

Laurel Humphrey

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**From:** Gina Nielsen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 22, 2023 6:39 PM  
**To:** CityCouncil  
**Subject:** Application 2023-Council Position #3 - Gina Bernhardt Nielsen  
**Attachments:** Application2023-Council Position #3-Gina Bernhardt Nielsen.pdf

Hello Ms. Humphrey -

Attached you will find my application for the appointed Councilmember Position #3.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

I look forward to your response.

Have a wonderful weekend and Happy Holiday.

Gina Bernhardt Nielsen  
[REDACTED]

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# City of Tukwila

City Council

## Application for Vacancy by Appointment Tukwila City Council Position #3

### Applicant Information

Full Name	Gina Bernhardt Nielsen
Street Address	[REDACTED]
City, State, Zip	Tukwila, WA, 98168
Phone	[REDACTED]
E-Mail Address	[REDACTED]

### Eligibility Requirements, Notification and Signature

I understand that Councilmembers for the City of Tukwila must be registered voters in King County, Washington and must have lived in the City of Tukwila for 12 consecutive months prior to being appointed to office.

I understand that as an applicant for appointment to public office, the information provided on this application will be available to the public.

Signature	
Date	12/22/2023

### Additional Information

Are you a registered voter in King County, WA?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are you a resident of the City of Tukwila?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
How long have you been a resident of the City of Tukwila?	56 years	
How long have you lived at your current address?	30 years	
<i>If you have lived at your current address for less than 12 months, please list your previous address.</i>		
Previous address and length of time at address.		
n/a		
Do you or any family member residing in your household, have a financial interest in, or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency which conducts business with the City of Tukwila?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, please explain.		
I work for the City of Bellevue which may/may not conduct intergovernmental relations and regional business projects with the City of Tukwila.		

## Time Commitment

Appointment to the City Council will require your attendance at a number of regularly scheduled and special meetings, which occur at various times including evenings and weekends.

Councilmembers also serve on Council committees, regional boards and commissions, and represent the City Council at various community functions.

Council activities generally require a minimum time commitment of 10 to 15 hours per week. Are you able to commit this amount of time and can you commit to arrange your schedule to participate fully as a member of the Tukwila City Council?

YES

NO

Have you ever attended a Tukwila City Council meeting?

YES

NO

If yes, please estimate how many Council meetings you have attended in the past year.

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## Supplemental Questions

*Please respond to the following questions regarding your interest in the position of appointed Councilmember for the City of Tukwila.*

Why are you interested in serving as a Tukwila City Councilmember?

As a lifetime resident of the City of Tukwila I am fully vested in the health, prosperity, and continued growth of our community while still celebrating our history. During my lifetime, I've witnessed and been part of incredible waves of change in Tukwila. The changes have come in many forms ranging from expansion of our business districts to improvements with our infrastructures to the revitalization of Tukwila International Boulevard to redevelopment of our schools to a significantly increased diversity in our residential as well as visiting populations. These incredible changes have brought about incredible challenges as well as opportunities for our City. I recognize that in any organization it is critical that both are managed equally well.

In my 20 years working at the City of Bellevue change management has been a crucial part of my responsibilities. It is natural that people fear change; still, change is essential for successful growth. With the fluctuating dynamics of and diversity in the population in Tukwila it is now more important than ever to fully engage our community members in the City's actions and efforts in order to successfully meet or exceed the city goals. For this to work it is imperative that our community members from all ages, races, ethnicities, genders, affiliations, and economics statuses feel comfortable, included, and represented. City Council is the face of Tukwila and intended to be a well-rounded representation of our community.

As a City Councilmember I will have the opportunity to provide that representation and demonstrate fair and equitable leadership, to actively empower and encourage increased community involvement, to help maintain fiscal responsibility and accountability of city resources, to promote innovative, forward-thinking, sustainable growth while still including historical perspective, and finally to help further the reputation of our city as the place you want to be - your place to live, play, work, and grow.

Describe your background in community service, including any volunteer work you have done in or around Tukwila.

In addition to working full-time, I am a mother of five children, all of whom attended the Tukwila School District and graduated from Foster High School; with my youngest just recently graduating in June, 2023. While all were in school, I volunteered my time assisting in all their classrooms each year K-12, chaperoned nearly every field trip, and assisted with special events as needed. I was an assistant coach for their youth soccer teams. I also assisted in organizing food-drives as well as prepared team meals for the high school sports teams and volunteered my time during tournaments.

