
Name of Council Member

Endorsement

CONTESTED APPOINTMENTS

Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee

(2-year term)

1 Citizen Member

_____ Karen Graf

_____ Aminata Ly

_____ EmilyGrace Mate

_____ Ira Sockowitz

Personal Data Record Form

Profile**FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION**

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New Applicant or Current Member☒ New Applicant

Karen

First Name

Graf

Last Name

Email Address

Date of Birth**Place of Birth****Home Address**

Street Address

City

Suite or Apt

State

22305

Postal Code

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Employer

Job Title

Applicants may only apply for **ONE** board/commission/committee at a time.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Budget And Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee: Submitted

Karen Graf

Type of Position/Role

CITIZEN AT LARGE

Demographics

Do you currently live in the City of Alexandria?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, how long?

17 years

Have you ever attended a meeting of the Board or Commission for which you are applying?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Have you ever served the City of Alexandria in any capacity?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please explain

I served six years on the Alexandria City School Board and participated in several city committees (Children, Youth and Family Commission (2016-2019), Long Range Educational Facilities Planning (2013-2017), Joint City and Schools Committee (2013-2017)).

Question applies to Budget And Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee

Are you a resident of and residing in the City of Alexandria and will continue to do so during the term of appointment?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to Budget And Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee

Are you an officer or director of any organization that receives appropriations or grants through the City of Alexandria?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Interests & Experiences

Statement of Interest/Why You Should Be Appointed

My past work on the Alexandria City School Board sparked my interest in budget and finance policy for both the city and schools. Currently, I am interested in helping our city to focus on the future and rebuild after this pandemic has challenged some of our city's long-term plans. I have had a variety of experience in the past working with the city's long-term plans, goals for infrastructure, and the growth of social equity plans. During my six years on the School Board, four of which I was School Board Chair, I participated in:

- overseeing six years of annual School Board operating and capital budgets - starting a Budget Advisory Committee to advise the School Board - strengthening the relationship between BAC and BFAAC - analyzing and rewriting all the finance policies with my School Board colleagues - serving on the Long Range Educational Facilities Plan Work Group

Due to this involvement, I will be able to jump in and get started without a large learning curve. Along with my knowledge of the annual budgets, I can contribute my experience by helping to reform and reprioritize the next ten to twenty years because of my familiarity with several past versions of capital long-term plans. While I had been in a position of working with the numbers of budgets, I understand that the main job of BFAAC is to help Council set a philosophy for the annual operating and capital budgets and advise on improvements for budget procedures and processes. I am experienced at understanding the tough trade-offs in budgeting for a city. With that understanding, I can help craft reports for Council using innovative ideas for capturing as many of the city's long-term and short-term priorities as possible. I am interested in having the opportunity to be a contributor to the work of the City Council and the City Manager as our city repositions itself post-pandemic to move into the future. I hope you will consider my application for the Citizen-at-large position on BFAAC.

Are you currently a member of a City Board, Commission, Committee or Authority?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list the board:

How many terms have you served on this board?

If you have served more than two consecutive terms on this board, please state the specific qualifications you possess which merit consideration for continued service:

Have you applied for a position on a City Board, Commission, Committee or Authority in the last six months?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please state the names of the boards for which you have applied

[Upload a Resume](#)

Are you now paid by the City of Alexandria?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please state your department, job title, and describe your duties:

Do any of your immediate relatives or business associates now serve the City of Alexandria in any capacity?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please explain:

Attendance Requirements: Sec. 2-4-7 of the City Code requires appointees to attend at least 75% of the yearly committee meetings. Absences may be excused because of personal illness or serious illness of members of the immediate family, death of a family member, unscheduled business trips and emergency work assignments only. All other absences are recorded as unexcused. In light of the aforementioned statement, will you be able to attend at least 75% of the regular meetings of the board which you may be appointed?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If applicable, will you comply with the provisions of the City's conflict of interest requirements in City Ordinance 2867?

