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APR 28 2006
Rochester Hills
City Council

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME Cynthia J. Billings COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

ADDRESS 3092 Avalon, Roch. Hills, MI ZIP 48309

PHONE (home) 248.852.4234 PHONE (business) _____

ROCHESTER HILLS RESIDENT FOR 5 YEARS

OCCUPATION Attorney

BOARDS/COMMISSIONS ON WHICH YOU WANT TO SERVE I would be an excellent candidate for the General Employees Retirement System. In addition, I learn fast, and believe that I would add value to any board or commission to which I was appointed.

INTERESTS/REASONS/QUALIFICATIONS I would be excited for the opportunity to serve my community. My education and professional background make me extremely well qualified to serve the residents of Rochester Hills.

BOARDS/COMMISSIONS ON WHICH YOU HAVE SERVED (LIST MUNICIPALITIES AND DATES) Although I have not served on a municipal board, I serve as legal counsel to approximately 20 municipal retirement and health care systems' boards including Waterford, Pontiac, Berkley, Clawson, Marysville, Wyandotte, Inkster and Monroe, to name a few.

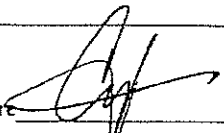
ELECTIVE OFFICES THAT YOU HAVE HELD None

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS In addition to the professional affiliations listed in my resume, I have, for the last five years, served as a Eucharistic Minister at Boulevard Hills Nursing Home, through a ministry sponsored by my church. Prior to this ministry, I regularly worked the soup kitchen at St. Leo's in Detroit.

EDUCATION Juris Doctorate, University of Detroit Mercy 1995; Bachelors of Business Administration, Finance, With Distinction, Walsh College 1991.

HOBBIES/INTERESTS Golf, gardening.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION _____

Signature  Date 4/28/06

Please send completed form to: City of Rochester Hills, Clerk's Office, 1000 Rochester Hills Drive, Rochester Hills, MI 48309 or FAX (248) 656-4744
THIS INFORMATION WILL BE KEPT ON FILE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE AND IS NOT CONFIDENTIAL. THE MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL AND OTHER APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL REVIEW QUESTIONNAIRES AS VACANCIES OR OPENINGS OCCUR ON THE VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.

3092 Avalon Road
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

Home Phone: 248.852.4234
Cell Phone: 248.709.0262
E-mail: cbillings@swapple.com

Cynthia J Billings

Objective To work with City Council members, the Mayor's office and citizens in meeting the challenges and opportunities facing the City and the residents of Rochester Hills.

Employment 1996 – Present SULLIVAN, WARD, ASHER & PATTON, P.C., Southfield, MI

Attorney as of 1996 / Partner as of 2000

- **Plan Documents** – Draft ordinance amendments, resolutions, policies, trust agreements, plan documents, summary plan descriptions and summary annual reports for all types and sizes of retirement systems, health insurance funds and other types of employee benefit programs, both private and public sector, with assets that range from \$25 million to several billion dollars and participants that range from several hundred to several thousand.
- **Interpretation of Local Ordinances, Statutes and City Charters (Public Sector Retirement Systems) and Plan Documents (Private Sector Retirement Systems)**– Provide legal opinions regarding the interpretation of eligibility rules, the calculation of benefit amounts, proper beneficiary designations, the qualification of both domestic relations orders and medical child support orders.
- **Trustee Meetings** – Conduct meetings in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act and Robert's Rules of Order. Report directly to boards of trustees of retirement and health systems to advise them with respect to legal issues related to their plan(s). Prepare minutes, agendas and coordinate with other service providers concerning board issues.
- **Budget** – Responsible for the preparation of a \$300,000 annual budget for a national employer association.
- **IRS/DOL Compliance** – Draft document amendments for compliance with Internal Revenue Service and Department of Labor (DOL) rules/regulations. Obtain IRS Determination Letters for all retirement systems represented. Negotiate settlements with IRS and DOL during plan audits.
- **Service Provider Contracts** – Negotiate all service provider contracts, including but not limited to, investment consultants, investment managers, custodians, actuaries, etc., to insure that the terms are in the best interest of my clients and are drafted in compliance with state and federal law.
- **Research** – Responsible for research concerning the Internal Revenue Code, ERISA, related regulations, letter rulings and opinions for up-to-date regulatory requirements.
- **Collective Bargaining** – Extensively involved in collective bargaining negotiations and interest and contract arbitration.
- **New Business Presentations** – Responsible for making presentations to prospective clients.

