Email: scottcaspersen@gmail.com

Telephone: 248-540-4474 School: Seaholm High School

On the attached listing of city boards and commissions, please rank your order of preference for appointment from 1 to 3 (1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest):

1. Multi-Model Transportation Board
2. Planning Board
3. Parks and Recreation Board

What school activities and/or classes have you participated in which would qualify you to sit on the board or commission which you have chosen?

AP Economy, Marketing and sales, Kick off mentoring, National Honors society, Junior Powder puff coach (Girls football), School sports: football, basketball, track, Math Lab mentoring

Please list your involvement in non-school activities:

Volunteering for iMatter for kids, Safety Town, helping out at different elementary schools

What personal skills and characteristics do you possess that would make you a good representative?

I am charasmatic, motivated, hard working, passionate about my community, attentive, participatory, and caring

December 29, 2014

Dear Birmingham City Boards and Commissions Program Representative,

Many of you might agree that a city often has its fair share of strengths and weaknesses. As a resident of Birmingham, I recognize that those take place here. The question that I often ask myself is, "what am I going to do about it?" I am grateful for the many advantages that living in Birmingham provides, but I also see this board opportunity as way to reduce some of the weaknesses and to continue city improvement.

I am interested in being a student representative for the Birmingham Community Board because I want to become more involved in my community and help to make it even better. I believe I can add a unique perspective that would benefit the community board to make life in the city of Birmingham better for everyone, not just specific groups.

It is important to have different types of people on the community to look at a problem from different angles to find out what is the best overall decision for most, not just for one particular group. Birmingham consists of well-educated people who have worked hard for what they have earned and that all starts out in the schools. There is no one better to understand school than someone currently in it. A student prospective would provide additional views and opinions regarding the city otherwise not represented on the board. Birmingham contains many students that may have different views and opinions than the adults on the board. Most of these views are probably not apparent to someone looking in from the outside. As a student of Birmingham, I have a lot to offer.

I have lived in Birmingham my entire life, but I also have experienced many different ways of life in other communities. I have been exposed to communities neighboring Birmingham, surrounding Michigan, on the east coast, on the west coast, and

abroad. That being said, I can effectively contribute to the decisions regarding the wellbeing of Birmingham and its residents. Since I am a leader in the classroom and a mentor for others, I am motivating, engaging, positive and personable. I instinctively help others and enjoy a collective success above my own. As an athlete, I have learned that when faced with a problem, I must quickly overcome it instead of avoiding and disregarding its presence. As an academic, I have learned to look at all of the possible solutions before acting. The combination of these qualities, thoroughness and immediacy, enable me to make effective solutions quickly and concisely.

This opportunity would help me gain the experience needed for life after school; to understand how the real world operates. I am extremely dedicated to everything I do and I believe that is how I succeed in it. I put the time and work into the things I do because, otherwise, it is not worth doing at all.

Sincerely,

Scott Caspersen

To whom it may concern,

Scott Caspersen has been a student in my Chinese class for the past two years. During these last few years, I have come to know Scott very well. He is an attentive and serious student with a positive attitude towards learning.

Scott's learning experience has motivated him to achieve excellent grades. He picked up the Chinese language very quickly and has a fantastic memory for both characters and vocabulary. He takes his work seriously and has a desire to learn whatever is out there. Scott sets goals for himself and despite his busy schedule, always meets them. His personality is very friendly and likes to help others. He is participated in many after school activities including sports, mentor program and Nation Honor Society. He has also volunteered helping many kids during his free time.

Scott went on a two-week trip to China with a group of fellow middle students during spring break on 2012. He visited various cities while receiving continued instruction and first hand practice in Mandarin Chinese. Moreover, he experienced Chinese culture, tradition and customs.

Scott is especially well liked and respected by both his peers and teachers. He is a wonderful student and a pleasure to have in class. I enthusiastically recommend Scott Caspersen to be the Representative on City Boards and Commissions for Birmingham.

Sincerely

Wang, Chao Chun
Chinese teacher Seaholm HS

January 12th, 2015

To whom it may concern:

I wish to recommend Scott Caspersen as a student representative for your group.

Scott Caspersen has been a student in my honors chemistry class at Seaholm High School during the 2013 – 2014 school year. He is a very motivated individual. He comes to class prepared, seeks help when needed and consistently achieves near the top of the class. Scott also has excellent interpersonal skills, which enhance his ability to work well with class members. He is a considerate, and mature young man and is a positive influence in the classroom. His class members respect him and enjoy being a part of his group.

Scott has a quiet air of confidence about him. He takes difficult material in stride and works to master it without complaint. His self-assurance means that he needs little supervision and will generally solve problems on his own. He asks for help when necessary but always tries to reach solutions first. Scott takes responsibility for his work which has always been turned in complete and mostly on-time. Scott's passion for learning and inner drive make him a very unique individual. His sense of integrity and personal honesty will contribute to his success in his future vocation.

He is a very talented and responsible young man and it was my pleasure having him in class the last year. I highly recommend him as a student representative for your group. He will respond positively to challenges and will make significant contributions.

Sincerely,

Amanda R. McDonald

Amanda R. McDonald
AP Chemistry Teacher
Honors Chemistry Teacher
Chemistry Teacher

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ON CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BPS

Birmingham Public Schools
Community Relations Office

Application Form
Due January 12, 2015

31301 Evergreen • Beverly Hills, MI 48025

Name: Andrea Laverty Grade: 11th Age: 16

Address: 445 South Cranbrook Road Birmingham, MI

Zip Code: 48009 Email: andie41698@aim.com

Telephone: (248) 310-4418 School: Seaholm High School

On the attached listing of city boards and commissions, please rank your order of preference for appointment from 1 to 3 (1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest):

1. Planning Board
2. Historic District Commission and Design Review Board
3. Museum Board

What school activities and/or classes have you participated in which would qualify you to sit on the board or commission which you have chosen?

First, I am currently taking AP Economics. This course focuses on why people make the decisions that they do, and what advantages and disadvantages those decisions hold. This will apply to the city board because I can use my knowledge to weigh the benefits of different situations. Secondly, I started a club at my school. My planning and organization skills developed from this will help me on the Planning Board especially.

Please list your involvement in non-school activities:

I currently babysit three times a week for two kids after school. I have had this job for three years. I also volunteer with Summer in the City, a program that works towards the revitalization of Detroit. I also play soccer with the Birmingham United club. This is my third year playing with them.

What personal skills and characteristics do you possess that would make you a good representative?

The quality that I am most proud of is my ability to listen. As a non-voting member, I will need to listen carefully to the situation presented and to the other representatives in order to be a constructive member myself. I will have no problem devoting my full attention to the task at hand. I am also very sensible, meaning I will be able to accurately weigh the pros and cons of any decision.

Esteemed Members of the Selection Committee,

First of all, thank you very much for the opportunity to serve on the one of the City of Birmingham Boards or Commissions. I am very excited for the opportunity to give back to the community that has given so much to me.

I am currently taking part in the college application process. In the next year, I will have to develop an idea of where I would like to continue my education and what I would like to study. This is a daunting task, given that I am not entirely sure what I would like to do with my life. The few things I do know, however, point me into the direction of serving the community. I am interested in the decisions people make in their everyday lives and how these choices affect the community around them. The City Boards and Commissions study and analyze the decisions made by the citizens of Birmingham and then find the solutions that best serve the community. My passion for this process will drive me to work my absolute hardest when serving as a student representative.

Additionally, I am very passionate about the City of Detroit. It is well known that the city has had its fair share of hard times in the previous years. However, Detroit has pushed through them and is now on its way back to becoming the great city it once was. I hope to be a major part of that process. I am currently a member of the volunteer group Summer in the City, which I devoted over 40 hours to this past summer. After college, I hope to come back to the area and continue to work to restore Downtown Detroit and connect it to the suburbs. Serving as a representative on a board or commission would allow me to garner my skills in the field of city government. Participating on a board or

commission, especially the Planning Board, would be my first opportunity to hold a position similar to what I aspire to have when I am older.

In addition to my passion for the position available, I believe that I am also strongly qualified to serve as a student representative. My organization skills developed through planning my school and extracurricular schedule will assist me greatly through my term. In addition to this, I am extremely detail oriented. This quality will enhance the board because I notice things that others may look over, and therefore I will maintain an assured level of professionalism in everything that I do. I will stay on task with any assignment given to me by the board or commission and ensure its orderly and timely completion. I also consider myself a very good listener. This will allow me to be present in each meeting and fully comprehend any situation facing the board or commission.

Through my participation in the Seaholm Marching Band, I have learned the value of hard work, a quality that I will carry through to my position as a student representative. My passion for the subject at hand and my overall drive to constantly work my hardest will be evident in each meeting.

Sincerely,

Andrea Laverty

Andrea Laverty

Seaholm High School

Rachel Guinn *Principal* • 248.203.3700 • Fax: 248.203.3706• rguinn@birmingham.k12.mi.us
2436 West Lincoln Street, Birmingham, MI 48009

January 12, 2015

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am pleased to be writing a letter of recommendation for Andrea Laverty, a student in my AP Spanish Language and Culture course at Seaholm High School in Birmingham, Michigan. Throughout our year thus far, Andrea has exemplified many traits that will suit the needs of the City of Birmingham Boards and Commissions. Andrea is intelligent, hard working and shows a distinct compassion for communities. Having Andrea in such a rigorous course, it is clear that she is beyond capable of managing rigorous curriculum and the time she wishes to be involved in extracurricular activities. Furthermore, Andrea is a member of our prestigious National Honors Society and shows a true thirst for knowledge. She will undoubtedly contribute insightful ideas articulately to the Board discussions. Moreover, this position will help Andrea begin to define her collegiate goals as she one day hopes to major in Public Health, Public Policy or International Relations. As a member of the Planning Board, Andrea would like to see firsthand how "decisions can affect the community and the culture of their surroundings."

Andrea possesses many personal traits that will benefit her as an active member of the Planning Board as well. Andrea is involved, extremely compassionate and pragmatic. As a result, she worked last summer in Detroit's Summer in the City program, a program that allows participants to plant community gardens, work on murals or look after children in the city. Andrea spent her summer days volunteering her time looking after the children in a day camp setting. After such success this summer, her hope is to continue working in this program, work her way through the ranks and one day lead the program in which she believes so strongly. Moreover, in class, when discussions turn to social justice or public health related topics, Andrea enjoys actively understanding world perspectives and comparing them with her local experiences. Finally, Andrea is a very solution- oriented person. As a member of the planning board, I would anticipate that Andrea will bring concrete suggestions to help better the lives of community members.

