

Michael J. Tierney

4534 Secret Garden Drive, McFarland WI 53558

608 443 8239

mjtierney1965@gmail.com

June 26, 2018

Common Council President
Ald. Samba Baldeh
Room 417, City-County Building
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Madison WI 53703

RE: 16th District vacancy

Dear Council President Baldeh,

I am writing in hope of being appointed to serve the remainder of 16th District Alder Denise DeMarb's term in office. Having worked with Alder DeMarb both as a resident of the 16th District and in my capacity as the Legislative Aide and Research Assistant for former State Representative Robb Kahl, I have admired and respected her commitment and dedication to public service. I very much appreciate her calling me and encouraging me to submit this application letter and resume.

I have resided in the City of Madison for nearly 30 years. Prior to purchasing my current home in the Secret Places subdivision in November of 2011, I owned a home on Concord Avenue a few blocks away from Hawthorne Elementary. I was one of the founding members of the Secret Places Neighborhood Association and remain active in attending both Neighborhood Association and Homeowner Association meetings. As a parent of a school aged child, I also try to attend PTO meetings and have worked with community members to secure the passage of school referendums.

In Representative Robb Kahl's office, I served 16th District residents on a daily basis. I answered questions about which governmental agencies had jurisdiction over certain issues, provided people with information about ordinances, statutes, administrative codes and federal laws, and I worked to help individuals and businesses when they needed assistance and simply did not know where to turn. In short, I have fulfilled many of the constituent service responsibilities that an Alder regularly completes. While serving district residents, I was also able to develop excellent working relationships with officials and staff members from neighboring municipalities and Dane County.

I am seeking the appointment to the position of interim Alder because I feel my experience will enable me to effectively represent residents from day one and I believe it is important to continue the example set by Alder DeMarb in providing representation on the Common Council for all of the residents of the 16th District. After taking office in 2013, Alder DeMarb was a fixture at community gatherings, attended neighborhood meetings, and was responsive. We need that level of service and commitment to continue.

Michael J. Tierney

4534 Secret Garden Drive, McFarland WI 53558

608 443 8239

mjtierney1965@gmail.com

In the current economy people are struggling and family breadwinners increasingly have to work two jobs to pay the basic bills. Many families struggle to find work-life balance. In each case, residents find it difficult to find the time to attend meetings and speak out on issues they care about or otherwise feel are important for our community and their neighborhoods. I want to be appointed to the Council in order to ensure the residents of the 16th District who are busy working a second job, coaching their kid's soccer team, or simply needing to recharge after a long day at work, can continue to know they will have a voice on the Common Council until they have an opportunity to cast their votes in the April 2019 election.

In April of 2019, I want residents of the 16th District to be able to look back at my time in office and feel they had someone in office who served their interests well. Based on my own experience and the interactions I have had with other residents to date, there are a number of issues I would like to work on. Some of these issues are:

I want to see a budget adopted that recognizes the current financial status of individuals and families by prioritizing pressing community needs over wants. I know many people who received notice from the City Assessor's office that their property had an increased assessment (often quite substantially). While people understand that mil rates will be adjusted, there is still genuine concern over the increase they could see in their combined tax bill from the city, county and respective school district.

I very much appreciate the efforts of Council members to move forward with the construction of Fire Station 14 to better protect the lives and property of residents in the southern portions of District 16 and elsewhere. I want to set the City on a path to provide full ambulance service from Station 14 in the shortest amount of time that is fiscally possible.

Another focus would be better connecting District 16 residents with the rest of Madison by seeking out improvements in bus service. Although Madison Metro route 31 has been a great addition for Liberty Place, Lost Creek and Owl Creek subdivision residents, I would want to work with Madison Metro to find a way to build upon the improvements that have been made. In addition, I would also want to work with Madison Metro to expand route 12 services so that more individuals who have to work late or half shifts are better able to utilize that route from the Dutch Mill Park and Ride.

I also want to work to address needs for Siggelkow Road cooperatively with the Village of McFarland. Development of Juniper Ridge by the Village along with the addition of more multi-family housing at the southeast corner of Marsh and Siggelkow, ongoing development in Secret Places and future development anticipated in Madison north of Siggelkow are all leading to increased traffic flows. This is creating a need for greater

Michael J. Tierney

4534 Secret Garden Drive, McFarland WI 53558

608 443 8239

mjtierney1965@gmail.com

safety measures for children, other pedestrians, and bicyclists who need to cross Siggelkow at various cross streets between Stoughton Road and the I-39-90 overpass.

Due to state transportation budget issues, much needed changes to Stoughton Road are not going to be made for the foreseeable future. Wisconsin DOT plans would have greatly improved pedestrian and bicyclist safety. While residents of Owl Creek, Liberty Place, Lost Creek and Secret Places are now able to travel down Siggelkow road and then safely bike to downtown via the Lower Yahara River Trail, many district residents do struggle to safely travel across Stoughton Road between the Beltline and Cottage Grove Road. Until permanent changes are made to the Stoughton Road corridor, I would want to support steps to improve pedestrian, bicyclist and motorist safety.

I also wish to be part of a dialogue with law enforcement and community groups in an effort to address issues with firearm violence and property crimes which seem to be increasingly driven by the opioid epidemic.