Throughout my lifetime I have been involved in a variety of additional community service opportunities from volunteering at food pantries and emergency shelters to neighborhood clean-up and special events in Tukwila, Seattle, and Bellevue. I have also spent the past five years as a volunteer care provider.

What do you think are the most important issues facing Tukwila in the next 2-4 years?

Tukwila is a uniquely positioned city in the Pacific Northwest. Situated between an International Airport and Seaport we benefit from both visitors and business opportunities. Our city is also complimented by the inclusion of the Department of Immigration and Naturalization Services, adding the to diversity in our community members. In combination with that, and still on the recovering end of the COVID-19 pandemic we have many important issues to address as follows:

- \* Housing and Food Insecurity
- \* Crime and Public Safety
- \* Development of a Sustainable Growth Plan, including Infrastructures
- \* Increase in Educational Rating
- \* Increase in Job Opportunities
- \* Expansion of Parks, Outdoor spaces, and Recreational/ Health/ Wellness Options

Describe your understanding of the importance of regional collaboration and partnership in city government.

Regional collaboration and partnership in city government is crucial, especially as a government agency. As a government agency we are tasked with providing services for our residents and community members, whether occupants, homeowners, visitors, employees, business owners, or investors. Our efforts at providing the best possible services and solutions are often done so with limited resources at any individual city level. Still, it is our charge to provide services in the most beneficial, economical and efficient manner as is possible. Similar types of community services are needed and often cross boundaries between cities or regions. Services such as social, health, housing, transportation, and financial assistance. Regional collaboration provides the opportunity to expand the level of services and potential funding available for the same. Partnerships provide expanded service options that might not otherwise exist solely within our own city limits and that can be extended to those in need without creating competitive services between cities or agencies. It helps to reduce redundancies, increase efficiencies, improve fiscal responsibility, and contributes to overall measurable performance metrics across the varying organizations. Regional collaboration and partnerships also ensure that the services in need can be best offered / performed / provided by the experts and so result in a better level of services.

Summarize your experiences working collaboratively with others from different backgrounds.

As part of my role at my current employer of 20 years I am a member of and liaison between many different committees, teams, departments, and lead on many projects involving external communications with vendors and different city representatives. My daily interactions in any of these situations are with Executive, Managerial, Supervisory, and General staff, as well as our Participants, Residents, Business Owners, etc. regardless of age, race, religion, gender, sexual identity, or economic status. I am a long-time public employee working for a city that embraces, encourages, and educates its staff on inclusion and diversity. I am a recent member of the City's EMBRACE Allies team which helps promote the City's Diversity Advantage Initiative which is rooted in the principles of equity, access, inclusion, opportunity and cultural competence.

Discuss your qualifications relevant to the position of Tukwila City Councilmember.

I am a 3rd generation, lifetime resident of and property owner in the City of Tukwila. I have been witness to and part of significant changes in our community over the past 50+ years. I have been actively engaged in advocating on behalf of my community members, often representing their concerns to business owners, city staff, administration, and Tukwila City Councilmembers as needed.

I have been a Business Process and Systems Analyst for the past 20 years working for the City of Bellevue. Change Management and Continual Process Improvement are core responsibilities of my daily work. I specialize in Project Evaluation and Management and Issue Resolution which requires departmental, interdepartmental, and external ongoing and transparent communications, negotiations, and innovation. Several of the more recent complex projects I've helped lead have had a very fast-paced, escalated and critical timeline requiring the ability to learn, evaluate, and make expedient decisions in order to move forward. Each of these projects resulted in success. I am skilled at presenting to and interacting with both large and small groups as well as interacting one-on-one. My role has also involved training staff so I clearly understand that people learn / retain / and communicate in many different ways for many different reasons. Understanding and being able to work with this is imperative when working with a diverse population. I've taken several communication classes and diversity trainings which have aided in my skill working with public. I also hold a Project Management Certification from Syracuse University and a BA in Economics from the University of Washington.

My qualifications are directly relevant to the body of work performed by Tukwila City Councilmembers. I am able to review, retain, analyze and make educated decisions or explore further on issues as presented. I enjoy working with public and am vested in the future of my community.

Please provide any additional information or comments you believe will assist the City Council in considering your application.

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*Thank you for your interest in serving the Tukwila community as a member of the Tukwila City Council.*