With her astute social awareness, personal drive and intelligence, Andrea Laverty would be an asset to any committee of the City of Birmingham Boards and Commissions. I hold her in the highest regard and recommend her without reservation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

January Hladki
Spanish Teacher
Birmingham Seaholm High School
248 660-4842

January 12, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Andrea Laverty's candidacy for the Student Representative position on City Board and Commission Program. Andrea's attention to detail, organizational skills, and her record of academic achievement all make her more than qualified for this position.

Andrea is currently enrolled in five Advanced Placement courses at Ernest Seaholm High School and is currently excelling in them, garnering four "A" grades during the last trimester. She is one of my students in both AP Macroeconomics and Microeconomics and displays the requisite skills to achieve in a very high-paced academic environment. Her organizational skills are excellent, and she is consistently ahead in her classes because of the fact that she budgets and manages her time in an efficient manner.

Her extracurricular plate is also very full. Andrea is a midfielder on Seaholm's Ladies' Soccer team, and augments her income by babysitting three nights per week. She also plays the flute in the Marching Band. She remains active in the school community because she believes that high school is about the relationships that one forges with new people, as well as her academic excellence. She is a very good teammate, as her award for team sportsmanship indicates.

In conclusion, I fully support Andrea's candidacy for this position. She will make an excellent representative to the Board. Should you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at PSmith2@Birmingham.k12.mi.us Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Peter Smith

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ON CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BPS *Birmingham Public Schools*
Community Relations Office

Application Form
Due January 12, 2015

31301 Evergreen • Beverly Hills, MI 48025

Name: Zoë Bowers Grade: 11 Age: 16

Address: 1459 Pilgrim Ave

Zip Code: 48009 Email: zoeannamay@gmail.com

Telephone: (248) 203-6169 School: Groves High School

On the attached listing of city boards and commissions, please rank your order of preference for appointment from 1 to 3 (1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest):

1. Historic District Study Committee
2. Historic District Commission and Design Review Board.
3. Planning Board

What school activities and/or classes have you participated in which would qualify you to sit on the board or commission which you have chosen?

At Groves, I am with the Big Brother Big Sister Program as a mentor. I help three freshman ease into high school by answering their questions, discussing school information, and also being someone to talk to. In order to help the freshman, I have to be up to date on all info and also be willing to find answers that I do not know. I was also just accepted to the National Honors Society. I will be tutoring others to help them in any way possible and also provide services to benefit my community.

Please list your involvement in non-school activities:

Outside of school, I am a horseback rider—specifically a jumper. I compete in the summer and train year round. I have been riding for ten almost eleven years and own my own horse. I also play the viola at Suzuki Royal Oak in Camerata, the highest orchestra. I started on the violin, but switched to the viola in middle school. I have been at SRO and playing music for ten years.

What personal skills and characteristics do you possess that would make you a good representative?

I am a perfectionist. As a result, I am organized and always determined. I do not stop until I get answers or accomplish my goal. In Big Brother Big Sister, if my freshmen have questions I don't know the answers to, I ask anyone and everyone until I have a definite answer.

How would you be able to schedule your time to function effectively as a student representative?

I specifically chose boards I knew I would be dedicated to, which means I took timing as well as interest level into account. I have a very busy schedule, but I chose the boards that meet Wednesdays because I am free that day and those would be most interesting to me. I am organized so I schedule different activities accordingly.

Would you be interested in being considered for any other boards if you are not selected for any of your top three choices?

Yes ✓ No _____

From Principal:

I believe that this student would responsibly serve as a member of a city board or commission.

Cathy Hurley _____ 1/8/15 _____

Principal's Signature Date

Parent(s) Permission:

I give my permission for my son/daughter to seek the position of a representative to a city board or commission.

Maria U Barnes _____ 1/10/2015 _____

Parent(s) Signature(s) Date

Include an essay (typed) to convince the selection committee that you should be chosen as a student representative to a board or commission. If selected, your essay will be a part of your introduction to your board or commission.

Please **include two letters of recommendation** from adults who know you at school and who know your activities outside of school.

Return application by Monday, January 12, 2015 to:

Cheryl Shettel at Seaholm High School_____

Christine Geoghegan at Groves High School_X_

January 10, 2015

Dear Board Members,

I was honored to receive an application to be a student representative on a city board or commission. I think it would be a fantastic opportunity to learn leadership and decision-making skills, as well as problem solving. I chose my three preferences based on two things: date and interest. First, I looked at which days I would be available to devote my time, effort, and focus. Next, I chose the boards that sparked my interest.

History is one of my favorite topics. I believe history is important to our society. We learn from the past and try to avoid the mistakes our ancestors made. We honor the past to be grateful for everything we have today. Last year, I took AP U.S. History and received a score of 4 on the AP Exam. This year, I am taking AP Government. I believe I can use the lessons I learned in these two classes and apply them to the community.

I am also an avid reader and writer. I have written all genres of papers including but not limited to scientific research, historical data based, and persuasive. At Groves, I have been in the Honors English program in 9th and 10th grade. I am currently taking AP Language and Composition. These classes have refined my writing and taught me how to write papers for different situations. I can use these skills to research and develop reports for the community.

I believe dedication is important. I choose activities and classes based on my interests so I can commit to them whole-heartedly. I have been committed to horseback riding and music for ten years because I enjoy these activities immensely. I started both activities when I was little and have continued them because I want to learn everything I possibly can about them. I would do the same thing for the committee I am on. I would be very dedicated to the committee I am on because I would like to learn all I can about local government and leadership.

I am also determined. I work very hard in everything I do from horseback riding to viola to schoolwork. I believe in the saying, "you get out what you put it." If I work and devote my time to something, I will learn everything it can teach me which I will be able to use in the future. This mentality would continue on a city committee. I would work hard on everything from getting staples to writing reports to helping with decisions.

The reason I want to be a student representative on a city board or committee is to gain more experience being a leader. I have experience being a leader in the viola section and in a group project for history, but I have little experience being a leader for a community. I want to learn more about how decisions are made, reports are written, and community activities. I would be extremely dedicated to any committee I am on and work hard to succeed in them.

Thank you for taking time to consider me.

Sincerely,
Zoe Bowers

January 2, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to recommend Zoe Bowers as a student participant on a City of Birmingham board. I have known Zoe since she was in kindergarten. She is a long time Birmingham resident. She is a neighbor and dear family friend. As a Birmingham public school student she has studied the City of Birmingham history as part of her school curriculum. This will prove helpful as she is particularly interested in the Boards related to historical issues.

Zoe is an exceptional young adult with a variety of interests. She is presently a junior at Groves High School. She is an exceptional student with wonderful grades. She takes a very demanding course load. Zoe began studying the violin and viola when she was in preschool. She has continued with the same Suzuki group since she began her studies. She has traveled for performances with this group to Europe, Estonia and Russia, among other trips. She also takes private viola lessons and has participated with the Groves Orchestra. Zoe has been horseback riding for years. She participates in horse shows throughout the Midwest and rides 3-4 times per week. In her spare time Zoe loves movies, seeing friends and reading books.

Zoe would be a great asset to a City Board since she is a bright and thoughtful person. She has great analytical abilities and is able to think through complex issues. She is mature and carries herself beautifully. She gets along well with others and treats others with kindness and respect. Zoe is fun and has a great sense of humor.

I recommend Zoe for a student position on a City Board without reservation. She will take her responsibilities seriously and do a wonderful job. I am happy to discuss Zoe further with you if you have any questions. Please feel free to contact me at karen.mucha@icloud.com or 248-763-1678 at any time.

Sincerely,

Karen Mucha

Karen Mucha

Wylie E. Groves High School

20500 West Thirteen Mile Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025• 248.203.3500 • Fax: 248.203.4034

January 5, 2015

To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to write this letter on behalf of Zoe Bowers. I have had the pleasure of knowing Zoe for the past three years as one of her teachers at Groves High School.

Zoe is one of the most mature, responsible, and kind students with whom I have had the delight of working. On a daily basis, Zoe is ready to learn and on-time to class with all of her necessary items and a positive attitude. She is not only prepared for her job as a student, but she is also willing to help others whenever she can; she tries her best to explain concepts to her classmates, as well as shares school supplies and resources with students in need. When she does not understand a topic, Zoe is more than willing to pose a question and become not only an advocate for herself but also for the entire class. Once a topic is explained, and she fully understands the task at hand, Zoe is very capable of accomplishing the assignment to her highest potential, and strives to achieve the best that she can. She makes sure to follow all instructions, ask for clarification when needed, and above all excel at any undertaking. When Zoe is absent from class (which rarely happens), she always notifies me in advance, asks for work that she can complete, and comes back with everything done and ready to move on to the next topic. Due to the fact that she is consistently in-class, participates, and comes prepared to learn, Zoe excels and ultimately earns high scores on all assignments. She is a strong student from all angles.

That same attention to detail that Zoe shows in class is also very evident in her after school activities. She is very dedicated to her music, and her commitment for over five years to the viola shows evident in her individual excellent music scores that she consistently receives. Along with music, Zoe also has a passion for horseback riding, and has competed for over ten years in contests of varying levels and skills. She still continues to hone her craft for both music and horseback riding on almost a daily basis, and due to the fact that she is so committed to both activities, she has learned how to manage her time well in order to not only enjoy these activities, but also balance her school load while still maintaining a very high GPA.

Zoe is a very thoughtful and caring individual; she works well with all members of the class, is willing to go out of her way to make others feel welcome, and is compassionate towards her fellow classmates who struggle. It is apparent that Zoe cares about others as she has chosen to be a mentor to younger students in our Big Brother, Big Sister program at the high school, as well as consistently tutors at the district's Saturday School in order to help struggling students. She is very respectful and listens whenever anyone in class is talking whether it is a peer or the teacher; she values everyone's opinion, and makes sure to hear everyone's point of view—even if it might differ from her own. Zoe also has fantastic school spirit, and without fail tries her best to get everyone involved during class or whole school activities in order to make sure that everyone is having a good time and benefiting from the event.