I very much appreciate efforts being made to address the mental health needs of community members when they are in crisis and need to be involuntary committed. I would use my position on the Council in support of those efforts. Placing persons in crisis in the back of a squad car and subjecting them to a lengthy ride to Winnebago Mental Health Institute is wrong. It is wrong for the patient, creates issues for local hospital emergency rooms, takes patrol officers away from other duties, and creates additional expense for the City. While the real resolution to this problem is to be found in reforming health care so that individuals with a mental health diagnosis are able to receive the quality and frequency of care they need from a provider, I will support a local solution that enables people in crisis to remain in the community and close to the treatment and support systems they need.

Finally, I would not enter the position with the intent to seek out election to the 16th District seat. When the time to circulate nomination papers arrives, it is my intent to file a declaration of non-candidacy as the incumbent. If no one else expresses interest in running for the seat I could reconsider, but it is my hope and expectation that other candidates who are committed to representing the entire district and being active and engaged will choose to come forward and run.

Thank you for your consideration of my application.

Respectfully,

Michael Tierney

Michael J. Tierney

4534 Secret Garden Drive, McFarland WI 53558

608 443 8239

mjtierney1965@gmail.com

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Excellent communication skills
- Effective consensus builder
- Proven ability to work across party lines
- Adept at policy research and poll development
- Skilled at legislative and budget analysis
- Thorough knowledge of legislative process
- Well-honed public and media relations skills
- Experienced and effective team leader
- Strong management and oversight skills
- Notary Public

EXPERIENCE

Wisconsin State Assembly – Representatives Lisa Subeck and Mark Spreitzer

January 2017 to Present

Legislative Aide

Madison, WI

- Conduct issue analysis on proposed legislation and policy issues
- Prepare content for weekly e-newsletter
- Integrate advocacy messaging into correspondence, press releases and social media
- Monitor legislative activity at both the state and federal levels
- Prepare bill summary information for bill tracking database
- Manage constituent database and prepare mailing and walk lists
- Research and resolve constituent concerns
- Draft legislation to fulfill legislative intent
- Work with coalitions and organizations on legislation and policy concerns

Wisconsin State Assembly – Representative Robb Kahl

January 2013 to January 2017

Chief of Staff and Research Assistant

Madison, WI

- Organize meetings between local officials, business owners and Department of Transportation
- Develop supporting materials, prepare testimony, and give testimony to advance legislative agenda
- Monitor legislative activity at both the state and federal levels
- Conduct analysis of and draft legislation
- Provide updates to the Representative and constituents on the status of legislation
- Analyze transportation related bills and provide summaries to legislators
- Work with coalitions and organizations to build support for policy issues
- Work to develop grassroots support for legislative agendas at state and federal levels
- Integrate advocacy messaging into correspondence, press releases and social media
- Manage and provide guidance to staff, interns, and contract lobbyists on legislation
- Lead workgroup focused on transportation issues and legislation development

Wisconsin State Senate – Senator John Lehman

August 2012 to January 2013

Legislative Aide

Madison, WI

- Developed and drafted legislation to maintain privacy of employee social media accounts
- Assisted constituents in resolving concerns and issues with state agencies
- Monitored legislative issues for constituents and kept them apprised of emerging issues
- Met with agency staff to gain support for policy initiatives

Wisconsin State Assembly – Representative Gordon Hintz

July 2011 – April 2012

Chief of Staff and Research Assistant

Madison, WI

- Managed the work assignments of other staff and interns
- Conducted issue analysis on proposed legislation and policy issues
- Maintained calendar and coordinated office visits

Michael J. Tierney

4534 Secret Garden Drive, McFarland WI 53558

608 443 8239

mjtierney1965@gmail.com

Wisconsin State Senate – Senator Bob Wirch

December 2006 – January 2011

Policy Analyst and Committee Clerk

Madison, WI

- Clerk and lead staff for the Senate Committee on Small Business, Emergency Preparedness, Technical Colleges and Consumer Protection
- Lead Staff for the Legislative Council Study Committee on Strategic Job Creation
- Assisted businesses and constituents with questions or concerns related to state, federal and local government
- Created scripts for radio programs and wrote press releases

Wisconsin State Senate – Joint Finance Committee

January 2003 – December 2006

Finance and Research Staff

Madison, WI

- Reported to Senate offices budget vote outcome data
- Responded to Senate staff inquiries and requests for motion text and audio recordings of budget hearings
- Provided digital audio recordings of Senate floor remarks to Senators
- Recorded radio actualities for Senators to forward to local news media
- Developed legislation intended to reduce cases of identity theft

Wisconsin State Senate – Senate Chief Clerk

January 2002 – January 2003

Director, Budget and Policy Staff

Madison, WI

- Directed eight (8) member staff, as they fulfilled multiple roles for Senators and their staff
- Compiled Budget Adjustment Bill Amendment for introduction in Senate
- Completed analysis of legislation
- Prepared draft press releases

Wisconsin State Senate – Senate Caucus Staff

May 1995 – January 2002

Promoted from Policy Analyst, to Research Director, to Deputy Director, to Director

Madison, WI

- Assisted in compiling Senate Budget Amendments and providing summary materials of Senate Budget packages
- Analyzed legislation, provided position statements and advised Senators on bill amendments
- Composed issue briefs and provided research reports
- Prepared press releases and sample correspondence
- Prepared budget analysis and tracked budget progress in the Assembly

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

Bachelors of Arts in Political Science

The phone number listed is my cell number and I can be reached at that number at anytime.