

**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): City Council

Your name: Linda Carol Williams Home Phone #: (828) 230-6283

Street address: 1680 Hendersonville Road City: Asheville Zip Code: 28803

Mailing address (if different): P. O. Box 15126, Asheville, NC 28813

Employer: Asheville City Schools Preschool

Your position: Teacher Assistant Office Phone #: (828) 255-5423

Resident of City Asheville County Buncombe Race White \* Sex Female \* Age 55 \*

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

Career experience has included the practice of law for governmental entities: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

E-Mail: mburleson@ashevillenc.gov  
Telephone: 259-5601  
Fax #: 259-5499

Signature: Linda Carol Williams

Date: 11/26/08

E-Mail: linda.carol@yahoo.com

Fax #: 828-277-3638

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

## LINDA CAROL WILLIAMS

Post Office Box 15126, Asheville, NC 28813-0126  
Telephone: 828-230-6283; E-mail: [linda.carol@yahoo.com](mailto:linda.carol@yahoo.com)

### PERSONAL STATEMENT

The opportunity and honor of serving as a member of the Asheville City Council would allow the fullest expression of my skills and abilities for service to the public. Asheville has been my adopted home since 2005. I first visited in 1998 and began to prepare for an eventual move here. After growing up in New York City, and spending my early adult life in Florida, I now enjoy the many exciting virtues of a cosmopolitan and lovely Asheville community, where I can offer in exchange, the strongest combination of skills in law, education, and the arts.

### CAREER EXPERIENCES AND HONORS

#### *Teacher Assistant, Asheville City Schools (ACS) Preschool, Asheville, NC, 2007-2008 sch yr to present.*

Serving as full-time teacher assistant in "floater" capacity, performing a variety of administrative and other support services for a population of ethnically-diverse teachers, students and families. Began service as ACS substitute teacher; then, teacher assistant under contract for summer.

#### *Leadership Asheville 25, University of North Carolina at Asheville, Asheville, NC, 2006-2007.*

Honored with selection for opportunity to participate in ten-month Leadership Asheville program to develop knowledge and skills for transformational community leadership and to develop network of individuals also committed to the betterment of Asheville.

#### *Private Practice Attorney, Asheville, NC, 2005-2007.*

♦ Attorney, Linda Carol, P.A., established office to provide services in real property, environmental and infrastructure law; worked on court-appointed juvenile and child support matters; and *pro bono* cases including probate/guardianship for family member; *pro bono* counseling on med mal, child abuse, criminal liability, consumer matters for church members; and MAVL-PLS cases.

♦ Associate, Wimer & Jobe, worked on state and federal civil and administrative cases including employment, gender discrimination, personal injury, insurance, consumer law, Social Security disability, class action, federal diversity, partnership, and tribal authority.

♦ Adjunct Instructor, South College-Asheville: taught Business Law to Legal Studies students for three quarters.

#### *Assistant Project Director/Associate, Edward M. Kennedy Oral History Project, University of Virginia, Miller Center of Public Affairs, Charlottesville, VA, 2005.*

Carried out oral history interview program administration including planning, correspondence, travel arrangements, audio production, and interview content summarization.

#### *Assistant County Attorney, County Attorney's Office, Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners, Port Charlotte, FL, 2003-2004.*

Began service as contract attorney and became permanent employee, working on various matters pertaining to land use, including comprehensive plan amendments, zoning issues, subdivision and infrastructure planning, building moratoria, legislation, civil litigation and mediation, counseling boards and committees, drafting and reviewing documents for legislation, litigation, procurement, construction and bond issues, emergency

management, telecommunications, franchise agreements, real estate leases, easements, releases of easement, letters, agreements, financing department documents including grants review.

***Audit Integration Manager & Marketing Writer/Specialist/Coordinator, SpectraSite Communications, Inc., Cary, NC, 1999-2002.***

Began service as contract attorney from Robert Half International, and became permanent employee: audited 2,000+ tower acquisition portfolio for legal and technical document compliance and sufficiency issues, data validation and integration for wireless communications property management and construction company; then, served as marketing communications writer and marketing team member for international staff and client services.

***Assistant General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, FL, 1996-1999.***

Provided legal services on matters concerning petroleum storage tank regulations and contamination cleanup program, engaging in rulemaking activities, meeting with industry and interested parties to reach consensus on rule language and storage tank inspection standard operating procedures; worked on time extension orders and litigation at appellate and administrative hearing levels, participated in state-wide "road show" to present seminars on tanks rules; presented talks on hydrologic system and sources of groundwater contamination and on public records law; wrote educational materials to counsel and enable informed decisions; honored with 1998 Leatherback Award for customer service.

