

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: GORDON D. SMITH Home Phone #: (828) 279-2551

Street address: 49 EUCLID BLVD City: ASHEVILLE Zip Code: 28806

Mailing address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: SELF-EMPLOYED

Your position: CHILD AND FAMILY THERAPIST Office Phone #: (828) 252-7181

Resident of City ASHEVILLE County BUNCOMBE Race CAUCASIAN Sex M \* Age 38 \*

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

Residence location (check one): Central \_\_\_\_\_ North \_\_\_\_\_ South \_\_\_\_\_ East \_\_\_\_\_ West

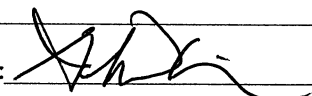
How did you become aware of the opening? \_\_\_\_\_ Webpage \_\_\_\_\_ Current Volunteer \_\_\_\_\_ eNews \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Government Channel \_\_\_\_\_ Newspaper \_\_\_\_\_ Radio \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Agenda  Other

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 attached resumé.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Return to:**  
Maggie Burleson, City Clerk  
Post Office Box 7148  
Asheville, N.C. 28802-7148

E-Mail: [mburleson@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:mburleson@ashevillenc.gov)  
Telephone: 259-5601  
Fax #: 259-5499

Signature: 

Date: 11-24-08

E-Mail: [gordonsmithasheville@yahoo.com](mailto:gordonsmithasheville@yahoo.com)

Fax #: (828) 252-7182

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

# GORDON SMITH

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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2008 – Present Looking Glass Center Asheville, NC

*Child and Family Therapist*

- Managing all aspects of mental health private practice including budgeting, marketing, billing, client care, and community partnerships.
- Providing outpatient counseling services to children, adolescents, adults, and families. Collaborating and consulting with psychiatrists, lawyers, primary care doctors, therapists, hospitals, school personnel, probation, and more.

2004 - 2008 Appalachian Counseling Asheville, NC

*Child and Family Therapist*

- Providing outpatient and school-based counseling services to children, adolescents, adults, families, and groups.
- Supervising interns and leading trainings re: group work, individual counseling, couples counseling, and professional orientation for Western Carolina University.

2003-2004 Mountain Laurel Community Services Brevard, NC

*Child and Family Therapist*

- Providing outpatient and school-based counseling services. Providing hospital consultations and emergency services. Executing case management responsibilities.

2002-2003 Mountain Laurel Community Services Hendersonville, NC

*In-home Intensive Counselor*

- Providing In-home individual and family counseling and case management services in cooperation with Henderson County Department of Social Services. Testifying in custody cases. Providing on-call emergency services. Collaborating with DSS, probation, mental health, substance abuse, school personnel.

2000-2001 Solution Therapy Associates Asheville, NC

*Counselor*

- Initially serving as an intern during graduate education. Received comprehensive training. Working with broad variety of populations.

1997-1999 Gateway Community Mental Health Brunswick, GA  
*After-school Program Director*

- Directing after school activities and treatment for middle school aged children with mental health diagnoses. Coordinating a staff of five.

#### EDUCATION AND LICENSURE

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1999-2001 Western Carolina University Cullowhee, NC  
*M.S. Community Counseling*

1991-1993 Warren Wilson College Swannanoa, NC  
*B.A. English*

Licensed Professional Counselor #4379 North Carolina  
*October, 2002*

#### VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

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March, 1994 – June, 1996 **Brethren Volunteer Service**

Coordinating Community Reconciliation project for teenagers in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Directed all facets of recruitment, transportation, program building, and community outreach for a youth club of 120 members.

June 2004 – present **Scrutiny Hooligans**

Founder and co-writer of Scrutiny Hooligans, a political blog which concentrates on advocacy and empowerment regarding local, state, and national issues. In October 2008, the site had 26,000 visits.

May 2005 – present **BlogAsheville**

Co-leading BlogAsheville, a collection of area blogs now numbering over 150 members. Organizing 2008 BlogAsheville Awards event raising \$1,000 for AHOPE.

December 2005 – 2008 **Drinking Liberally**

Co-host of Drinking Liberally. Led groups in bringing political conversation back into public spaces through encouraging community and personal empowerment.

July 2006 – present **Western Carolina University**

Providing professional orientation workshops for Western Carolina University students. Training counselors in use of DBT/CBT groups. Member of CACREP accreditation advisory board for Western Carolina University.

October 2008 – present

**Media Arts Project**

Board Member for Asheville's Media Arts Project (MAP). The MAP provides exhibition programming, professional development, outreach, and education. The MAP holds that arts are integral to the vibrant cultural and economic life of the region.

