

## Kapusta-Pofahl, Karen

---

**From:** Rick [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 9, 2024 4:11 PM  
**To:** Common Council Executive Committee  
**Subject:** Application for District 19 Alder - Richard Pearson  
**Attachments:** Richard Pearson - Application for District 19 Alder.pdf

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Application for District 19 Alder Position - January 2024

Richard Pearson

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 53705

Email: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]

My name is Richard Pearson and I am submitting this letter as part of my application for the position of District 19 Alder. Thank you for your consideration.

If appointed, I believe that my experience and enthusiasm will be exceptionally helpful to the near-term needs of the Common Council, the City of Madison and my District. In particular, I am eager to put in the work and contribute to the Council's efforts to address matters of importance including budget issues, housing issues and transportation issues, among others.

I grew up in Spring Harbor and graduated from Madison West High School in 1990. I earned my bachelors degree in Finance from the University of Southern California, graduating magna cum laude. While at USC, I also studied Mandarin, and spent my summers working in factories in Beijing, China. After graduating from USC, I spent nine years working as a banker for Deutsche Bank, first in Hong Kong and later in London and New York. After leaving Deutsche Bank I spent more than ten years pursuing my own investment strategies, mostly based out of Los Angeles, China or Indonesia. I moved back to Madison in 2021 to help my elderly parents manage medical and financial issues and to help them with a transition into assisted living. I plan on staying here in Madison for the future.

I do not have past experience as an employee of local government, however I have extensive experience interacting with various government bodies and financial industry regulators as part of my banking career. I believe that my extensive career experience will make me immediately useful to the Common Council and to my District. Furthermore, I would come into this role with no preexisting biases with respect to specific polices or people.

The skills I will bring to the Common Council include financial-analytical skills, committee-teamwork skills and, in particular, extremely potent communication skills.

During my finance career, I have worked as a team member on a substantial number of large-scale multi-stage investment projects which required my colleagues and I to analyze and understand complicated budgets and timelines. In order for such projects to succeed, it was essential that I be able to communicate the nuanced and intricate benefits and outcomes of these projects to various stakeholders, including to those who were not financial experts and who often had very limited time to build their understanding.

I have extensive experience working within committees and teams. I make it a priority to be succinct and decisive so as to make respectful use of everyone's time. To achieve this, I spend as much time as necessary to be well prepared in advance of all meetings. I strive to be attentive to and respectful of the views and needs expressed by my colleagues.

Before deciding to submit this application, I first reached out to outgoing Alder Kristin Slack and then to three previous District 19 Alders. I met with each of them in person to ask for their thoughts and to get a sense of whether or not my skill set would make me effective and useful in this role. As a result of these discussions, I decided to submit my application for this position.

I am aware that the responsibilities of Madison's Alders are both numerous and complicated. However, I believe that I can get up to speed very quickly. In addition to my discussions with District 19 Alders, I have already spent considerable time watching the online recordings of past Common Council meetings on Madison's City Channel.

I believe strongly that I can also be an extremely effective advocate for social initiatives in Madison in ways which may not be intuitive at first glance. I am a middle aged, Caucasian male, which in Wisconsin means I sit squarely in the majority. However, for much of my adult life I lived in countries where I was very much an outsider. There have been many, many instances where I was refused service by shop keepers, or I was over charged by businesses or I was publicly insulted by strangers simply due to the way I look, the way I talk or where I am from. Now that I am back in Wisconsin, I believe I am in a very strong position to help persuade the majority about the importance of preventing discrimination while engaging with diverse communities to help make this happen.

I have longstanding ties and commitment to Madison and to this District. I reside at 5030 Lake Mendota Drive in Spring Harbor, the same address where I lived during high school. My parents, grandparents and great grandparents all lived in this neighborhood. Residents throughout District 19 can expect that I will be attentive and responsive to their concerns. Likewise, I also believe that I can expect substantial local support in District 19 behind my efforts to be a productive Alder.

It is not currently my intention to run for Alder in 2025, but I will commit to remaining open minded. When I saw this vacancy open up, I viewed it as a call to service into a position where I know I can be extremely helpful to the Common Council. To this end, I am eager to put in the time and energy to play a helpful and supportive role. Thank you again for considering my application

Sincerely,

Richard Pearson

(In case of formatting issues, I have also attached a copy of this application in pdf format)