***Special Disability Trust Fund Attorney, State of Florida Department of Labor & Employment Security, Division of Workers' Compensation, Tallahassee, FL, 1996.***

Provided legal services in OPS (other personnel services) temporary hire position for statutory second injury fund under Workers' Compensation insurance program, working on review of medical records submitted with reimbursement applications, negotiating settlement agreements, and litigation preparation including depositions.

***Florida House of Representatives Legislative Intern, Tallahassee, FL, 1995-1996.***

Honored with selection as one of 35 interns from pool of 350 applicants for this one year position with tuition grant and monthly stipend. Performed staff services for House Committee on Regulated Industries, encompassing pari-mutuels, lottery, bingo, alcohol and tobacco legislation and research. Work required research on international, tribal, federal, state and administrative law matters, writing memoranda and side-by-side comparisons, bill analyses, case summaries, and staffing committee meetings.

## EDUCATION

*Multiple semester-long courses, continuing education classes and seminars have been pursued post-degrees in geological hazards assessment, life cycle methodology, business law, writing, marketing, and other subjects .*

*Juris Doctor, Law, Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL, 1996.*

- ◆ Florida State University coursework including International Trade Seminar in which I studied NAFTA, wrote on tomato dispute with Mexico impacting Florida farmers, Tax Ethics, Fundamental Financial Concepts, Tallahassee, FL.
- ◆ University of San Diego, Institute on International and Comparative Law: summer studies in Public International Law, Legal Philosophy, and Law of the Sea Treaty, Magdalen College at Oxford, England, UK.
- ◆ Judicial Administration Internship: supporting law clerks and judges with research, drafting memoranda and

orders for 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Circuit Court, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

*Master of Arts, Fine Arts and Education, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, 1983.*

◆ Masters Thesis Project: photographic teaching essay created after living abroad for five months, using images from France and Italy; incorporating technical subject matter and a visual library for study as well as for other media pursuits.

◆ Arts Management Internship: completed mailing list project for fundraising efforts that included preparing budget, defining and compiling potential donor list, proposed event and collateral for Arts Council of Tampa.

*Bachelor of Arts, Integrated Studies, City University of New York, Staten Island, NY, 1976.*

◆ Collegium Musicum, vocalist in musical ensemble at Wagner College using ancient instruments and performing at various city venues.

◆ Wagner College Choir, member in touring choir that practiced five times per week and traveled from New York as far as Minnesota and Florida for annual two-week road tours.

### BAR ADMISSIONS

North Carolina 2001; Florida 1996; United States District Court, Middle District of Florida 2003

### SOME SERVICE & PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & SKILLS INCLUDE

- ◆ The League of Women Voters of Asheville-Buncombe County, Volunteer and Recording Secretary
- ◆ Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentors in the School, Port Charlotte
- ◆ Toastmasters International
- ◆ The Florida Bar Media & Communications Law Standing Committee
- ◆ The Florida Bar Consumer Protection Committee
- ◆ The Florida Bar Real Property, Probate & Trust Law Executive Council, Governmental Regulation of Real Estate
- ◆ Volunteer teacher for migrant Spanish-speaking adults learning English
- ◆ Skilled in PC & MAC operating systems, multiple software programs for business and graphic arts
- ◆ Languages: native U.S. English, fluency in French, working knowledge of Spanish
- ◆ Real Estate Licensure: Florida 1979; North Carolina 2006
- ◆ Teacher Licensure: Florida 1983; North Carolina 2007

1. What motivates you to apply for this position?

My sole motivation for applying for this role is a desire to serve the public as an advocate for Asheville, who will faithfully perform the serious responsibilities entrusted to me. I would endeavor to consider all relevant facts to make informed choices in every policy decision; to analyze long and short term impacts of Council decisions; and to maximize the potential benefits for the City that may be derived from the assets of Asheville for both present and future generations, by fostering the highest quality of life for residents, and by offering a welcoming environment for visitors. I envision Asheville with abundant opportunities that are the bounty of a truly healthy and prosperous city, that will someday serve as a model for other cities to follow. I would like to listen to and represent the voices of all Asheville citizens on matters before the City Council.

