



APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE YPSILANTI CITY COUNCIL WARD #1

Thank you for your interest in serving the community as a Ward 1 Council Member of the Ypsilanti City Council.

The timeline for filling the Council vacancy is as follows:

- Thursday, November 19, 2020:** Applications due to City Clerk by 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 24, 2020:** Candidate interviews
- Tuesday, December 1, 2020:** Council vote and swearing in of new Councilmember

To be considered, your application must be completed and received by the City Clerk (*in person*) at Ypsilanti City Hall (1 S. Huron St.) no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Thursday, November 19, 2020**. Applications received after 5:00 p.m. will not be accepted. Additional written information after this date will not be accepted, unless requested by the City Council.

Please submit the following items:

- Application form
- A **1 page** cover letter indicating your interest and general qualifications for the position.
- A resume of **no more than 2 pages**.
- Answers to the Supplemental Questions of **no more than 3 pages total**.

For further information, please contact
Andrew Hellenga at 734-483-1100
ahellenga@cityofypsilanti.com

The application and any correspondence
should be addressed to:

**Andrew Hellenga, City Clerk
City of Ypsilanti**

1 S. Huron St

Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Councilmember Eligibility, Requirements, & Public Disclosure

To be eligible to be appointed to the Ypsilanti City Council Ward #1 position, you:

- Must have continuously resided within the City of Ypsilanti Ward 1 for a minimum of 30 days prior to your appointment to the Council, and
- Must be a registered voter in the City of Ypsilanti Ward 1.

If you hold, participate in or are involved in any contract(s) with the City of Ypsilanti, please explain your involvement in your cover letter.

If you hold any other elected public office, please state what office and where in your cover letter.

Please note that:

- Once a Councilmember application is filed with the City, it is a public record available to the public.
- Applications received from all candidates who meet the minimum requirements, along with the answers to the supplemental questions, will be posted on the City of Ypsilanti website as part of the Council's meeting packet the week of the initial interview.
- If appointed, you will be required by state law to file financial disclosure statements with the Washtenaw County Clerk's Office (www.ewashtenaw.org).



City Council Duties

- Attendance is required at regular City Council meetings, which are held on the first and third Tuesday evenings of each month, from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm and occasionally later. From time to time, the City Council or Mayor may call special City Council meetings to handle city business.
- Ypsilanti City Councilmembers are bound by state and federal law and the Ypsilanti City Charter. Ypsilanti City Councilmembers must follow Ethical Principles that are set out in the Ypsilanti City Charter and the provisions of the state law and city ethics ordinance.
- Ypsilanti City Councilmembers are bound by the Michigan Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act. These acts provide for full disclosure of the actions of council members. Councilmembers are required to report all financial dealings with the city annually.



APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO YPSILANTI CITY COUNCIL WARD #1 POSITION

Applicant Information

(Please type or print)

Applicant Name Karon Gaines

Residence Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Cover Letter & Resume

Please attach a one page cover letter and a resume of no more than two pages to this application.

Supplemental Questions

Please respond to the following questions regarding your interest in the position of Councilmember for the City of Ypsilanti on separate pages using no more than 3 pages total:

1. Why are you interested in serving as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?
2. What strength would you bring to the Council?
3. What are the three highest priorities and/or issues you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?
4. Explain your current and past community involvement and/or service on city, nonprofit, or public boards, committees, task forces, or commissions and how this has contributed to the Ypsilanti community. Address its relevance to the position of Ypsilanti City Councilmember.
5. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?
6. What is your vision for our City and community?
7. Is there anything else that you may wish to add that would help us get to know you a little better?

Please return (*in person*) this form, your cover letter, resume, and answers to the supplemental questions to the City Clerk, at Ypsilanti City Hall (1 S. Huron St.) no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 19, 2020.

Applications received after 5:00 p.m. will not be accepted.

The application and any correspondence should be addressed to:

**Andrew Hellenga, City Clerk
City of Ypsilanti
One South Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

Ka'Ron Gaines

City Council Member Candidate

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Ypsilanti deserves a Council Member who works "For" the residents. Who goes outside of their Ward to promote new solutions to City issues that affect everyone. A City Council Member who will put in the time it takes to go to City meetings as well as County, Township & Economic Development functions, which I have and continue to be very involved with. Along with community projects such as Stop The Violence Tours, Grades Is Money Program, and the Waterstreet Project just to mention a few. I make myself available to concerns as well as suggestions. I pride myself on always responding to the issues I feel are the most pressing to the community. I believe in our City. Honesty - Hard Work - Accountability!

