

City of Reno Board & Commission
Application Form

Notice of Public Record

Please be advised that all information contained in this application is part of the City of Reno's public record and is available for public review. These positions are limited, in most cases, to residents of the City of Reno. The City Council makes a conscientious effort to appoint persons who represent all of the various communities within the City of Reno. Please be advised that certain boards and commissions require filing of financial statements with the Secretary of State or have special requirements. Contact the City Clerk's office at 334-2030 with any questions.

Gary Cecil

First Name Middle Initial Last Name

garycecil621@msn.com

Email Address

255 N Sierra St.

Unit 1618

Home Address

Suite or Apt

Reno

NV 89501

City

State Postal Code

What ward do you live in? *

Five

916-607-9556

775-420-5185

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

How long have you been a resident of the City of Reno?

Seven years

Are you over 18 years of age?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Are you currently registered to vote in the City of Reno? *

Yes

Retired – please see attached resume for employment experience details.

Employer Job Title

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Reno City Planning Commission

Have you ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor other than minor traffic violations?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Interests & Experiences

Education or training relevant to the board or commission to which you are applying:

As a member of the Ward 5 Neighborhood Advisory Board for the last two years, I have received training from the Assistant City Attorney (Jonathan Shipman) and the Assistant Development Services Director (Angela Fuss). As part of my preparation process for reviewing development projects that will be presented at a future NAB meeting, I have often contacted the responsible Planner with questions and comments. Among those with whom I have communicated are: Leah Brock, Nathan Gilbert, Grace Mackedon, Brooklyn Oswald, and Carter Williams.

During NAB meetings, I have served several times as the Chairperson. During presentations by Developers and/or their representatives, I have often posed my own questions in open session on the record. I have never missed a NAB meeting, and I also have never failed to document my comments on development projects for the benefit of the Planning Commission. I always track the progress of these projects through the Planning Commission and City Council so I can compare my opinions with the members of those bodies.

I hold a Master of Business Administration Degree with a focus on finance and accounting.

My professional career of thirty plus years was largely spent in senior financial management of private businesses in a variety of industries. As such, I am very experienced in studying and applying the very detailed guidelines of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP); in my two years on the NAB, I have used this analytical experience to both understand and apply the City of Reno Master Plan and the Land Development Code to development projects.

Explain briefly why you would like to be appointed to this board or commission.

Please see my attached cover letter for a fuller explanation of my reasons.

However, the essence of my interest is to be of service to all City stakeholders in fairly and objectively applying the Master Plan and Land Development Code to the projects and requests presented to the Planning Commission.

I would also pledge to spend whatever time necessary to hear from all stakeholders in such projects and requests, to apply empathy in trying to understand their points of view, and to clearly communicate the bases for my opinions and decisions.

Open Meeting Law Waiver

WAIVER OF NOTICE REQUIRED UNDER NRS 241.033(1) TO ALLOW CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER CHARACTER, MISCONDUCT, OR COMPETENCE OF PERSON TO BE APPOINTED TO A BOARD, COMMISSION, OR OTHER PUBLIC BODY FOR THE CITY OF RENO

The City Council for the City of Reno will be considering on a future posted agenda your appointment to a board, commission or other public body for the City of Reno. Pursuant to NRS 241.033(1), in order to consider the professional competence of an applicant, notice need be provided to that person of the time and place of the meeting in compliance with such statutory provisions. By agreeing below, it is confirmed that I have been provided notice of the meeting at which my appointment will be considered by City Council. Further, I knowingly and voluntarily am waiving my rights to all written notice requirements under NRS 241.033(1) pertaining to my qualifications, competence, and character to hold this appointment and consent to the evaluation of my character and competence by the Reno City Council in a public meeting. Further, the I acknowledge that I may at any time withdraw both this waiver and related application for appointment.

☒ I Agree

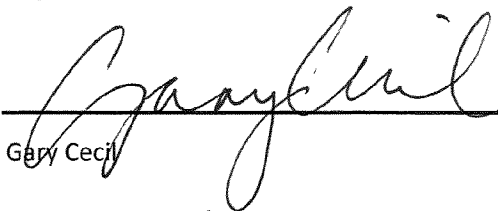
Acknowledgement

Please Agree with the Following Statement

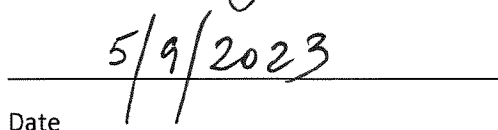
I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information I provided in the application is true. If the information provided is false or incomplete, it shall be sufficient cause for disqualification or removal. If appointed, I agree to attend a board or commission orientation session, if applicable, within six months of my appointment. I understand that failure to comply with this requirement will results in automatic removal from the board or commission.