I am positive that Zoe would be a wonderful asset to your program based on her mature and positive attitude, deep-rooted feeling of responsibility, and attention to detail on every task. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions. I can be reached by e-mail at jarslanian@birmingham.k12.mi.us, or by phone at 248-203-3530.

Sincerely,

Jaclyn Arslanian

Jaclyn Arslanian
French / Spanish Teacher

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ON CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BPS

Birmingham Public Schools
Community Relations Office

Application Form
Due January 12, 2015

31301 Evergreen • Beverly Hills, MI 48025

Name: Patrick Rogers Grade: 11 Age: 16

Address: 1370 Chesterfield Ave, Birmingham MI

Zip Code: 48009 Email: Progers429@gmail.com

Telephone: 248-647-1978 School: Seaholm High School

On the attached listing of city boards and commissions, please rank your order of preference for appointment from 1 to 3 (1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest):

1. Design Review Board
2. Planning Board
3. Museum Board

What school activities and/or classes have you participated in which would qualify you to sit on the board or commission which you have chosen?

- Architecture A
- STEMx R&D

Please list your involvement in non-school activities:

- AM Jazz Band
- PM Jazz Band (second jazz band)
- Soccer

What personal skills and characteristics do you possess that would make you a good representative?

I am highly knowledgable in the field of architecture and design, including the program Revit. I have lived in more than one house in Birmingham and I was born in Austin, Texas, so I know very many styles of architecture. I am also not shy to speak up for suggestions or questions and I make sure to have a lively discussion

Patrick Rogers

Essay for City Board Application

January 8, 2015

A student representative for a board or commission should be a driven individual who is ready to learn. I am just that person. Last year, I didn't know what I wanted to be when I grew up, so I took an architecture class, and I became really interested. I didn't just learn a lot about architecture, it became somewhat of a hobby for me. I downloaded the program we used in class onto my laptop and now I enjoy playing around with different designs on my laptop. This year, I completed a course called STEM Research and Design. That class was a very individualized course that encouraged students to go out on various externships in which they could talk to various professors or people related to their interests. With my interest in architecture, I talked to a couple of architects, as well as some engineers and professors. I even met with Mrs. Ecker, and learned about what city planners do and how they work with architects. I attended a planning board meeting for a little while as well. In the planning board meeting, I learned a lot about zoning laws and build ordinances, which is very important for an architect to consider. My dad was on the planning board in the late 1990s, so I have also learned from him what happens in a planning board. All this information I learned from STEM was very helpful in learning a lot more about my field of interest. In fact because of this, being a part of how architects can affect the city sounds really exciting.

I have lived in more than one house in Birmingham and I was born in Austin, Texas. Because of this, I have had multiple perspectives from what it is like to live in the city of Birmingham as well as other cities. I have sensed the walkability of Birmingham and I realize the style that exists in the city. I live in the Quarton Lakes neighborhood and I walk my dog everyday around the Quarton Lake area. I love the natural beauty there and understand the area first-hand. I used to live near the Birmingham Country Club, and I have seen the natural beauty

there as well. The downtown of San Antonio is very similar to Birmingham's in that it's a place that you would schedule time to walk down and venture into stores you walk by. I have also been lucky to do a lot of travelling in my life. I've been to Boston, Chicago, Miami, Annapolis, New York, San Francisco, San Diego, Phoenix, Denver, Quebec, Vancouver, Montreal, and even Europe, including Paris, Rome, Amsterdam, Pau (Southern France), and Aachen (Germany). Each of these places has unique architectural styles to them, as well as incredible masterpieces of buildings within them and I like to think of all of these when I design my buildings. Birmingham has been compared to many places in Europe in terms of the style and feel of the downtown and I am no less of a supporter of that thought. Therefore, I think that by being well-traveled I can offer Birmingham various ideas based on how to further look more traditional or classical.

I would be a fun and enthusiastic member on a board if I was chosen. I'm currently on two soccer teams, as well as the piano player in two jazz bands. My participation in all four of these groups has taught me that enthusiasm can goa long way in making a product the best it can be, and performing to the highest of standards. In these groups, there is not much of a "suggesting and talking about ideas" aspect, but I certainly love to do that in class discussions. Personally I love to talk and brainstorm with other people, as well as come up with ideas on my own and present them to other people. I get an opportunity to do this a lot in my STEM class, as well as in Jazz band (to come up with solos and improvisations).

Because of my knowledge of architecture and design, as well as my knowledge of the city of Birmingham, I think I should definitely be considered for a spot on a board. I know what the boards are like and I think that I can bring fresh opinion and wisdom to the board, as well as new suggestions and ideas. I am excited to apply all of these things to help the city of Birmingham and continue along my path of learning with the city. I have a lot to learn and

teenagers don't get an opportunity for first-hand learning very much these days and I promise I will not take this opportunity for granted.

Seaholm High School

January 12, 2015.

It is with sincere pleasure I write this letter of recommendation for Mr. Patrick Rogers

I have known Patrick for the past year in his role as a student in my Honors Physics I course and as an active member of the STEM Research and Design Team. I am very impressed with his content mastery and dedication to "fine tuning" his intellectual craft. Patrick is a true student both academically and socially. He has shown a high degree of initiative and performs most of the duties and obligations a student must utilize to be successful. He also demonstrated the ability to communicate with fellow students from diverse backgrounds without showing favoritism or prejudice. He willingly accepts responsibility, is able to delegate authority within lab groups, and does not hesitate to accept constructive direction. Patrick has a sincere curiosity about how the world works.

Patrick has participated in golf all four years and is a very active member in Seaholm's, (Nationally Recognized) STEM Research and Design Course. His membership has allowed him to experience a unique problem-solving environment during many engineering/medical/architectural projects in conjunction with professional community members and industry.

In summary, I have no reservation in recommending Patrick to you. I believe his acceptance with your institution will be mutually beneficial. It has been a true pleasure working with Patrick and his personality and academic commitment will be missed when he graduates from Seaholm High School.

Sincerely,

Douglas Baltz
Physics Instructor
STEM Outreach Coordinator
B.S.H.S.

Rosa Everitt
CAD/Architecture Instructor
Seaholm High School
2436 W. Lincoln Rd
Birmingham, MI 48326
248-425-1762

January 12, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Patrick Rogers, a student at Seaholm, who I have had the opportunity to work with over the last two years. I first met Patrick last year, when he enrolled in my Architecture A class and immediately, took off without a hitch. His passion and determination to design with style is shown throughout all of his work. In fact, as Patrick starts putting his ideas on paper, or on Revit, he would make sure that structure and codes, or ADA regulations were taken into consideration, while still maintaining the true architectural style.

When Patrick asked me to write this letter for him to be a candidate for Birmingham's Design Review Board, I couldn't think of a better student. His organization is impeccable! He does everything he can to understand all aspects of an assignment, without ever letting down his teammates or instructors. As a part of this design board, I know Patrick will work hard and will be as dedicated to this position as he is to his schoolwork; especially since he has aspirations to become an architect.

It is with the most sincere and utmost respect that I have for Patrick Rogers that I recommend him for a position on Birmingham's Design Review Board.

Yours in education,

Rosa A. Everitt

Rosa A. Everitt

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ON CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BPS

Birmingham Public Schools
Community Relations Office

Application Form
Due January 12, 2015

31301 Evergreen • Beverly Hills, MI 48025

Name: Ellery Benson Grade: 11 Age: 16

Address: 1521 Stanley Birmingham MI 48009

Zip Code: 48009 Email: ebenson32@aol.com

Telephone: 248-644-2677 School: Seaholm

On the attached listing of city boards and commissions, please rank your order of preference for appointment from 1 to 3 (1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest):

1. Public Arts Board
2. Historic District Study Committee
3. Parks and Recreation Board

What school activities and/or classes have you participated in which would qualify you to sit on the board or commission which you have chosen?

Although I am not very artistic, I am involved in many other types of arts at school. I am on my school forensics team, and have been since 6th grade. I feel as if being on this team has helped me learn the art of public speaking, the art person can create with just their voice, and the artistic ability I never knew I had until I joined forensics. I am also the vice president of the junior class and was president of the sophomore class. Being on student government has helped me make a change at Seaholm, but now I am having to help make a change in our community.

Please list your involvement in non-school activities:

Out of school, my involvement in the arts continues through piano. I have been playing for almost eleven years and participated in numerous recitals and competitions. I am also president of a community service organization called Teen Volunteer Corps. Our motive is to put Jewish values into action. Being president has helped me be a leader and make a difference in the Jewish community.

What personal skills and characteristics do you possess that would make you a good representative?

I believe I have very good leadership skills due to student government and teen volunteer corps. Also, due to a program at school I am involved in, Flex, which is a honors English and social studies class that is based off of seminars and communication, I have learned to not be afraid to voice my own opinion. I have also learned how crucial it is to always voice your opinion.

Ellie Benson

Change the Way

Up until the beginning of my freshman year in high school, I never really thought about my ability to make a change in my environment. I left it up to others – my parents or teachers, older people, smarter people, more experienced individuals. I thought that if a change was necessary it would probably just happen to me or for me. However, my high school experiences have not only changed my misperceptions, but have taught me how I can help lead these efforts.

The first place that I learned that I could make a change was Seaholm High School. At the start of my freshman year, my two best friends and I decided to join student government. We thought it would help us to get in touch with the school, perhaps even learn to "fit in" more. None of us realized how much of a voice we would soon have at Seaholm. The first few meetings I remained quiet, but eventually, I broke out of my shell and offered my input and ideas- thoughtful ways that we might improve our school. The next year, my friend and I ran for sophomore class president in hopes to continue to increase our voice at Seaholm. Our determination and efforts paid off and we won the position of vice president in our junior year. Throughout the last three years, our ideas have ranged from changing our school dances (making them more inclusive and increasing attendance) to creating new, more exciting programs during charity month such as a "Hunger Games themed" events, Seaholm's largest charity event of the year.

In tenth grade, I joined The Teen Volunteer Corp. This is a community service organization whose mission is turning Jewish values into action. I had

learned about this organization through my sister. She had been the past president. Before high school, I didn't see myself a key leader in this type of program. I didn't think that I knew enough about developing the events and guiding the participants and working with rabbis and staff. But, student government had provided me with the foundations of leadership and the confidence to seek out these opportunities. Today, I proudly find myself president of this community service organization. I have led programs that involve helping people living in JARC (Jewish Association of Residential Care) homes, and others less fortunate in the Jewish community.