REFERENCES

**Holly Jones**, YWCA Director, outgoing Asheville City Councilwoman, Commissioner-elect to Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

(828) 254-7209; hollyj@buncombe.main.nc.us

**Charles Thomas**, outgoing NC Representative for District 116, and President of Thomas Wealth Management:

(828) 274-4002; charles@thomaswealth.com

**Amy Sawyer**, Director of Asheville Homelessness Initiative

(302) 893-2682; asawyer@ashevillenc.gov

**Michael Muller**, campaign consultant and former campaign manager for Nathan Ramsey and Dr. Carl Mumpower:

(828) 275-5522; mullermail@mac.com

Additional references available upon request

### **1. What motivates you to apply for this position?**

As a businessman, community organizer, and active citizen of Asheville, I will bring a unique skill set to the difficult decisions that City Council faces over the next eleven months. My entire adult life has been spent serving others, solving problems, and creating opportunities. The chance to exercise these values in government compels me to apply for this position.

Good government makes lives better. I'd like to be able to steer our city towards greater sustainability, defuse the emotionally charged debate over development, and help Asheville's citizens understand how government affects their everyday lives in important ways.

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

Fiscal and social policies are inherently intertwined. I believe in balanced budgets, excellence in service provision, and the notion that good governance works for the good of all the people. Asheville's citizens ought to be able to get a good education and live in neighborhoods free from violence. They ought to have access to health care, good jobs, and affordable housing without fear of discrimination.

The conventional wisdom would likely gauge my political views as fiscally moderate and socially liberal, but in practice we're all aware that budget policy has profound social ramifications and that social policy has important economic impacts. Behaving responsibly, professionally, and with the greater good of the municipality in mind is neither liberal nor conservative. It is simply doing one's best to maintain a quality of government worthy of the citizens' respect.

### **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?**

While many facets of our national economic crisis remain unpredictable, it's clear that Council's greatest priority this year will be to responsibly balance the budget. We can also keep our eyes on the future and work to encourage increased sustainability in areas of energy, transportation, and small business. This will not be our last economic downturn, and greater sustainability will serve to insulate and buffer Asheville from the impact of subsequent recessionary periods.

As construction starts decline, the City will also have an opportunity to proactively address two important city planning and development issues: Passing a downtown master plan and reforming the Unified Development Ordinances. Some developers have complained that the Council's expectations for their projects are difficult to predict. When the master plan is passed and the UDO is simplified, then developers can feel free to initiate new projects with a clear understanding of their responsibilities to the community.

Affordable housing is a perennial issue for Asheville, and each year we must continue to increase housing opportunities for working people or see them pushed out of the city. Our economic health will be improved by having people live, work, and spend their dollars locally. Hand-in-hand with local jobs and affordable housing is public transportation.

**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?**

The most crucial problem is balancing the budget while maintaining vital services. That need is addressed in the next question.

Continually moving towards greater sustainability, indicated by keeping local money in the local economy and encouraging the growth of small business, is the most prudent approach Council can take to strengthen Asheville's future. Asheville is proud to be a top tourist destination, but depending on tourism for our economic well-being leaves us susceptible to too much revenue variability. To promote sustainability, Council can:

- create a more progressive fee schedule for new development, prioritizing affordable housing and green building.
- begin to craft a regional water plan in cooperation with the various governmental entities to ensure this resource is effectively and fairly managed.
- continue the City's progress towards establishing green guidelines.
- respond quickly to new federal initiatives as they emerge. Indications are that an Obama administration will create a public works program to stimulate the economy and begin a transformation of America's energy future.
- create jobs through building on our nascent alternative energy infrastructure and entrepreneurship.

**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?**

Reducing expenditures will be our first priority. We will remain flexible in order to adjust to changing conditions, but we must seek immediate deep cuts. I support pulling out of the Biltmore Avenue parking garage subsidization (\$500,000 in FY 08-09), returning \$400,000 from the Civic Center Capital Fund back to the general fund, postponing \$1.6 million in new vehicle purchases, postponing \$200,000 towards development review process technology improvements, saving \$75,000 by making the municipal golf course revenue neutral, suspending the City's \$75,000 contribution towards public art and the urban trail.

It will also be worth looking at the construction of the Azalea Park Pond (\$198,000) and installation of wayfinding signs in Wall St. parking garage (\$50,000).

Areas that ought to be safeguarded from any cuts include: Water Resources Fund, Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Affordable Housing Infill Development Incentive, Public Safety Department, Homeless Initiative, and the Transit Services Fund.

Thank you for reviewing my application.