☐ Yes ☐ No

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND (Please list certificates, diplomas, degrees, seminars, etc.):

Master of Science in Technical Communications, Emphasis in Computer Science: 1995
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY, BOSTON, MA Bachelor of Arts in English, Minor in American Studies,
Certificate in Technical Writing: 1992 CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO, CA

SUMMARY OF WORK AND PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE (Please list titles and duties for the past five years):

1. Communications Specialist (contractor) | MARKITECTURE • Prepared communication analysis for agriculture non-profit organization. • Wrote and posted social media for architect firm. • Wrote web content for vision care non-profit. 2. Technical Writer/Editor (contractor) | THE ADVANCED DISTRIBUTED LEARNING (ADL) INITIATIVE/SIMS, INC. • Prepared press releases, web content, and social media posts. • Rebuilt the organizational website. 3. School Board Chair and Member | ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, ALEXANDRIA, VA • Performed a wide range of tasks toward the improvement of division performance in collaboration with the superintendent and eight board members. • Served as elected school board chair for four consecutive years; local, state, and national legislative representative for the school system. • Developed policies in support of the school's division operations. • Managed all aspects of communications and public relations for the school board. • Expertly strategized for a 10-year capital improvement budget of more than \$500M and an operating budget of more than \$250M. • Oversaw board operations, including procuring auditing services, hiring superintendent and clerks, and resolving legal issues.

REFERENCES (Please list names and addresses of four references that you have contacted and support your application).

Non-Discrimination Data Supplemental Questions

Karen Graf

Personal Data Record Form

Profile**FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION**

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New Applicant or Current Member

☒ New Applicant

Aminata

First Name

Ly

Last Name

Email Address

Date of Birth**Place of Birth**

Home Address

Street Address

City

Primary Phone

Suite or Apt

State

22311

Postal Code

Alternate Phone

Employer

Job Title

Applicants may only apply for **ONE** board/commission/committee at a time.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Budget And Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee: Submitted

Aminata Ly

Type of Position/Role

Demographics

Do you currently live in the City of Alexandria?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, how long?

25 years

Have you ever attended a meeting of the Board or Commission for which you are applying?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Have you ever served the City of Alexandria in any capacity?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please explain

Question applies to Budget And Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee

Are you a resident of and residing in the City of Alexandria and will continue to do so during the term of appointment?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to Budget And Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee

Are you an officer or director of any organization that receives appropriations or grants through the City of Alexandria?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Interests & Experiences

Statement of Interest/Why You Should Be Appointed

I have been a resident and student of Alexandria for over 25 years, where I have attended Elementary, Middle and High School. I have been in the Accounting/Finance industry for over 15 years with extensive experience in budgeting and fiscal year forecasting. I am a certified tax preparer and have volunteered with the Alexandria City Human Services to provide free tax help for low-to-moderate income families who needed assistance preparing their tax returns and tax counseling. I have served on the Northern Virginia Urban League Young Professionals Network Board as Secretary and Treasurer for 4 consecutive years.

Are you currently a member of a City Board, Commission, Committee or Authority?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list the board:

How many terms have you served on this board?

If you have served more than two consecutive terms on this board, please state the specific qualifications you possess which merit consideration for continued service:

Have you applied for a position on a City Board, Commission, Committee or Authority in the last six months?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please state the names of the boards for which you have applied

[Upload a Resume](#)

Are you now paid by the City of Alexandria?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please state your department, job title, and describe your duties:

Do any of your immediate relatives or business associates now serve the City of Alexandria in any capacity?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please explain:

Attendance Requirements: Sec. 2-4-7 of the City Code requires appointees to attend at least 75% of the yearly committee meetings. Absences may be excused because of personal illness or serious illness of members of the immediate family, death of a family member, unscheduled business trips and emergency work assignments only. All other absences are recorded as unexcused. In light of the aforementioned statement, will you be able to attend at least 75% of the regular meetings of the board which you may be appointed?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If applicable, will you comply with the provisions of the City's conflict of interest requirements in City Ordinance 2867?