Now, I am ready welcome the challenge of being a student representative on the City Boards and Commissions. I hope to be on the Public Arts Board or the Historic District Study Committee. I believe I am well suited for either of these positions because I have learned a great deal about leadership through student government and Teen Volunteer Corp. Furthermore, I am eager to learn more about the history and better inform the future of our city, Birmingham.

Adat Shalom – Beth Achim Learning Community
Adat Shalom Synagogue

Jodi Gross, MAJEd, MAJCS
Associate Director of Education & Youth
jgross@adatshalom.org

January 11, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to recommend Ellie Benson as a Student Representative on the City of Birmingham Board. Ellie is currently the Co-President of the teen planning committee of the Teen Volunteer Corps. As the Co-President she liaisons with the planning committee, organizes projects, recruits volunteers and leads projects. She is a kind and considerate teen dedicated to making a difference.

Her leadership skills and maturity compliment her comfort in sharing her opinions as well as respectfully listening to other's opinions even if they differ. She has a passion for art and history, which would make her an asset on the Public Arts Board and Historic District Study Committee.

Ellie will significantly contribute and benefit from serving as a Student Representative on the City of Birmingham Board.

Sincerely,

Jodi Gross

Jodi Gross, MAJEd, MAJCS

29901 Middlebelt Rd, Farmington Hills, MI 48334
Phone: 248-626-2153, www.adatshalom.org

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FOR

EXCELLENCE
IN
EDUCATION

BIRMINGHAM
SEAHOLM
HIGH SCHOOL
2436 WEST LINCOLN – BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009
248-203-3700 FAX 248-203-3706

January 14, 2015

Dear Sir or Madam:

It gives me pleasure to write to you on behalf of Ellie Benson, a student at Birmingham Seaholm High School. I was Ellie's Geometry teacher during the 2012 – 2013 school year and was privileged to get to know Ellie during this time. Ellie is a very diligent student and a hard worker; a great addition to any classroom. She consistently works to improve her mathematical understandings through assignments that are always done thoroughly and meticulously.

When I think about Ellie, what stands out most vividly to me is her passion to get involved and influence his school and community. If you speak to Ellie, she will eloquently and enthusiastically share her passion for the city she lives in and the school she attends. While some students get involved in community service to satisfy requirements, Ellie seeks out opportunities to help others because she feels it is important and she takes great pride in bringing joy and opportunities to others.

I feel she would be a great asset to any community she is a part of in decision making for she has always been a leader in the classroom and outside of the classroom. Ellie is very thoughtful in her work and in how she relates to students and adults. I believe she would be a great representative of not only Seaholm High School, but also all of Birmingham as well. I have no reservations in saying Ellie Benson would make a great asset to your organization.

Regards,

Shannon Feliciano
Seaholm Mathematics Teacher
sf20bps@birmingham.k12.mi.us

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ON CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BPS

Birmingham Public Schools
Community Relations Office

Application Form
Due January 12, 2015

31301 Evergreen • Beverly Hills, MI 48025

Name: Shahanna Sarkisian Grade: 11th Age: 16

Address: 931 Ridgedale Avenue Birmingham, MI

Zip Code: 48009 Email: shahannaemma625@gmail.com

Telephone: (248) 854 · 0204 School: Seaholm High School

On the attached listing of city boards and commissions, please rank your order of preference for appointment from 1 to 3 (1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest):

1. Parks and Recreation Board
2. Public Arts Board
3. Planning Board

What school activities and/or classes have you participated in which would qualify you to sit on the board or commission which you have chosen?

School activites and classes I have participated in which would qualify me to sit on the board or commission which I have chosen are SOS (Seaholm Offers Support), Donate to Detroit, National Honors Society, and Flex, as well as varsity swimming and Soccer.

Please list your involvement in non-school activities:

Outside of school I have participated in many events including Relay for Life Breast Cancer Walk, Mind Over Matter Brain Cancer Walk, Kids Helping Kids, Angel's House Group Home clean-up, Forest Hills Swimming, and tutoring young children weekly.

What personal skills and characteristics do you possess that would make you a good representative?

Personal skills and characteristics I possess that would make me a good representative are my respect for others, my positive attitude, my role as a leader, my willingness to work hard towards any task or goal, and my caring heart for others.

Shahanna Sarkisian
City of Birmingham Boards and Commissions Application Essay

Making A Difference

American businesswoman and philanthropist, Shari Arison, once said, "Doing good is a simple and universal vision. A vision to which each and every one of us can connect and contribute to its realization. A vision based on the belief that by doing good deeds, positive thinking and affirmative choice of words, feelings, and actions, we can enhance goodness in the world." Throughout most of my life, I have been actively involved in the Birmingham community. Attending Birmingham Public Schools since 1st grade, I learned early on what it felt like to be a part of something bigger than myself. Joining and participating on a City of Birmingham Board or Commission is an opportunity that will allow me to grow as an individual, make a difference in the community, as well as gain knowledge from a one of a kind experience that will last me a lifetime.

What does it mean to be a community? According to Merriam Webster dictionary, community is defined as a unified group of individuals with common interests residing in the same place. However, to me, Birmingham is more than just a community. Birmingham is home. Thinking back to my younger years, I share many fond memories of Birmingham, from playing in Shane Park, to Concerts in the Park, Birmingham parades, or just a night out on the town with family and friends. However, one community specific memory that comes to mind is the time I was playing on the huge tree in Shane Park; I saw a piece of trash on the ground and decided I was going to pick it up and throw it away. Unknowingly at that time, my

initial want and need to serve and better my community was sparked. Since then, my service to the City of Birmingham has only become more rigorous.

Alike many young girls in our community, I participated in Girl Scouts of America—an organization for girls that promotes character, outdoor activities, good citizenship, and service to others. However, my experience with Girl Scouts was rather unique in the fact that my troop leaders allowed us not only opportunities to have fun, but also to be involved us with educational, meaningful, charitable outreach programs. We served multiple times at Gleaner's food bank and other soup kitchens throughout Detroit, along with many other significant activities such as toy drives for hospitals, Habitat for Humanity, etc. Being a part of these things allowed me to learn what it meant to give back and complete something with a greater purpose in mind, additionally it served to be an integral part of my character development. Ever since then I have worked hard to continue to give back to my community in ways such as participating in the Relay for Life Breast Cancer Walk, Mind Over Matter Brain Cancer Walk, and Kids Helping Kids. In addition to these things, every year I participate in Angel's House Group Home Clean Up, which is basically going around to people's homes and cleaning up when they are unable to do so themselves. Taking part in the aforementioned activities has allowed me to see the difference it makes in people's life, in addition to teaching me the importance of giving back.

Another thing that has lent me great advantages in giving back to my community is my sense of leadership. In seventh grade, I was chosen to take part in an out of school program run by The Community House called 21st Century Leaders.

This program instills the mindset of a young leader, at the same as teaching them important qualities leaders behold. This program allowed me to develop an extremely adverse sense of leadership. As I entered high school, this was substantially important in my adaption. It allowed me to feel confident to join multiple clubs such as SOS (Seaholm Offers Support), Donate to Detroit, New Student Welcoming Committee, WOW (Women of the World), and National Honors Society. Also, I felt comfortable enough to become apart of both the Seaholm Varsity Women's Swim Team, Seaholm Women's Soccer Team, and apart of the Talent Show. Learning how to give back to my community, and my school has truly made a difference in my life. Not only do I feel like I am making a difference in someone else's life, but I am able to see the effects of the work I do first hand.

At the opposite side of the spectrum, I have seen the community give back to me, personally. At the end of my eighth grade year, I went through the excruciating experience of breaking my ankle. This injury resulted in multiple surgeries, as well as years of physical therapy. However, throughout my whole experience, people in the City of Birmingham were nothing but helpful and kind. As I began the difficult journey of high school in a boot and on crutches, I received nothing but graciousness and hospitality from both my peers and teachers. Seeing this allowed me to genuinely understand what it means to serve your community, and realize how lucky I was to be apart of something so amazing.

Lastly, a huge influence in my life and in my drive to give back is my mother, Pam Sarkisian. Not only does my mom work a full time job and juggle all the responsibilities of being the best mom, she also actively gives back to our

community in more ways than one. Throughout both my elementary school career and my two brothers', she served as a room parent every year and as my co-girl scout leader. She worked as team managers on all three of our sports teams, as well as completed multiple projects throughout my years of musicals. In more recent years, she has served on the resource board for the School of Education and Oakland University. In addition to this, she serves as co-chair for the Birmingham Ambassador Committee, and was recently selected as the 2014 Ambassador of the year. She actively helps local business owners through her volunteer efforts each and every day. She also teaches fourth grade at the First United Methodist Church of Birmingham. Every day I see how willingly and cheerfully she strives to make a difference in our community through multiple efforts. She serves as an excellent role model and influence, and seeing everything she has accomplished just furthers my want to give back and follow in her footsteps.

Being chosen to sit on a City of Birmingham Board and/or Commission would not only be a huge honor, but a huge responsibility that would be taken very seriously. Through my pervious, and successful, efforts to give back to our community, I believe I can provide both exceptional character and leadership where warranted, as well as a promise to work hard to accomplish any task at hand. If chosen, I guarantee a commitment to remain an active part of Birmingham's community. Having the ability to change Birmingham in a positive way, with longstanding effects, is a goal I strive to reach. Together, I hope we can achieve this goal and truly make a difference in our community.

Birmingham PUBLIC SCHOOLS Achievement Character Community

Mr. Steven Stein, Seaholm High School Flex Team & English Department
248.203.0235 • SS20BPS@birmingham.k12.mi.us
2436 W. Lincoln, Birmingham MI 48009

1/9/2015

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter on the behalf of Shahanna. I have known for three years, as a student in my class. During that time, I have had the opportunity to see her shine on many levels, and found her to be a respectful, insightful and an extremely hard worker.

Over the course of three years I have had the chance to work with Shahanna in multiple settings. In the classroom, she has shown a great deal of respect to her fellow classmates; especially during class discussion where she really listens to whoever is speaking and provides insightful feedback. On many occasions she led discussions and raised questions that provided deeper analysis on the topics being discussed.