☒ I Agree

Signature:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary Cecil", written over a horizontal line.

Gary Cecil

A handwritten date "5/9/2023" written over a horizontal line.

Date

Gary Cecil
255 N. Sierra St., Unit 1618
Reno, NV 89501
916-607-9556
garycecil621@msn.com

SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE AND RELATED SKILLS

- Twenty-five years' experience as a senior manager of accounting and finance departments.
- Detail oriented, using data and research to drive decision-making.
- Valuable time spent learning a variety of industries including: payment processing, distribution of POS equipment, software development, gaming/lottery, and agribusiness.
- Special expertise in near start-up situations where cash flow needs careful management, where personnel development or planned turnover is necessary, and where solid financial and accounting practices are necessary to gain access to more operating capital.
- Strong GAAP experience, including exemplary performance throughout all compliance audits.
- Adept at budgeting and forecasting through numerous business scenarios, giving operating management effective tools to project profitability.
- Very competent external representative of an organization with such business partners as contracted customers, banks, auditors, venture capitalists, and vendors.

RECENT VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

2021 to present:	Member of Reno's Ward 5 Neighborhood Advisory Board.
2020 to present:	Member of Montage HOA's Community Affairs Committee.
2018 to present:	Baha'i representative for Renown's Inter-Faith Chapel.
2022 to present:	Started the Ward 5 Advocates Group (WAG).
2018 to 2020:	Member of Montage Finance Committee.
2019 to 2020:	Patient visitor for Infinity Hospice.
2019 to 2020:	Bethel AME Church food bank.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (since 2000)

Chief Financial Officer

Dr. Mah & Associates, Sacramento, CA
Oct 2013 – Dec 2016

Consultant for full scope accounting for a non-profit educational organization. Responsible for all general ledger postings, preparation for tax filings, and presentation of financial results to board of directors. Also drove insurance policy search and updating of employee HR handbook.

Corporate Controller

POS Portal, Inc., Sacramento, CA

Oct 2010 – Jun 2013

Chief financial manager for a \$45 million privately-held company. Financial closings, audit management, banking and insurance relationships, budgeting and forecasting. Supervision of team of 8 accountants.

Achievements: Created daily and weekly cash forecasts with high degree of predictive accuracy. Re-staffed the entire accounting department with educated and motivated individuals. Created very positive working relationships with all line managers. Through three exhaustive annual independent audits received no adjustments to income statements. As business developed a first-time software product, created the first GAAP-compliant method of capitalizing development costs. Re-established first rate relationship with the bank such that further operating and capital cash requirements were granted.

Accounting and Finance Manager

TSYS Acquiring POS Systems and Services, Sacramento, CA

Apr 2007 – Sep 2010

Full range financial responsibilities for a subsidiary of a \$2 billion publicly traded company, including: closings, account reconciliations, financial analysis, SOX controls, budgeting, cost accounting, and sales taxes. Supervise staff of 5.

Achievements: Closed books on time every month; this had not been done in 5 years. Started the first SOX documents for the subsidiary. Greatly improved reporting package for senior management. Active participant in business decision-making, including contract negotiations, product and services pricing and strategic planning.

Controller

West Coast Computer Exchange, Sacramento, CA

Sep 2005 – Apr 2007

Full range financial responsibilities for a Subchapter S corporation, including: financial analysis, budgeting, cost accounting, payroll, sales taxes, insurance, HR and cash flow management.

Achievements: Negotiated 9% reductions in freight. Researched and implemented health insurance change netting a 10% reduction in premiums. Instituted daily invoice profitability measures.

Cost and Project Manager

Motion Control Engineering, Rancho Cordova, CA

Sep 1998 – Jul 2005

Product costing in a mixed make-to-order/ make-to-stock environment. Setting and maintaining standard costs for both externally-procured and in-house semi manufactured parts.

Management of a variety of projects including: construction of 100,000 sqft office and warehouse addition, development and implementation of inventory control best practices, implementation and training of SAP Sales Module.

Achievements: Detailed new product analysis leading to more accurate pricing and better margin management. Developed trend analysis for labor utilization and efficiency which improved VP Operation's control of labor costs. Finished building addition under budget and with no negative impacts on existing business.