☒ Yes ☐ No

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND (Please list certificates, diplomas, degrees, seminars, etc.):

Masters in Business Management, Harvard University Bachelor in Accounting, George Mason University Certificate in Strategic Management, Harvard University Certified Tax Preparer

SUMMARY OF WORK AND PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE (Please list titles and duties for the past five years):

*Senior Billing Accountant- Preparing monthly government invoices, reviewing client accounts, ensured adherence to all relevant standards and principles of GAAP and FAR. *Senior Project Accountant- Reviewed government contracts for billing purposes, Analyzed contracts yearly budgets, Interacted with Project Management team to ensure continues compliance with Federal Government contracts and invoicing. *Senior Financial Accountant- Ensured the general ledger was maintained monthly, recorded journal entries and other accounting functions for month-end reconciliations of accounts. Assisted in preparation of tax returns including federal/state income, sales and personal property.

REFERENCES (Please list names and addresses of four references that you have contacted and support your application).

[Redacted references section]

Non-Discrimination Data Supplemental Questions

By submitting this application electronically, I hereby certify that all information contained herein is true and complete and that the transaction will be subject to the Virginia Uniform Electronic Transactions Act..

Personal Data Record Form**Profile****FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION**

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New Applicant or Current Member☒ New Applicant

Emilygrace

First Name

Mate

Last Name

Email Address

Date of Birth**Place of Birth****Home Address**

Street Address

Suite or Apt

City

State

22314

Postal Code

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

FCM

Employer

Director

Job Title

Applicants may only apply for **ONE** board/commission/committee at a time.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Budget And Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee: Submitted

Emilygrace Mate

Type of Position/Role

Citizen

Demographics

Do you currently live in the City of Alexandria?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, how long?

2.5 years

Have you ever attended a meeting of the Board or Commission for which you are applying?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Have you ever served the City of Alexandria in any capacity?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please explain

Question applies to Budget And Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee

Are you a resident of and residing in the City of Alexandria and will continue to do so during the term of appointment?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to Budget And Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee

Are you an officer or director of any organization that receives appropriations or grants through the City of Alexandria?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Interests & Experiences

Statement of Interest/Why You Should Be Appointed

I have an undergraduate degree in Corporate Finance as well as Financial Services. I was a financial analyst for over 5 years and have 16 years of process improvement experience (certified Master Black Belt) working with many finance and accounting groups both in and out of government on process improvements. I have managed the planning, funding, and execution of budgets as a program manager, built and executed the budget when I ran my own LLC, and assisted in overseeing and participating in the Department of the Navy's budgeting process. At the Department of the Navy, I assisted in drafting and writing the fiscal guidance which was based on the strategy and goals for the Department, which I also help draft. In my current role, I work with both private and public companies to support productivity plays, which examine the use of funds and how to achieve yearly savings for organizations. I am interested in serving in my community and believe given my background and experience, I would be able to contribute meaningfully to this committee.

Are you currently a member of a City Board, Commission, Committee or Authority?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please list the board:

How many terms have you served on this board?

0

If you have served more than two consecutive terms on this board, please state the specific qualifications you possess which merit consideration for continued service:

Have you applied for a position on a City Board, Commission, Committee or Authority in the last six months?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please state the names of the boards for which you have applied

Criminal Justice Reform Board

[Upload a Resume](#)

Are you now paid by the City of Alexandria?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please state your department, job title, and describe your duties:

Do any of your immediate relatives or business associates now serve the City of Alexandria in any capacity?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Emilygrace Mate

If yes, please explain:

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☒ Yes ☐ No

If applicable, will you comply with the provisions of the City's conflict of interest requirements in City Ordinance 2867?