Shahanna also is a very personable student. She has taken the time to build relationships with all of her teachers. She shows interest in our lives as well as her classmates. She is an empathetic listener and supports other students in their time of need. Her character is top notch and she is a pleasure to be around. Her warm heart and kind demeanor help her to stand out in a group of students. My experiences with her have shown me that she is a great person to work on a team with, and would be an asset to overcoming any challenges the group faces.

I would recommend Shahanna for any task that takes leadership, a good attitude, and that needs someone who can work well with others. If you have any questions about Shahanna, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Mr. Steven Stein
Seaholm High School High School Flex Team & English Department
Birmingham Public Schools, Birmingham, Michigan
(248) 203-0235
ss20bps®birmingham.k12.mi.

Daniel Yuhn

975 Stanley Blvd

Birmingham, MI 48009

Mobile: (248) 765-0117

Email: dyuhn1@gmail.com

To Whom It May Concern;

I am writing on behalf of Shahanna Sarkisian and am offering my letter of recommendation for her role as a non-voting, student representative member of the City Boards and Commissions. I am a Swim Coach for Seaholm High School and Forest Hills Swim Club and I can personally speak not only to her character, but her strong interest in events outside of her personal life.

Shahanna demonstrates two main qualities that allow her to succeed in and out of the pool. First, she's a tried and true example of personal character. She holds herself in high regard and that allows others to follow her example. She's an exceptional leader and shows these skills throughout four grueling months of high school swimming. Her sport is unique in that it often requires more of the mind than of the body. Shahanna is able to harness her mind and use it to her advantage where most either are too immature or too inexperienced to accomplish. She's an uncompromising motivator and often requires much more of herself than others.

She has an uncanny ability to rebound. Shahanna has experienced injuries that would have ruined most swimming careers early-on. She was sidelined for 2 years nursing an ankle injury that required many surgeries. She continued to be involved in team activities while she was forced to be out of the water and supported her teammates throughout. The respect she has for her teammates is only outdone by the respect that her teammates show for her in return.

While my experience of Shahanna outside of the pool is limited, I'm confident these two qualities shine through on a daily basis. Perhaps the most important underlying theme that Shahanna exudes is that she cares about others. In all of the examples I've shared, none put Shahanna before others. She's empathetic, mentally adept and intelligent. Her character will certainly exceed her reputation. I hold her in high regard and believe her to be valuable asset to any team. I am available to discuss further if there are any questions or concerns.

Best Regards,

Daniel Yuhn

Seaholm High Schools Women's Varsity Swimming Coach

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ON CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BPS

Birmingham Public Schools
Community Relations Office

Application Form
Due January 12, 2015

31301 Evergreen • Beverly Hills, MI 48025

Name: Paige White Grade: 11 Age: 16

Address: 964 N. Adams

Zip Code: 48009 Email: paigewhite16@aol.com

Telephone: 248.840.7684 School: Groves

On the attached listing of city boards and commissions, please rank your order of preference for appointment from 1 to 3 (1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest):

1. Parks and Recreation Board
2. Public Arts Board
3. Planning Board

What school activities and/or classes have you participated in which would qualify you to sit on the board or commission which you have chosen?

Pompon
AACT
Interact
Spanish / French
Groves Ambassador

Please list your involvement in non-school activities:

African American Youth Leadership Council
Topshop panel
Blogging
Various volunteer work

What personal skills and characteristics do you possess that would make you a good representative?

Hard-working
Honesty
Communication
Confident
Commited
Positive
Creative
Flexible
Friendly
Responsible

How would you be able to schedule your time to function effectively as a student representative?

From my time as a student athlete I know that time is precious and the proper allocation of it is necessary for any student. Time management is one of the most essential things I have ever learned. By keeping myself busy I am able to get everything done efficiently. You have as much time as you allow yourself to have, if you have 7 hours your task will take 7 hours.

Would you be interested in being considered for any other boards if you are not selected for any of your top three choices?

Yes ✓ No _____

From Principal:

I believe that this student would responsibly serve as a member of a city board or commission.

Principal's Signature _____ Date Jan. 5, 2015

Parent(s) Permission:

I give my permission for my son/daughter to seek the position of a representative to a city board or commission.

Parent(s) Signature(s) _____ Date Jan 5, 2015

Include an essay (typed) to convince the selection committee that you should be chosen as a student representative to a board or commission. If selected, your essay will be a part of your introduction to your board or commission.

Please **include two letters of recommendation** from adults who know you at school and who know your activities outside of school.

Return application by Monday, January 12, 2015 to:

Cheryl Shettel at Seaholm High School_____
Christine Geoghegan at Groves High School_X_

My name is Paige White, I'm a junior at Groves and I am passionate about community service, plain and simple. I believe that it is so important to be an active member of your community and contribute in anyway you can, every action big and small counts. My parents have always instilled the importance of community service and the significance of a persons actions and their effect on their community. The idea of being a student representative on any of the boards or commissions would be absolutely amazing, being able to actually contribute to and effect my community in such an immense way is something I've always wanted to do.

I believe that I would make an excellent student representative. I'm a hard and dedicated worker, once I have started something I finish it and there is little that can stop me. I believe in not only hard work but thorough work, I always do things to the best of my ability. I am a friendly and sociable person, I love working with and being around people. I think that we can all learn something from each other and when we do take the time to it changes the way that we see things.

I've done many things over the years that would make me an exceptional student representative. Currently I am on a panel for the British fashion retailer, Topshop and I think my experience with working with others and making decisions would really benefit me during my time on a board or commission.

I haven't lived in Birmingham my entire life but Birmingham has always been my home, my first experience in Birmingham was at my 3rd grade birthday party, my mom took all of my friends and I to the Palladium, then to Coldstone for ice cream, and finally to Booth Park to run all of the sugar out of our systems. It was one of the best birthdays I had as a kid, the park was so beautiful and from then on I spent much of my time there. For elementary school I went to Bingham Farms, so when I went to Derby it was really hard for me at first but I took comfort in the fact that Booth Park was right around the corner from me and so were all of my good memories with my old friends. You can ask any teenager in Birmingham and certain things will be consistent along the way, the parks in Birmingham are an integral part of our culture and it would be an honor to be on a board that means so much to me and the rest of my peers.

Wylie E. Groves High School

20500 West Thirteen Mile Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025• 248.203.3500 • Fax: 248.203.4034

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pleasure I recommend Paige White to be a student representative. Paige was a student in my Algebra 2 class; a rigorous course that demands integration and analysis of mathematical knowledge to solve problems. She was a wonderful student to teach as she approached every learning situation with enthusiasm and thoughtfulness. Quickly upon meeting Paige I was impressed by her maturity in both conversations as well as peer interactions. Paige's positivity is infectious and you can't help but smile when you are around her.

Paige has a wealth of experience that will serve her well in this capacity. She currently serves on a panel for a British fashion retailer, Topshop, giving insights from a customer's point of view. She is the president of AACT, is a Pompon captain as well as a Groves Ambassador. Paige was also instrumental in the establishment of the African American Youth Leadership Council. Paige is a member of the French and Spanish Club as well as the Animal Rights Club and volunteers for both Summer in the City and the South Oakland Shelter. Paige's varied involvement gives her a unique perspective from which to draw when representing her peers. Paige would be a marvelous selection for this position and I cannot recommend her more highly. If you have any questions regarding Paige or this recommendation, feel free to email me at KMason@birmingham.k12.mi.us.

Sincerely,

Kara Mason

Kara E. Mason
Mathematics Teacher
Wylie E. Groves High School

Wylie E. Groves High School

Catherine G. Hurley, Principal • 248.203.3500 • Fax: 248.203.3636 • ch02bps@birmingham.k12.mi.us
20500 West Thirteen Mile Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025

January 8, 2015

I proudly submit this letter of recommendation on behalf of Paige White. I have had the pleasure of knowing Paige three years. During the time as her teacher, counselor and club advisor I have observed Paige in many capacities. As a student Paige has received high marks while maintaining a rigorous academic schedule comprising advanced placement courses. She has also been a constant participant in school activities and organizations. She has participated in varsity pom pon, Animal and Amnesty Rights Club, African Americans Changing Tomorrow (AACT) club and Interact Club, Spanish/French Club and panelist for a British fashion retailer. More impressive is that her responsibilities in those activities and organizations have grown along with her uncanny ability to develop, learn and lead. She is currently serving as co president of African Americans Changing Tomorrow.

Ms. White has also cultivated a challenging academic schedule with volunteering and community service. She has volunteered in the summer with Summer in the City, painting prosperities in the city of Detroit and worked with the homeless at the South Oakland Shelter.

The most encompassing example of Paige can best be shared by being a member of our Groves Ambassador program. This program has allowed her to mentor incoming students to our high school. She has been charged with developing a rapport with newcomers to our school. This massive volunteer effort has resulted in fostering greater success for our incoming students. She has continued to share her insights on diversity, academic success and school involvement. She has gained an understanding of other individual's perspectives and a greater capacity to manage the demands of his personal life while still support change and success of her fellow classmates. She has been nothing less than a shining light of character and leadership.

Paige has demonstrated a remarkable sense of personal responsibility. She manages her academics, job, and extra-curricular activities with little parental intervention. Her self-assuredness enables her to feel at ease in a variety of settings and to communicate effectively with people from different backgrounds. This has served her well when working on group projects, traveling to new places, and in the workplace. Her thoughtfulness and concern for others have earned her admiration of the students she has mentored through the school's ambassador program and organizations volunteered for through. Paige is a sensible, mature young woman who has demonstrated the ability to make sound decisions and to keep things in perspective. Above all Paige is calm, purposeful demeanor is a trait that has enabled her to maintain her composure and stay focused during difficult situations.

Again, I am very proud to speak on behalf of such a bright and well-rounded young woman who has the ability to balance a variety of interests and stay focused on her goals.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Norman C. Hurns, Sr.
Teacher-Wylie E. Groves High School
Nh01bps@birmingham.k12.mi.us

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ON CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BPS

Birmingham Public Schools
Community Relations Office

Application Form
Due January 12, 2015

31301 Evergreen • Beverly Hills, MI 48025

Name: Sydney Rosen Grade: 11 Age: 16

Address: 1678 Stanley Blvd. Birmingham, MI

Zip Code: 48009 Email: skr61998@gmail.com

Telephone: (248) 915-8847 School: International Academy
HOME: (248) 258-9087

On the attached listing of city boards and commissions, please rank your order of preference for appointment from 1 to 3 (1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest):

1. Public Arts Board
2. Parks and Recreation Board
3. Planning Board

What school activities and/or classes have you participated in which would qualify you to sit on the board or commission which you have chosen?

