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City Clerk, New Castle, Delaware

Personal Statement

Throughout my academic career, I have been interested in and involved with legal activities. During my Junior and Senior years of college I interned at Community Legal Aid Society Inc. where I learned how to advocate for people with physical disabilities. The efforts were made to ensure that these individuals receive equal accommodations at all Delaware gas stations. As a result of my advocacy and grass roots efforts, Title 6 §2912 of the Delaware Code was amended to ensure these accommodations. During my Senior year of College I did my final thesis on Mobility and Orientation: A Study of the Visually Impaired. The study was about the various methods that persons with visual impairment use to get around their surroundings without assistance. The study was conducted in Wilmington, Delaware and I took an accounting of the many different methods used by each person in the study who presented themselves as visually impaired and how they maintained personal mobility.

After college, I continued to work at St. Peter's School and Parish and continued my grassroots efforts to ensure a law was passed that was originally lobbied for by the Paralyzed Veterans Associations of Delaware. The grassroots efforts caught the interest of the media and local politicians. Thus, the State Legislators amended to the law to ensure accommodations at the gas stations.

Throughout my time in the military, I kept in touch with lawmakers and various organizations to ensure that the legislation was still moving forward. The effort began back in 2006, and ensured that individuals with physical disabilities had assistance at all places that offer motor fuel. In detail, all gas stations are required to have a call button to alert the gas station attendant that the customer needs assistance.

I received military honors while I served in Korea, Germany, Kuwait, and Iraq. I attained the rank of Specialist (E-4), and received several military awards, as follows 1) National Defense Medal, 2) National War on Terrorism, 3) Korean Defense Service Medal, 4) Iraq Campaign Medal with Star, 5) Army Service Ribbon, 6) Overseas Service Ribbon, 7) Air Force Training Ribbon, and 8) the Good Conduct Medal. The Good Conduct Medal was authorized on June 28, 1941 for exemplary conduct, efficiency, and fidelity and is awarded to Army personnel who, on or after August 27, 1940, had honorably completed three years of active Federal military service.

After I returned from Germany on March 23, 2010, I attended the University of the Rockies in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Three years later I received an academic honor for maintaining a grade point average of 3.97. I was inducted into the Salute Honor Society that is for the United States Veterans. A year after graduation, I was inducted into the Golden Key Honor Society, for maintaining a grade point average of 3.97. This honor society is for graduate students.

In addition to academics, I was asked by the Department of Health and Social Services be a part of their council. I accepted their invitation and served in the position as a Strategic Planner for Healthy Delawareans with Disabilities Advisory Council which became the Healthcare Committee. The council has oversight of Disability and Health project, and is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. I served in this position from March 2014 to the present. This committee is run by both the University of Delaware and the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services. I furthered my political accomplishments by being appointed by the Governor of Delaware to the Board of Speech Pathologists, Audiologists, and Hearing Aid Dispensaries from December 2014 to the present as an Independent. My duties on the board are to approve licenses for speech pathologists and audiologists; discuss issues

pertaining to issues and legislation for professionals in the field; discuss hearing aid dispensaries and disposable hearing aids; and investigate claims against professionals for violating the laws that pertain to Delaware Law.

In addition to earning my B.S. in Behavioral Science and my M.A. in Human Services, I took it upon myself to receive independent training in Peer Support and Drug and Alcohol Counseling. I earned hours from Open Door Inc. and from the Rick Van Story Resource Center. I completed the required 1,000 hours to qualify to take the State exam to be a licensed Peer Support Specialist. As a Peer Support Specialist, I assist individuals who are diagnosed with severe mental health disorders, among others. I had to take classes at the Delaware Psychiatric Center to learn how to assist those who are in need the proper way. This activity reflects my deep interest in clinical psychology. Another accomplishment that reflects my interest in helping others was my completion of the Drug and Alcohol Certificate program at Delaware Technical and Community College, which I received with honors. I interned at Meadowood Hospital and while there, performed several clinical interviews with individuals who have substance abuse disorders and those who are diagnosed with severe mental health diagnoses.

Outside of my career goals and education, I have provided my friends, family, and myself advocacy of some sort whenever the opportunity presented. This past summer a friend of mine wanted to volunteer at the Brandywine Zoo with me. He asked me to join him at the interview. I joined him at the interview and helped him with the questions, without putting words in his mouth. Later, the volunteer coordinator informed my friend he was not accepted as a volunteer at the zoo. I mailed the Director of the Brandywine Zoo a Notice of Disagreement, outlining why my friend disagreed with the denial of his volunteer application. Two week later, I received a letter that stated the zoo staff would like for my friend and I to be interviewed by five

managers. I was given specific rules to follow by the person that was administering the appeal that I followed carefully. As a result, my friend and I both received letters that offered the news that he can volunteer at the Brandywine Zoo.

In conclusion, I have worked hard in my military, civilian, and academic careers. I am especially proud of my receipt of the Good Conduct Medal. I made academic accomplishments at the University of the Rockies as well as Delaware Technical and Community College. I serve my community at the places where I interned and at the public library. I advocate for my friends, the patients that I interview, and I suggest policy changes to the people in charge to make improvements for programs. Lastly, I have been appointed by the Governor of Delaware to make regulations that impact medical professionals and the patients that come to them for treatment.

I ran for Mayor of New Castle, Delaware back in Spring of 2010. Back in December of 2014, Governor Markel had appointed me to be on a medical board. During the Spring of 2017, I ran for the City Clerk position uncontested and I campaigned. Victoriously, I reached out to 788 votes and I prepared for this important position and I am happy to serve the City of New Castle, Delaware. I am going interfacing with the public and doing my duties that are outline in the City Charter while I am proud to serve this wonderful City.