☒ Yes ☐ No

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND (Please list certificates, diplomas, degrees, seminars, etc.):

M.B.A. (Marketing) M.S. in Strategic Technology Intelligence B.S. (Corporate Finance and Financial Services) Human Centered Design (HCD) Instructor Graduate Certificate in Entrepreneurship Graduate Certificate in Legislative Studies

SUMMARY OF WORK AND PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE (Please list titles and duties for the past five years):

Consultant - Assists clients in finding and driving cost productivity through optimization of an organization's operational design and scale, business process improvement, global talent strategy, technology and procurement optimization, and real estate rationalization Chief of Staff to the Secretary of the Navy - Worked across the national security arena on the Secretary's behalf to shape policies, programs, and outcomes to advance DoN priorities. Consultant - Provided environmental assessments, development of corporate strategic plans, identification of business operations improvements and creation of business development plans

REFERENCES (Please list names and addresses of four references that you have contacted and support your application).

[Redacted references section]

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Emilygrace Mate

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New Applicant or Current Member

☒ New Applicant

Ira

First Name

Sackowitz

Last Name

Email Address

Date of Birth**Place of Birth**

Home Address

Street Address

Suite or Apt

City

State

22314

Postal Code

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

HFG Enterprises, Inc.

Employer

President

Job Title

Applicants may only apply for **ONE** board/commission/committee at a time.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Budget And Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee: Submitted

Type of Position/Role

Citizen

Demographics

Do you currently live in the City of Alexandria?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, how long?

7 years, 9 months

Have you ever attended a meeting of the Board or Commission for which you are applying?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Have you ever served the City of Alexandria in any capacity?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please explain

Question applies to Budget And Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee

Are you a resident of and residing in the City of Alexandria and will continue to do so during the term of appointment?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to Budget And Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee

Are you an officer or director of any organization that receives appropriations or grants through the City of Alexandria?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Interests & Experiences

Statement of Interest/Why You Should Be Appointed

As you will see from my resume I have considerable experience in budgeting, taxation, bonding, and economic development, having served in the Mayor's offices of both New York City and Washington, DC as well as economic and workforce development in federal agencies. I am a published author of a law review article on property taxation systems and equity. I would like to engage in my own local government processes without having to run for office and thus offer my skills and experience to furthering the continued growth of Alexandria.

Ira Sockowitz

Are you currently a member of a City Board, Commission, Committee or Authority?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please list the board:

N/A

How many terms have you served on this board?

N/A

If you have served more than two consecutive terms on this board, please state the specific qualifications you possess which merit consideration for continued service:

N/A

Have you applied for a position on a City Board, Commission, Committee or Authority in the last six months?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please state the names of the boards for which you have applied

N/A

Upload a Resume

Are you now paid by the City of Alexandria?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please state your department, job title, and describe your duties:

N/A

Do any of your immediate relatives or business associates now serve the City of Alexandria in any capacity?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please explain:

N/A

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☒ Yes ☐ No

If applicable, will you comply with the provisions of the City's conflict of interest requirements in City Ordinance 2867?

☒ Yes ☐ No

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND (Please list certificates, diplomas, degrees, seminars, etc.):

JurisDoctorate - Albany Law School 1988 Master of Public Administration - Baruch College (incomplete; left to accept Presidential appointment) Bachelor of Arts - Binghamton University 1982

SUMMARY OF WORK AND PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE (Please list titles and duties for the past five years):

Last five years - President, HFG Enterprises, a full service public affairs firm providing legislative, regulatory, strategic, and communications counsel and representational services to clients in the government, corporate, and philanthropic sectors. After publishing an extensive law review article on property taxation systems and equity covering 200 years of New York State legislation and court cases, I gained considerable experience in budgeting, taxation, bonding, and economic development as Legislative Counsel and Senior Tax analyst at New York City's Office of Management & Budget. More recently, I was the principal author of, and led the negotiations with the City Council for passage of, the \$1.2 billion legislation to finance the master plan for the Near Southeast waterfront and return baseball to Washington, D.C. that included a special gross receipt tax, a tax increment finance district, and over \$650 million in bonding authority. I also helped negotiate the fiscal aspects for the \$1.1 billion redevelopment of City Center, the former site of the D.C. Convention Center.

REFERENCES (Please list names and addresses of four references that you have contacted and support your application).

[REDACTED]

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