

Dear City Clerk Hughes and Members of the Saco City Council,

I am writing to express my interest in being considered for the vacant seat on the Saco City Council. As a resident of Saco and a longtime public servant who has spent much of my professional life working to strengthen our local communities, I would be honored to have the opportunity to serve the city I call home.

For many years I have had the privilege of working at McArthur Library in Biddeford where my career has focused on connecting people with the resources, opportunities, and services they need to thrive. As Youth Services Supervisor, I work every day with children, families, educators, and community partners. This work has given me a deep understanding of the needs of local families and the importance of strong, accessible public institutions.

While my professional work is based in Biddeford, I live in Saco and have a personal stake in the future of this community. I care deeply about the quality of life in Saco and about ensuring that our city remains a welcoming, vibrant, and inclusive place to live, work, and raise a family. I would welcome the opportunity to bring my professional experience in public service home to my community.

My family is also actively engaged in the Saco community. My wife, Melissa, currently serves as Chair of the Saco Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), and through her work I have acquired an appreciation for the importance of thoughtful civic engagement and planning for the future of our city. Our daughter, Astrid, attends Saco's public schools and is currently enrolled at Saco Middle School. As a parent of a child in the Saco school system, I have a personal investment in the success of our community and in ensuring that Saco continues to be a place where children and families can grow, learn, and thrive. Together, our family's involvement has reinforced for me the value of residents contributing their time, experience, and perspective to help make Saco a better place to live.

My work has taught me the importance of listening to people with different perspectives, finding common ground, making thoughtful decisions with limited resources, and ensuring that public institutions remain welcoming and accessible to everyone. It has also reinforced my belief that strong communities are built through collaboration—between residents, local government, schools, businesses, nonprofits, and other community organizations.

My professional experience in Biddeford has also given me a valuable perspective on the close connections between our neighboring communities. Residents of Saco and Biddeford share businesses, cultural events, parks, and many of the same regional challenges and opportunities. Working in public service has allowed me to build relationships throughout the area and to see firsthand how collaboration between communities can benefit everyone.

Throughout my career, I have worked to expand library programming, partnerships, and outreach, with a particular focus on creating meaningful opportunities for children and families. I

have seen firsthand how thoughtful investments in our communities can have a lasting impact. I would bring that same commitment to collaboration, accessibility, and responsible public service to the Saco City Council.

I believe my experience as a public servant, my professional understanding of our region, and, most importantly, my perspective as a Saco resident, parent, and member of this community would allow me to make a meaningful contribution to the City Council. I would approach the position with an open mind, a willingness to listen, and a commitment to working collaboratively toward the best interests of Saco and its residents.

Thank you for your consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss my interest and qualifications further and to learn more about the Council's priorities and the needs of the residents I would be honored to serve.

Sincerely,

John W. Shannon