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

My views emphasize the rights of citizens to enjoy equality of opportunity for both individuals and business interests. The term "liberal" generally means favorable to progress or reform, having view or policies advocating individual freedom of action and expression, freedom from prejudice or bigotry, and not bound by conventional ideas or values, so perhaps I might be considered somewhat liberal. However, my interpretation of any issue would require tailored responses depending upon facts and circumstances. I see the unity of our mutual interests as we create a city we are both proud of and prosper in together. I see a community that is working well together.

Each policy matter should to be considered on its own merits without an across-the-board mandate from a specific party platform or interest. I wouldn't choose "change" just to do something different, but I wouldn't cling to the traditional or try to resurrect the past unless there is a benefit to Asheville. I would not avoid wrestling with challenges necessitated by a fresh look at circumstances in the present, or in consideration of future outcomes. I have personally thrived on change and can recommend it, in general. As a member of Asheville City Council, I would support the rule of law, freedom of speech and thought, an individual's right to enjoy private property, and policies to promote free and fair trade that would encourage well-paying jobs, affordable housing for all, and an inclusive community spirit that aptly expresses excitement about our diverse and multi-faceted city, our rich history, and the abundant natural beauty surrounding us.

In this age of enlightenment (of our own creation), all citizens have equal rights by law. The liberal spectrum should encompass an the economic system is based on free markets to help generate an efficient and prosperous market. This would be the driving force of my fiscal policy to ensure the rights of all citizens of Asheville.

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 top priorities for our City Council should be expanding our economy beyond the tourism sector and service jobs, especially by encouraging a green economy which would be very timely as we are urgently noting the challenges of global warming and economic downturn. Asheville is ideally positioned with many potential former manufacturing sites, now underutilized, that might qualify to become brownfields-designated sites, attracting clean and green manufacturing jobs, and enabling economic incentives under existing federal and state programs. We also have an enthusiastic education community poised to provide the necessary educational programs and training facilities. Asheville is positioned to foster the genesis of a green workforce for the WNC region extending into neighboring states, and global economies. Building on our infrastructure and facilitating affordable housing through high density sustainable development are essential goals but building a prosperous community with solid companies and good jobs will advance these matters as well.

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 financial situation of the working class is a crucial problem that challenges our community, although the challenges are nationwide and even global. We have a huge gang population and crime-ridden neighborhoods, which would be mitigated by economic prosperity. Lack of economic opportunities leads the educated youth to move away from Asheville, and the despair of many who are not included in our dreams and goals of prosperity leads to bad choices and behavior. Asheville is a caring community and WNC has a high number of nonprofit organizations. However, what we need most is good jobs.

As I stated in Essay 3, I would like to see an expansion of Asheville's economy, particularly by making strong efforts in the creation of a green manufacturing, and by the supporting roles of education and training for such jobs, and marketing of the related products and services.

I am personally skilled in matters to champion this effort because of my experience as a government lawyer for the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners, counseling Commissioners and multiple advisory boards, and departmental staff including Purchasing; Florida's Department of Environmental Protection, working with petroleum contamination issues which were interrelated with brownfields regulation; at the Florida House of Representatives, working in statutory law and research for various state and federal matters; at SpectraSite Communications, an international tower consolidator, working in asset auditing and marketing in the wireless telecommunications industry. In addition, my work as an educator, graphic artist, Realtor®-Associate, and marketer, and participation in an entrepreneurial support group at the Darden School, University of Virginia, and other business experience, enables me to generate the kind of planning that Asheville needs to succeed in this venue.

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?

I would like to encourage funding for economic development projects with emphasis on re-developing Asheville, especially with renovations utilizing green solutions; marketing Asheville's visibility as a desirable lifestyle and tourist destination in the global economy; increasing business partnerships with Asheville City Schools for various ventures and adventures; and fostering new business partnerships with our sister cities, and bringing in new "sisters."

To save money on staff time and efforts, I would like to see land development processes consolidated and streamlined, and procedures made simpler and clearer to provide better notice to potential developers of what they must do to obtain permitting approvals, depending on the size and scope of projects. It's essential to provide an estimated timeline for planning and approvals that allows for obtaining public input and feedback in a more expedient fashion. Standards of compliance for engineering should be clear so that notice is served. This will save Asheville money in the long run, especially in terms of perception of a business-friendly environment.

We can also be sure that we plan well for Asheville's budget by asking the right questions, and making good use of the skills of our advisory board and commission members.

\*\*\*\*\*