EDUCATION

Master of Business Administration
Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville
Major Focus: Financial Planning and Analysis

Master of Arts
State University of New York, Buffalo
Major focus: Educational Psychology

Bachelor of Education
Cambridge University, England
Major focus: Educational Psychology

REFERENCES

Art Rangel, AICP, former City Manager, Loomis, CA.
The Montage
255 N. Sierra St., Unit 2301
Reno, NV 89501
Cell: 213-300-5171
Home: 775-499-5516
arangeleds@gmail.com

Pam McNeil, former Ward 5 NAB member, member of the Verdi Community Council
1990 Evergreen Ridge Way
Reno, NV 89523
Cell: 909-261-0466
Home: 775-787-9855
pmcneil49@aol.com

255 N. Sierra St.
Unit 1618
Reno, NV 89501

May 9, 2023

City Clerk's Office
1 E. First Street
2nd. Floor
Reno, NV 89501

Re: Application Materials for the Reno City Planning Commission

Dear Madame City Clerk:

In addition to this cover letter, please also find included in this pdf file my Application Form and Resume.

The remainder of this letter is a fuller explanation of my reasons for wanting to be appointed to the Planning Commission than was allowed by the space on the Application Form. I will also summarize why I feel ready for that challenge.

The Planning Commission plays a key role in analyzing, evaluating, and rendering decisions on a wide variety of development-related applications. During my time as a member of the Ward 5 NAB I have worked hard to research and understand those development applications that came to our agenda. As part of the advisory role of the NAB members, I have carefully documented my concerns, thoughts, and opinions about each of these applications for the benefit of the Planning Commissioners. I feel well prepared to spend the time necessary to broaden my impact on project applications to include all five wards of the City of Reno.

While I have paid particular attention to the concerns raised by existing residents affected by new development projects, I am scrupulously objective in evaluating all the pertinent information that should be considered. My usual process of preparing for a NAB meeting has five steps:

1. Pull down the project documentation from Accela.
2. Thoroughly read the documentation and generate initial thoughts and questions.
3. Refer to the relevant sections of the Master Plan and Land Development Code.
4. Contact the Planner responsible for the project and discuss my questions, concerns, and opinions.
5. Re-review all the information and settle on questions and comments for the NAB meeting.

During the NAB meeting, I listen carefully to the applicant's presentation as well as to the questions and comments from my NAB colleagues and I may also ask questions of the applicant. If this generates new questions, I will ask them of the attending Planner. The next morning, I collect my thoughts and feel very well prepared to write my online advisory comments for the Planning Commissioners.

While it is hard to not bring some prior experiences to bear when reviewing projects, I feel it is absolutely imperative to bring an open mind to each project. I lean heavily on the Master Plan to guide me on what the general public expressed as its expectations for the various parts of the City. The Land Development Code helps with specific details that make concrete the expectations the City has for the nature of development projects. Despite the Master Plan and Code, I must admit that I have seen quite different interpretations of the relevant parts of these documents at Planning Commission meetings. For example, while some can make the necessary "findings", others cannot. It is therefore always important to gain as clear an understanding of the Master Plan and Code before fully considering a wider range of opinions and interpretations.

I want to stress how much I have valued the help of several Planners in the Development Services Department. They have been unfailingly patient as I discuss my questions and concerns, and I will always give the highest attention to the advice they give. That said, I have not always agreed with their recommendations (for example, the content of specific conditions applied to a CUP), and I will politely agree to differ if my research leads me to a different conclusion.

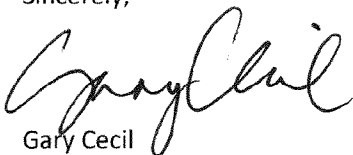
Sometimes that different conclusion is the result of input from existing residents. While I give full, objective attention to the development applicants, I feel they have a built-in advantage over residents in that they cannot match the organizational resources nor focus of developers. On the NAB, I have given equal time to fully understand residents' concerns, and I would continue to do so if I were appointed to the Planning Commission.

I often follow projects that have reached the NAB through to the Planning Commission, and on to the City Council. There has been much to learn from listening to all the viewpoints of those decision-makers, and I recognize the significant burden that responsibility confers. One example is the update given to attune Council Members to the window opening in 2025 for TIF opportunities, and Planning Commissioners will no doubt weigh in on projects vying for funding in RDA1.

Finally, I want to be true to my ethical and considerate approach to all stakeholders. While I value passion for what one believes, I value even more a tempered approach to communicating one's beliefs. Being on the public record holds a responsibility to address all politely, fairly, and with respect, no matter differences of opinion. Whenever I say: "For the Record, Gary Cecil", I realize I can set a public example to others of how we can engage in civil discourse.

I hope you will take the time to contact me so we can fully discuss my fit and readiness to serve on the Planning Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary Cecil".

Gary Cecil