**Employment
Continued**

1993 – 1996 SULLIVAN, WARD, ASHER & PATTON, P.C., Southfield, MI

Law Clerk

Education

1995 - Juris Doctorate degree; University of Detroit Mercy

1991 - Bachelors of Business Administration in Finance, With Distinction; Walsh College

Professional Designations (CEBS, CPC)

- **CEBS** – Certified Employee Benefits Specialist designation, co-sponsored by the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans and the Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania (1997)
- **Pension Administrators Certification** – sponsored by the American Society of Pension Professionals and Actuaries (2002)
- **Certified Pension Consultant** – I am currently pursuing the Certified Pension Consultant designation sponsored by the American Society of Pension Professionals and Actuaries.

Affiliations

American Bar Association
Michigan Bar Association
International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans
MAPERS – Michigan Association of Public Employee Retirement Systems
NAPPA – National Association of Public Pension Attorneys

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APR 28 2006

Cynthia J. Billings
3092 Avalon
Rochester Hills, Michigan 48309
248.852.4234

Rochester Hills
City Council

April 28, 2006

Rochester Hills City Council
1000 Rochester Hills Drive
Rochester Hills, Michigan 48309

Re: City Council Vacancy

Dear Council Members:

Please accept this correspondence along with the enclosed Candidate Questionnaire and my resume as notice of my intent to apply for the vacant position on City Council.

I offer the following responses to the questions set forth in the Special Notice to Rochester Hills residents. For ease of reading, I have restated each question.

1. *Why do you want to serve as a City Council Member in the City of Rochester Hills? What would be your purpose in serving on the City Council? What do you want to achieve?*

Response:

I believe that in our current economic environment, it is becoming more and more difficult to allocate funds to meet the growing demands of our citizens. Competition for our dollars are increasing while state and federal revenue sharing are decreasing. As a result, it is often difficult to prioritize projects and appropriate necessary funds. My goal in serving as a City Council member in the City of Rochester Hills would be to work with the other Council members, the Mayor's office, and the citizens, to find creative solutions to issues facing the City and its residents.

I have always believed in the importance of public service and the role that not only our public servants undertake but that of many of its citizens. I learned the importance of community service from my courageous father who served for over 34 years as a fire fighter in the City of Detroit. My mother also believed in service as she served and saved many people during her lifelong career as a nurse.

I was taught to always serve my community through volunteer work and have diligently done so through the Detroit literacy program, teaching youths to read, volunteering at local hospitals, soup kitchens, and nursing homes. I would be honored to serve my community as a Council member.

2. *Aside from residency and age requirements, what qualifications do you bring to the position, and in particular what special or unique qualities do you believe you bring to the City Council and how will those qualities benefit the City and our residents.*

Response:

I have a very unique perspective on city politics in that I serve as legal counsel to approximately twenty municipal retirement and health care systems' boards of trustees. I believe that my education and professional background make me well qualified to serve the Rochester Hills community. As set forth in my attached resume, I have an undergraduate degree in finance from Walsh College and a juris doctorate degree from the University of Detroit Mercy. I believe that one of my strengths, a strength that has served me well professionally, is my ability to listen and empathize with the position of others. I feel it is important to have an open mind with respect to diverse views. I believe that these characteristics will be especially helpful with respect to concerns expressed by citizen groups and peers. As an attorney I understand the value of considering all the facts and views of an issue without favoring a particular agenda.

Finally, I would be committed to this position. I am aware, through my research, that your Council meetings are numerous, lengthy, and deal with complicated issues. I recognize this position is not one that may be taken lightly or undertaken without diligent preparation. I am prepared to make this commitment to the citizens of Rochester Hills, the Mayor, and City Council.

3. *Describe your view of the present state of the City of Rochester Hills and describe your vision of the City for the future. What needs to be accomplished to achieve your vision?*

Response:

I absolutely love living in Rochester Hills; I love the shopping, the restaurants, the park, Arts and Apples and the Christmas parade, just to name a few things. I feel safe here and while I have lived in other communities, none have compared to Rochester Hills. Looking around our community, one cannot help but notice the heavy traffic flow. I believe that a solution to improve the traffic flow is necessary and can happen through interaction with the surrounding communities, the county and the state in a cooperative effort to balance the needs of the communities while maintaining the quaint atmosphere that we have in this community.

Rochester Hills City Council

April 28, 2006

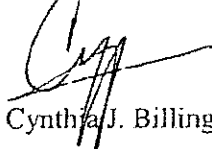
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I also believe that in order for Rochester Hills to continue to prosper, it is important that we continue to modify and improve on the assets and the services that we are fortunate enough to already have in place. A great example is the improvements that were made to City Hall. Such improvements enhance service and provide our citizens with better access to our local government.

It is important that we continue to offer events and services that not only attract people to our community but instill a sense of pride in our own residents. I firmly believe that such decisions must be guided by the citizens of our community.

I would like to express my appreciation for this opportunity and look forward to meeting with you to discuss my qualifications in further detail.

Very truly yours,



Cynthia J. Billings

Enclosure(s)

W0463204