At the International Academy, I'm in IB Art, an advanced art class. I'm also currently taking honors government, in which I'm learning about community boards. I've also participated in after school programs such as, "exploring architecture" and "careers for creative thinkers".

Please list your involvement in non-school activities:

- JCC camp counselor
- Judson center volunteer
- BBYO (B'nai B'rith Youth organization)

What personal skills and characteristics do you possess that would make you a good representative?

I have participated in forensics since middle school which has made me a confident public speaker and comfortable voicing my opinions. Being in many school clubs, I work well in groups and am respectful of other's ideas.

How would you be able to schedule your time to function effectively as a student representative?

Being a student at International Academy has taught me how to manage my time well. Using a planner, I effectively plan out time for my homework and extra-curricular activities.

Would you be interested in being considered for any other boards if you are not selected for any of your top three choices?

Yes ✓ No _____

From Principal:

I believe that this student would responsibly serve as a member of a city board or commission.

Principal's Signature _____ Date 1-7-15

Parent(s) Permission:

I give my permission for my son/daughter to seek the position of a representative to a city board or commission.

Parent(s) Signature(s) _____ Date 1/6/15

Include an essay (typed) to convince the selection committee that you should be chosen as a student representative to a board or commission. If selected, your essay will be a part of your introduction to your board or commission.

Please **include two letters of recommendation** from adults who know you at school and who know your activities outside of school.

Return application by Monday, January 12, 2015 to:

Cheryl Shettel at Seaholm High School_____
Christine Geoghegan at Groves High School_____

Sydney Rosen
1678 Stanley Blvd.
Birmingham, MI 48009
skr61998@gmail.com

City of Birmingham Board Application Essay

I am submitting this essay to express my interest in serving as a student representative on a City of Birmingham board. I would like to represent my peers and effectively share the views and ideas of other teenagers in Birmingham. Participating on a board will allow me to understand how things get done in the city and help me continue to develop my leadership skills for the future. Birmingham is a city to be proud of; I appreciate everything the city has to offer and would like to contribute to its continued success.

Growing up in Birmingham I have enjoyed many benefits the city has to offer. I attended Midvale, Pierce and Birmingham Covington School. Now, I am a junior at International Academy in Bloomfield Hills. Attending a school outside of Birmingham has made me appreciate the city even more. International Academy has students from twelve sending school districts, but Birmingham acts as a meeting place. Whether it is studying, meeting for pizza, or the movies, we end up in downtown Birmingham. I want to help make Birmingham as entertaining, beautiful, and culturally stimulating as possible for people who live here and those from outside the community.

I have participated in many school and outside activities that have prepared me to serve as a student representative. I am currently taking IB Art and Honors Government.

I hope that serving as a student representative on a city board will provide me with an extraordinary experience and provide me with a better understanding of how the planning and government procedures work and connect me with citizens and leaders in my community.

January 10, 2015

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to strongly and enthusiastically encourage you to consider selecting Sydney Rosen as a student representative for the City of Birmingham Board.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Sydney for over six years, mainly as her Forensics Coach. Forensics is a competitive public speaking activity that Sydney has been passionate about since she began middle school.

Sydney particularly has enjoyed and excelled in the individual categories of Sales Speaking and Informative Speaking, categories that she herself chose as a focus. In these categories, the participant must write, edit and perfect a speech, commit it to memory, and prepare complimentary visual aids. Finally, a student attends several tournaments a year in which he or she must perform the speech up to five times in one day for judges and receive critiques. You can only imagine how difficult and demanding this is!

Sydney is an intelligent and talented writer, and an articulate speaker. However, what impresses me most about Sydney is her strong work ethic and her resilience in this demanding activity that forces students to truly "put themselves out there."

Sydney is mature, thoughtful and passionate. From what I have seen, she gets along well with others and works well in groups and individually. Let me end by saying that I strongly recommend her for this position.

Sincerely,

Elise Herner

A World of Learning
International Academy
2011-2012
1020 E. Square Lake Rd
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304–1957 USA
Telephone: 248.341.5900 Fax: 248.341.5959

"One of America's Top Ranking High

- Newsweek: 2003-2011-2012
Ranked Top Five High School in the United States
- U.S. News and World Report, 2009-

January 8, 2015

Dear representative:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Sydney Rosen, who is applying to be a student representative on the City of Birmingham Boards. Sydney attends the International Academy where I am the Visual Arts instructor for students in grades 9-12. The curriculum at our high school is an intensive program geared at preparing students for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme offered in the eleventh and twelfth grades. Students who attend the IA must accept educational challenges while becoming active participants in the learning process. Such qualities describe Sydney, who is a dedicated member of the class of 2015.

Sydney has participated in almost three years of art courses at the IA, encompassing beginning through advanced levels. She always works toward a goal of creativity and excellence in her artwork, which involves a variety of 2-D and 3-D forms in media such as ceramics, drawing, mixed media, and design. Our program is a challenging combination of art history and art criticism that leads to studio production. While observing Sydney in this context, the words consistently responsible, motivated, and informed come to mind. She is definitely qualified to serve on the Public Arts Board, which is her top choice.

In addition, Sydney is preparing for the full IB Diploma program and is taking the equivalent of six honors course. She has demonstrated achievement in an academically demanding curriculum. Furthermore, she has also participated in a number of collaborative product teams, enrichment courses, and community service as part of her experience at the International Academy. Her next two choices are the Parks and Recreation Board and the Planning Board. She is definitely a caring and well-rounded person.

Sydney's resume is impressive, filled with a diversity of accomplishments. Her school experiences have exposed her to a variety of ethnicities and cultures where she has demonstrated flexibility in a diverse student population. She is a special young woman with high aspirations and the willingness to go the extra mile. Please give her every consideration.

Sincerely,

Terri Cafcalas

Terri Cafcalas
Visual Arts Instructor
Department Chairperson

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ON CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BPS *Birmingham Public Schools*
Community Relations Office

Application Form
Due January 12, 2015

31301 Evergreen • Beverly Hills, MI 48025

Name: Maya Salinas Grade: 11 Age: 16

Address: 1272 Cole St Birmingham, MI

Zip Code: 48009 Email: salinasmayaegmail.com

Telephone: 248 752 1694 School: Seaholm High School

On the attached listing of city boards and commissions, please rank your order of preference for appointment from 1 to 3 (1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest):

1. Museum Board
2. Public Arts Board
3. Historic District Study Committee

What school activities and/or classes have you participated in which would qualify you to sit on the board or commission which you have chosen?

Student congress - treasurer, Track and field, Debate, and National Honors Society.

Please list your involvement in non-school activities:

Dancer at Eisenhower and the Detroit Ballet, Intern with Secretary of Labor Gro. Mx, Intern at the PRI political party in Mexico.

What personal skills and characteristics do you possess that would make you a good representative?

I am fluent in Spanish and I also have a good grasp on French. Through my travels around the world I have learned about culture, art and history of various people. I can not only lead, but I can listen. I have experience in government already, which makes me an informed candidate already.

"A walkable city" perfectly describes all of what Birmingham is. I firmly believe that maintaining a beautiful and well-managed city begins at the core, in planning. A student representative on Birmingham's city boards and commissions program should assume an active leadership role in the development and upkeep of a city they love and call their own. A student representative is expected to demonstrate compelling communication skills, leadership potential, an appreciation for differing viewpoints, enthusiasm for accepting responsibility and a sincere interest in working with students and community leaders alike. A successful candidate needs to have an interest and ability to work with people from a variety of racial, cultural and lifestyle backgrounds.

In my life, the positive living environment for residents and visitors of the Birmingham area has always been extraordinary. The opportunity to know what keeps this city working, and to have the chance to share ideas, discuss and learn from others with more experience is an opportunity I would never want to miss.

In my school, and community I have been making a difference, and being a leader anywhere I can. I am the Junior Class Treasurer and a member of the National Honors Society. My other interests include dance, I am a dancer at Eisenhower, and with the Detroit Ballet Company, yoga, running as a member of the Seaholm Track Team, and work in the community. Recently I was asked to run a drive for toiletries for Lighthouse of Oakland County, which I completed diligently. Outside of Michigan, I am also an involved member of the community. The last two summers I spent in Mexico where I was an intern at the Secretary of Labor in Queretaro, and as a member of the Valentina's, a government organization which promotes the empowerment of women. I am a disciplined and organized individual, therefore I can divert all my attention to the task at hand, without any interference with my schoolwork.

I have traveled with my family throughout my life, and it has helped me foster communication skills with people of all walks of life. My interpersonal skills allow me to communicate with others which I believe has helped my not only motivate people, but help others make decisions that are ultimately making a difference for the greater good. I am capable of employing commonsensical judgement, analytical reasoning and the use of resources discerningly. I desire using action and evaluation tools to help in the facilitation of consistent improvement.

Being a student representative on Birmingham's city boards and commissions program is important to me and in my discovery of myself, and my leadership potential. Hopefully I will be selected to take part in this program.

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IN
EDUCATION

BIRMINGHAM
SEAHOLM
HIGH SCHOOL
2436 WEST LINCOLN – BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009
248-203-3700 FAX 248-203-3706

January 8, 2015

Dear Sir or Madam:

It gives me pleasure to write to you on behalf of Maya Salinas, a student at Birmingham Seaholm High School. Maya was a student in my Algebra 2 class last year as a sophomore, and I immensely enjoyed getting to know her during this time. I was constantly impressed by the level of dedication that Maya puts toward her high school studies and by her thoughtfulness towards others.

Maya was very successful in my math class. This can be attributed to her desire to understand content inside and out and her persistence if this understanding did not come immediately. While many students shy away from the most challenging problems in an assignment, Maya confronts them and seeks help to make sure she fully understands even the most difficult questions. This conscientiousness extends to her other classes and responsibilities as well, proving that she has both impressive dedication and time-management skills.

