

City of Asheville
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
Application Form

**APPLICANTS ARE STRONGLY URGED TO ATTEND SEVERAL MEETINGS
OF A BOARD PRIOR TO APPLYING AND/OR APPOINTMENT TO A BOARD**

Name of board or commission(s): Asheville City Council

Your name: Michael R. Kerr Home Phone #: 298-4631

Street address: 3 Silverstone Dr. City: Asheville Zip Code: 28805

Mailing address (if different): _____

Employer: Asheville Catholic School

Your position: middle school math/sci teacher Office Phone #: 252-7896

Resident of City Asheville County Buncombe Race Cauc * Sex M * Age 56 *

Are you a United States Citizen (circle one)? Yes or No

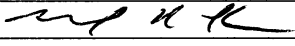
Residence location (check one): Central ___ North ___ South ___ East X West ___

How did you become aware of the opening? ___ Webpage ___ Current Volunteer
___ eNews ___ Government Channel ___ Newspaper ___ Radio X
Organization ___ Agenda ___ Other

Please indicate the area(s) of expertise that you can bring to the above board(s), and then in detail list education, experience, reasons for your interest, and other factors that support your interest in serving (use additional sheets if necessary). Expertise: ___
Legal ___ Technical ___ Fundraising ___ Community Contacts
___ Business Management (Financial) ___ Business Management (Operational)
___ Public Speaking

see resume

Return to:
Maggie Burluson, City Clerk
Post Office Box 7148
Asheville, N.C. 28802-7148
E-Mail: mburluson@ashevillenc.gov
Telephone: 259-5601
Fax #: 259-5499

Signature: 
Date: 24 Nov 08
E-Mail: morhkerr@charter.net
Fax #: _____

* This information is requested for the sole purpose of assuring that a cross section of the community is appointed.

MICHAEL R. KERR

OBJECTIVE:

Secure position with Asheville City Council

WORK OF EXPERIENCE

Oct 1974 - Oct 1975	US Air Force Pilot Training	Moody AFB, GA
Oct 1975 - Jan 1976	Pilot Instructor Training	Randolph AFB, TX
Jan 1976 - Jan 1979	Instructor Pilot (T-38)	Laughlin AFB, TX
Jan 1979 - Dec 1979	Helicopter Training	Ft Rucker, AL
Jul 1979 - Dec 1979	Helicopter Training (H-1N)	Kirkland AFB, NM
Jan 1980 - Jun 1982	Search and Rescue Pilot	Homestead AFB, FL
Jun 1982 - Jun 1985	Helicopter Instructor Pilot	Ft Rucker AL
Jun 1985 - Jun 1987	Test Pilot/Executive Officer	Eglin AFB, FL
Jun 1987 - Jun 1988	Army Command & Staff College	Ft Leavenworth KS
Jun 1988 - Jun 1989	United Nations Observer	Lebanon & Egypt
Jun 1989 - July 1992	Chief, Air Force Fescue Rescue Center	Scott AFB, IL
July 1992 - Aug 1994	Chief Central Command Rescue	Shaw AFB, SC
Aug 1974 - Present	Middle School Teacher	Asheville Catholic School Asheville NC

EDUCATION

Aug 1970 - Jun 1974	NC State University	BS Civil Engineering
Sept 1982 - July 1984	University of Southern California	MS Systems Management
Jan 1995 - Aug 1998	Mars Hill College	Teaching Certificate

REFERENCES

Available on request

1. What motivates you to apply for this position?

I have been motivated to serve my country since high school. I spent 20 years in the US Air Force and retired as a Lt. Col. Now I am a teacher of math and science in middle school.

My jobs in the Air Force varied from an instructor in fighter type jets to flying search and rescue missions here in the US looking for lost persons and flying MEDEVAC's of premature babies. As a director of military search and rescue for the lower 48 states and later as director of search and rescue for Desert Storm I showed the ability to lead and make decisions (many life and death). I then entered my career as a middle school teacher, again hoping that my leadership will help mold the future leaders of our world.

I would like to continue serving with a position on the Asheville City Council.

2. Where do you fall on the conservative-liberal spectrum in terms of fiscal and social policy?

On fiscal policy I feel I am a moderate conservative. On social issues I am moderate, but with a background in the sciences, I feel I make decisions with that kind analytical outlook.

3. In your eyes, what should be the top 2 or 3 priorities our City Council should be focused on in the upcoming year and why?

The first priority of any representative is to serve the people. To do that, I feel the government should do what it can to encourage a climate of good jobs and good education in the area.

Encouraging businesses to come to the Asheville area, and ensuring our children get good educations, will do much to ensure growth and continued prosperity in the area.

Working on these problems, I believe, will help solve a 3rd problem of making affordable housing available in the area.

4. What do you consider the most crucial problem, need, or cause for the citizens of Asheville? How would you approach its resolution or champion the cause?

I believe that Asheville lacks a real "vision" of what type of city it wants to be in the future. We "bill" ourselves as a "tourist" town, but having been around the country (and the world); I don't believe we really fit that mold. We could accomplish this with some planning and work.

Tourism may or not be our future. Another role (business, technology, transportation, or even a mix) may be our future. Studies need to be done to see what type of industries do well in this type of environment, and plans made to ready us for that role. Then the city council can lead Asheville into the future.

5. 2008-09 and 2009-10 fiscal years will be financially tough for the City. What will be your top funding priorities and what would you like to see reduced to balance the budget?

Money, the people's money, should be treated as a precious resource. Fiscal responsibility, especially in these times of job cuts, needs to be especially practiced by the government.

As a representative of the people, I would do what I could to make sure every dollar spent is really getting the city the most "bang for the buck", just like families in the area are having to do.

Frivolous type spending should be eliminated and money used to run the city for all the people, not just a privileged few or only the people with their own very vocal agendas.