TEAM SOUTHSIDE - COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

2015 - 2020

Organized community events and incentives to promote engagement between residents and government officials. Address residents' needs to meet issues head-on with clear, decisive proposals and actionable items. Run academic and accountability projects to improve the performance and goals of our young citizens. Organized resources and staff to uphold program promises and offer consistent service levels.

CITY OF YPSILANTI - CITY COMMISSIONER

2016 - 2020

Represent the City and its residents to the best of my ability, by being fiscally responsible by approving budgets and overseeing spending. Do my best to communicate with fellow officials. Have an opinion and make decisions based on fact. Attended meetings outside of my Ward and City to expand my knowledge of what is going on in the township & county. Enact local ordinances and administer them.

DEDICATED TO MAKING A CHANGE - PROMOTIONAL STRATEGIST

2018 - 2020

Develop and execute strategies within the community for the youth. In charge of local acknowledgment, and correspondence. Keep informed by attending meetings. Make sure that the campaign is doing all it can to obtain more voter participation.

SKILLS

- Facilitating
- Instructing
- Active Learning
- Judgment and Decision Making
- Dispute and Conflict Resolution
- Transparency
- Active Listening

Ka'Ron Gaines

City Council Member Candidate

OBJECTIVE

My name is Ka'Ron Gaines and I am seeking to fill the vacant seat for the position of City Council Member for Ward 1. I believe I am best suited for this position because I have an already established connection with the residents of Ypsilanti. I also have the ability to organize and execute purposeful projects that bring about substantial and beneficial change to our community. I know that with the support that is implemented among other city council members and our Mayor, together we can be a prosperous and sought out place to reside and conduct business.

I planned to be very involved in the daily responsibilities of my position. Prior to my political positions I fought for the betterment of our community on my own as a resident in Ypsilanti. This seat will allow more opportunities in the advancement of our community. In the past few years I have successfully executed some projects, events, and programs such as:

- 22 Stop The Violence Events**
- Grades Is Money School Tour**
- Our Community Clean-Up Crew**
- Humans Relations Commissioner**
- International Village Liaison for Ward 1**
- Ypsi Gathering Space**
- Team Southside**

I am dedicated to making a change.

I look forward to working with all of you to develop a strong, ethical, and transparent way to involve our residents in more of the decisions that affect them most.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ka’Ron Gaines

Please respond to the following questions regarding your interest in the position of Councilmember for the City of Ypsilanti on separate pages using no more than 3 pages total:

1. Why are you interested in serving as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?

I have a strong love and passion for the City of Ypsilanti. As a community liaison and organizer, myself and a fair decent amount of residents believe I can help make some of the decisions involving our community and city.

2. What strength would you bring to the Council?

One of my biggest and most important strengths is the ability to connect with people. I am very resourceful when it comes to getting out information in our community.

3. What are the three highest priorities and/or issues you believe the City needs to address?

How would you propose to address these issues?

Protecting our development for our future developments with our CBO. Bridging the gap between all three Wards with other councilmembers, our Mayor, and community organizers.

4. Explain your current and past community involvement and/or service on city, nonprofit, or public boards, committees, task forces, or commissions and how this has contributed to the Ypsilanti community. Address its relevance to the position of Ypsilanti City Councilmember.

2015 - 2017 22 Stop The Violence Events (Connecting with the community about their complaints on violence and taking action to provide a safer environment.)

Grades Is Money Tour: Acce, Fortis Academy, South Pointe Scholars (Educating the students in school having similarities to business structures and how they can be successfully executed to bring the most value.)

Our Community Clean-Up Crew: Gathering and educating the youth on the value of taking care of their own community now to be better future homeowners and citizens.

Humans Relations Commissioner: (1 Term) Learning how our local governmental body functions and learning the order of meetings.

International Village Liaison for Ward 1: Community Organizer and Communicator in addressing details regarding the purchase agreement for Water Street.

Ypsi Gathering Space: Initiator in providing a safe and warm place for all residents.

Team Southside: Community organizer of purposeful projects that bring knowledge of homeownership, business ownership, and citizen opportunities.

Elections: 1st Run: Democrat **376**, (Progression) 2nd Run: Independent **422**

I show a connection with the community that has grown over time.

5. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?

To turn Ward 1 into a more inclusive part of the City, and bring out more voters so their voices are heard. I also will be working toward building strong relationships with fellow council members and our Mayor to have all Wards on one accord.

6. What is your vision for our City and community?

My vision is building on a more thriving Ward 1, because making it stronger will help to make the city stronger as a whole. I see Ypsilanti competing with other nearby thriving cities and townships while holding onto our diversity, pride, and heritage. The only way to do this is to hold on to the people.

7. Is there anything else that you may wish to add that would help us get to know you a little better?

I am a long life citizen of Ypsilanti. I love and have a great passion for the City. I constantly take action for the better of our community.