When I was given the opportunity last year to nominate a student to be my "Math Student of the Month," Maya was an obvious choice. She received this award from me not only because of her academic accomplishments, but because she constantly demonstrates great integrity, maturity, and a desire to help those around her. Whether she is helping a classmate with math or welcoming a new student in to the Seaholm community, Maya is a thoughtful young lady who looks for opportunities to recognize and assist others. I believe that Maya's dedication, motivation, and thoughtfulness make her a great candidate to offer a student-perspective to a Birmingham board or commission and I urge you to strongly consider her application.

Regards,

Michelle Kong

Michelle Kong
Seaholm Mathematics Teacher
mkong@birmingham.k12.mi.us

Dear Birmingham Boards and Commissions Student Representative Commission,

It is my sincere pleasure to present you a letter of recommendation for Miss Maya Salinas. Never have I been so pleased with the hard work ethic and academic dedication as with Miss Salinas. Since entering into the Detroit Ballet she has shown leadership by constant attendance, high intellectual appreciation of her art, as well as learning the artistic approach to problem solving. She has become a leader as well as a soloist while gaining the respect of the children, her peers, as well as adults in the company. Always I have seen her with a great attitude, willingness to work passionately, and sense of humor. All great elements for a great ballerina as well as young lady.

Always respectful and easy to communicate with, Miss Salinas is the type of person everyone wants to work with. Ballet is an incredibly disciplined art, and she excels. More importantly however, is the fact that my other dancers come back and tell me of all the other amazing things she does. Miss Salinas is a rational thinker, and always strives to include everyone, or at the very least listen to all opinions and suggestions. A quick thinker and learner she is the perfect candidate for a student representative position.

Please feel free to contact me by phone or email if you would like further clarification. Thank you for this opportunity to express my hardy endorsement of Miss Salinas. Please enjoy her participation in the opportunities that you are offering her.

Thank you,

Eric Johnston

Founder and director
The Detroit Ballet
Birmingham Dance Academy
248 854 5864
Ericjohnston123@gmail.com

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ON CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BPS

Birmingham Public Schools
Community Relations Office

Application Form
Due January 12, 2015

31301 Evergreen • Beverly Hills, MI 48025

Name: Daniel Evans Grade: 11 Age: 17

Address: 1028 Suffield Ave.

Zip Code: 48009 Email: djevans97@hotmail.com

Telephone: (248) 224-4699 School: Seaholm

On the attached listing of city boards and commissions, please rank your order of preference for appointment from 1 to 3 (1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest):

1. Multi-Modal Transportation Board
2. Planning Board
3. Parks and Recreation Board

What school activities and/or classes have you participated in which would qualify you to sit on the board or commission which you have chosen?

Among the activities I participate in, my experience on the school's policy debate team would qualify me to sit on any of the three chosen boards as it has provided an outlet for arguing the pros and cons of various policies. Specifically, the topic for 2012-2013 dealt with the U.S. government's investment in transportation, which is similar to the subject of the Multi-Modal Transportation Board.

Please list your involvement in non-school activities:

- Guitar lessons
- I am on the school's Forensics team and compete under the category Oratory.
- Policy Debate team
- Cross Country team

What personal skills and characteristics do you possess that would make you a good representative?

Being involved in competitive oratory and debate, I feel I would be an effective communicator of ideas. Furthermore, I am able to take matters seriously and listen attentively so as to get the most out of the experience. As a unique characteristic, I have spent 10 years abroad in Germany so my ~~international~~ global views could be a welcome addition to a city board.

Daniel Evans
5th Hour
AP Lang

Essay: How would I contribute?

When considering a capable student representative, the ability to communicate one's thoughts and ideas should spring to mind. I feel my involvement in competitive oratory has lent me the skills to speak in front of audiences in a persuasive manner while policy debate has presented me with an environment in which I have learned to think quickly, logically, and devise solutions to problems and compare them. Perhaps equally important is the knowledge I have gained from those activities which range from awareness of geopolitical conflicts to specificities like U.S. investment in transportation infrastructure. As other active participants in government will testify, a firm basis in current events is crucial to understanding and responding to problems. Competing for the sake of competing is one thing, but using all those tools to further better the community I am a part of is quite another and I would embrace the possibility to serve on a city board and contribute to practical discussions.

Another fact about me that would make me a valuable member of a council is that I have spent ten years overseas living in Germany. This has helped give me a unique global perspective that could prove insightful in conversations.

A quick look around will reveal to anyone that the world is run by adults. After all, why should it be otherwise? They have more experience, biologically more developed brains, and are often more rational thinkers. However, I am a firm believer in the power of children and teens and am willing to be a student representative on a Birmingham city board in order to bridge the gap between the youth world and adult world, to learn how our municipal government functions, and become a more involved citizen.

Seaholm High School
2436 West Lincoln Street
Birmingham, Michigan 48009
248-203-3707, Fax: 248-203-3706

Recommendation for Daniel Evans *January 9, 2015*

To Whom It May Concern:

Daniel Evans is a motivated and talented student who has been a pleasure to work with in my Advanced Placement English Language and Composition course. Where many students seem overly concerned with grades and transcripts, he is genuinely interested in exploring new issues and ideas and challenging himself while also producing high-quality, high-achieving work. His ability to observe and analyze objectively is rare among high school students.

Daniel's character shines on a daily basis as he sets and meets high standards for himself and serves as a leader for his peers to do the same. Even Daniel's informal assignments in my class spur thinking for his peers and me. This ability is rare among high school students in the first place, but he willingly jumps in to explore his thinking when others are passive, waiting for right answers that, as we know, may never appear in a good English class. He is unafraid to share his thinking, and he demonstrates real leadership when he does so in a whole class setting.

Also, he performs at this high academic level while also achieving wild success in his extracurricular activities. In debate, he and his partner recently advanced to elimination rounds three times at national circuit tournaments and earned a bid to the national Tournament of Champions. He is on our school's successful cross-country team, and he was also a finalist at last year's state forensics tournament.

I have high hopes and expectations for Daniel's future. With some students, I just hope they find a way in the world, but with Daniel, I have seen a level of insight, intelligence, and passion that few possess. His critical thought, dedication, and concern will make him successful by any meaningful definition. His astute observations are well beyond his years. I hope to vote for him for the Senate someday. If there are more men and women like Daniel in his generation, we'll all be okay.

I wholeheartedly recommend Daniel as he will do outstanding work on the city board and also contribute to the greater culture of Birmingham in valuable ways.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mitchell Nobis
AP English Language and Composition, Honors
Creative Writing, and Writing for College Teacher

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IN
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SEAHOLM
HIGH SCHOOL
2436 WEST LINCOLN – BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009
248-203-3700 FAX 248-203-3706

Peter Shaheen

January 6, 2015

To the city of Birmingham,

The purpose of this letter is to urge the immediate consideration of Daniel Evans for the position student representative for a board position as a student representative.

When considering the perfect candidate for this position, it may be useful to employ a sports metaphor. Given the nature of student representation in city government, the most valuable player may not be the one that grabs all the headlines like Miguel Cabrera or Pavel Datsyuk. They may have grabbed all the headlines, but it seems that the person who makes the daily operation of the program possible would be the most valuable because without them, the vital interests of the less glamorous but infinitely more valuable wheels of government could not function.

After having worked with Daniel closely over the past three years, it is possible to attest to his ability to plan a variety of programs undertaken by both as a student at Seaholm High School and as a member of the Seaholm speech and debate teams where his excellent works proves his skills as a scholar and a thinker. Maintaining continuity after in a big organization is a Herculean task if done efficiently. It takes a person who pays attention to detail, is not afraid to work and can be trusted to get the job done right.

Daniel's precision is a quality that recommends him. He is a superior editor with expertise in Microsoft. His debate experience has made it possible for him to be a steady listener and a fair evaluation to multiple speakers. He is a skilled and fair at evaluation a variety of positions. He is also sensitive enough to treat adults and peers with the care and respect that we all would want for ourselves.

After his experience in education and competitive speech, Daniel has displayed a sense of self and a sense of others that few can rival. He has demonstrated a flexibility that few others have been able to achieve. He works long and awkward hours often on weekends and staying late at night to accommodate the demands of her various tasks whether they be working with students.

While Daniel, doesn't receive the glory due to him, those in the know, understand that when things need to be done and things need to be done right, there is only one person to speak to. He is able to maintain high levels of productivity and a relatively low profile while all the while making it obvious he is our MVP. He is a terrific candidate.

Sincerely,

Peter Shaheen

Peter Shaheen

248-895-9349

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ON CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BPS

Birmingham Public Schools
Community Relations Office

Application Form
Due January 12, 2015

31301 Evergreen • Beverly Hills, MI 48025

Name: Rebecca Mendel Grade: 11 Age: 17

Address: 440 Madison, Birmingham, ~~[illegible]~~

Zip Code: 48009 Email: Beccamendel28@gmail.com

Telephone: 248-701-5801 School: Seaholm HS

On the attached listing of city boards and commissions, please rank your order of preference for appointment from 1 to 3 (1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest):

1. Multi-Modal Transportation Board
2. Public Arts Board
3. Planning Board

What school activities and/or classes have you participated in which would qualify you to sit on the board or commission which you have chosen?

From the years 2013-2014, I was in a leadership class that work with under achieving kids at Berkshire. I am also an active member of the SOS club, or Seaholm Offers Support. I also sat on the Flex Student Advisory Board for ~~a~~ two years.

Please list your involvement in non-school activities:

I play varsity soccer in the spring for Seaholm, and throughout the rest of the year play for Birmingham United FC. Also, every Wednesday I volunteer from 3:30pm-6:00pm at the Baldwin Center in Pontiac for their after-school program. I also work ~~Mondays~~ twice a week for a family, where I ~~will~~ babysit for 3 hours after school.

What personal skills and characteristics do you possess that would make you a good representative?

I would be an excellent representative because I ~~[illegible]~~ work very well in groups, and because I have a lot of experience working within the Birmingham and Metro-Detroit communities. I am very passionate about our city, and ~~I have ideas~~ ~~for that~~ am a qualified leader.

Becca Mendel
Personal Essay

Birmingham is small, lively, cultured, unique, cozy-Birmingham is many things-but most of all, it is home. I have lived in Birmingham for my entire life. The city has been a crucial part in developing who I am today. It is has provided me with independence, safety, and even work experience. Yes, surely Birmingham has given me more than I could ever realize, this is why serving my city as a student representative would provide me with the opportunity to give back to a community that has given so much to me. I am a passionate, hard-working, and outspoken individual, who is prepared for any curveball that this position could throw at me.

If there's one word that could describe who I am as an individual, it would be passionate. I have been playing soccer since I was nine years old for Birmingham United FC. I have always been very small for my age, I am only 5 foot 1 inch. Being the giant that I am, I decided to take up being the goalkeeper for my soccer team. Despite my short stature, I have achieved a varsity letter as the goalkeeper, along with beating out a girl who is nearly twice my height. Because of my passion for the game, I was able to overcome the obstacle, and worked extremely hard to stand in the position that I am in today. Besides soccer, I am incredibly devoted to the city of Detroit. Once I got my license, I began to explore the city and view it in a way that I had never known it before. Sometimes my friends and I would have dinner downtown, or would spend in afternoon at Campus Martius. I soon realized that the city was in motion. Many passionate people worked day and night to repair Detroit, I too acquired this desire to be a part of this historical change. I became involved with working at the Baldwin Center in Pontiac. Every Wednesday, I volunteer at the center and help to tutor, play, and mentor children ages six to thirteen after school.

Becca Mendel
Personal Essay

As much as I could teach these kids, they have also taught me. Compassion, patience, and love are only a few things that I have gained from the Baldwin Center.

Hard work is a value that has been instilled in me throughout my entire life. My parents, grandmother, and grandfather are by far the hardest working people that I have ever met. In school, I work extremely hard in order to get good grades and acquire knowledge-I love to learn. For two years now, I have been working 2-3x per week babysitting for a family in my neighborhood. I get the kids off the bus, play with them, and help them with their homework. The kids are, at the very least, challenging. It has taken time, commitment, and dedication, but I am very grateful for the lessons that these kids have taught me.

Nowadays, to be outspoken is often considered to be not the highest compliment. It could be interpreted as one who does not think before they speak, or one who has no filter. Though outspoken does describe me, I do not mean it in a negative way. I do not beat around the bush. I am very honest, but I can also listen. Being a middle child, I have definitely assumed the role of mediator in my family. I have a knack for thinking of solutions and fixing problems. People often come to me for advice. Being outspoken has given me the ability to speak my mind in a group setting, but at the same time, I am able to work well in groups because I also listen.

It would be a huge honor to serve as a student representative for the city of Birmingham. I would be an asset to the council because of my skills as a hard working, passionate, and outspoken individual. It would be an honor to serve on the board.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am honored to write in support of Rebecca Mendel. She has been volunteering weekly at the Baldwin Center for roughly a year and a half. Besides volunteers from Oakland University, she is the only high school student that comes so regularly. The center is so appreciative of Rebecca's unwavering help and support for the program.

It is a truly awesome experience to watch Rebecca work with the kids. A quality that I find admirable in Rebecca is her ability to jump in and help wherever it is needed. She doesn't ask, she simply does. I can always trust Rebecca to lead activities and games with the kids. I have witnessed many times her leadership abilities, the kids definitely look up to her.

Each week, Rebecca is greeted at the door with a stampede of children hugging her and jumping on her back. She travels relatively far in order to help at the center, and both the kids, staff, and I are thankful to have her around.

Sincerely,

Lauren Fuller
Youth Director, Baldwin Center of Pontiac
lfuller@baldwincenter.org

Dear Board of Directors,

Becca has been a babysitter for my family for nearly 2 years. My kids adore her and are always excited when she is here.

Becca is very reliable and I know that I can always count on her to take care of my children. My kids always have a ton of fun when she is around. Becca is quite different from all of the other sitters and nannies that we have tried. She is energetic, sociable, and accountable. Whenever I get home, the kids are in bed, the dishes are done, and the toys are cleaned up.

I know I can trust her with responsibilities that I would be hesitant to ask of others. For example, bathing the kids, driving them, or allowing them to have friends over without me there.

My family and I are very thankful to have Becca in our lives. She would be an excellent candidate for your program, and I highly recommend her. Feel free to contact me for more information.

Sincerely,

Lynda Green

lwg0868@gmail.com

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ON CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Application Form
Due January 12, 2015

BPS *Birmingham Public Schools*
Community Relations Office

31301 Evergreen • Beverly Hills, MI 48025

Name: Maria Graham Grade: 11 Age: 16

Address: 884 Knox St Birmingham MI

Zip Code: 48009 Email: Mariamgraham@icloud.com

Telephone: 248-825-2955 School: Seaholm High School

On the attached listing of city boards and commissions, please rank your order of preference for appointment from 1 to 3 (1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest):

1. Museum
2. Public Arts
3. Historic District Study

What school activities and/or classes have you participated in which would qualify you to sit on the board or commission which you have chosen?

I am a member of both the National Honors Society and National Art Honors Society. The course load that I take at Seaholm includes AP US History, AP European History and AP Studio Art

Please list your involvement in non-school activities:

1) Babysitting
2) Fencing Team
3) Ballet
4) Volunteer work at the Birmingham Historical Museum and Park

What personal skills and characteristics do you possess that would make you a good representative?

I am creative and can come up with ideas that are outside the box. I am good at listening to other people's opinions and adding my point of view to enhance their ideas.

How would you be able to schedule your time to function effectively as a student representative?

With the exception of my babysitting jobs, my is flexible. I am able to rearrange things with my coaches to ensure that I can ~~be a~~ fully participate on the board. I understand that serving on the board is an important responsibility that requires time and dedication

Would you be interested in being considered for any other boards if you are not selected for any of your top three choices?

Yes ✓ No _____

From Principal:

I believe that this student would responsibly serve as a member of a city board or commission.

Rachel M. Guinn 1-8-14

Principal's Signature Date

Parent(s) Permission:

I give my permission for my son/daughter to seek the position of a representative to a city board or commission.

[signature] 12-6-14

Parent(s) Signature(s) Date

Include an essay (typed) to convince the selection committee that you should be chosen as a student representative to a board or commission. If selected, your essay will be a part of your introduction to your board or commission.

Please **include two letters of recommendation** from adults who know you at school and who know your activities outside of school.

Return application by Monday, January 12, 2015 to:

Cheryl Shettel at Seaholm High School X

Christine Geoghegan at Groves High School _____

Maria Graham
December 6, 2014

Members of the Selection Committee,

As I transition from a kid into young adult life, I find myself asking "how can I take part in my community?" I believe I have found an answer in the opportunity of serving on a City Board. The board I feel I would be best suited for is the Museum Board. If I am not chosen to be part of the Museum Board I would like to be considered for the the Public Arts Board or the Historic District Study Committee.

The biggest reason I find myself qualified to be a representative for the Museum board is because of my volunteer work with the Museum itself. Starting in September, I have been volunteering at the Museum two times a week, as well as additional time on half days and school breaks. My work at the museum includes assisting in museum procedures, working the front desk, and researching for the upcoming exhibit. My research pertains to art inspired by Woodward Avenue. I truly enjoy working at the museum and believe it to be an important part of the community. My work, and appreciation for the Museum gives me insight that could be vital to the board.

Another reason I should be chosen for the Museum Board is because of the ideas I have for the Museum. For instance, I could offer my thoughts on ways that social media could be implemented to raise interest in the Museum.

As I have aforementioned, I would also like to be considered for the Public Arts of Historic Study Board if I am not chosen for the Museum Board. One reason I am qualified for the Public Arts Board is because I am a member of the National Arts Honor Society at Seaholm. In addition to this I have taken several art classes at Seaholm including Advanced Placement courses. As for the Historic Study Board, I

have taken Advanced Placement United States History and I am currently taking Advanced Placement European History.

In conclusion, it would be an honor to serve as a member of a Birmingham city board. My volunteer work, classes and after school activities exemplify my qualification to be one.

SEAHOLM HIGH SCHOOL

January 9, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of one of my students, Maria Graham. This is the third year that I have taught her; however her skill, ideas and work ethic had impressed me from the first class she took with me. Maria was in my drawing, painting and AP Studio Art classes and excelled in all of them. In addition to being involved in the art classes, Maria dedicates her time to membership in the National Art Honor Society, a group that promotes the arts and puts on art-based events within the school community.

Maria comes to class everyday prepared, on time and focused on her art. She shows a real interest and understanding of the art process. Chloe has developed a good working relationship with her peers and shows great participation in their critiques, helping them solve difficult problems in their own work. She demonstrates skill with various media and self-motivation by working on her pieces on her own and bringing them in for critique and discussion.

Maria shows her dedication to growing and learning as an art student by continuing to take art classes outside of school. She continues to take painting classes at the BBAC in addition to the art classes she takes at high school during the day.

I wholeheartedly recommend Maria to your organization. I believe she will bring the creativity and responsibility to enhance your current community. It is my hope that you seriously consider Maria.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Moyer
Fine Arts Teacher
Seaholm High School
Birmingham Public Schools
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248-203-4223

To Whom It May Concern:

She's soft-spoken at times, but don't be fooled when she speaks with such intellect. She's respectable, compassionate and genuinely listens with eagerness, but will debate a topic with poise and confidence. Her contribution in class is rewarding when she sheds light within a conversation and without her presence in the class, I can honestly say that we would all miss out.

Her name is Maria Graham and she has been a student in my AP Language and Composition for the past one year.

As a student, Maria takes her work very seriously and is superior in the field of listening, speaking, and focusing on instruction. Her work, polished and turned in at a timely manner, was always error free and completed with much consideration, a strong reflection of her work ethic. There was immense pride in her finished product and she demonstrated excellence to showcase that she genuinely cared about her academics. Never was there a late assignment, or an excuse for needing extra time. It was simply...done.

As a participant in the class, Maria was always the first person to raise her hand and respond to a question that I asked. Without any hesitation in her voice, or a quiver, Maria stood firm in her beliefs and demonstrated confidence when she spoke. While the questions were sometimes challenging and many students sought silence as a way to escape from responding; it was always Maria who stood out among them to foster the subject into a more rich conversation.

Maria's motivation and drive to work hard is apparent. She has enrolled herself in all Advanced Placement classes for this term, as well as the last one, earning an "A" in each one. Determined to do well in each subject, Maria takes her work seriously and has a mission to graduate with high honors.

It is for these reasons that I would find her highly qualified and I hope that you will too!

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sharan Nayak

Sharan Nayak
Seaholm High School
Sn06bps@birmingham.k12.mi.us