

STAFF REPORT

Date: September 7, 2022

To: Mayor and City Council

Thru: Doug Thornley, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Discussion and potential direction to staff regarding the interview process, interviews of finalists, and possible appointment to the Office of the Reno City Council, Ward 5 from the following pool of applicants, listed in alphabetical order: Alexander Goff, Elliot Malin, and Kathleen Taylor.

From: Mikki Huntsman

Department: City Clerk

Summary: Council is anticipated to interview three individuals who were selected as finalists to fill the vacancy in the Ward 5 Reno City Council position. The three finalists, Alexander Goff, Elliot Malin, and Kathleen Taylor, were invited to participate in two public meet and greet events at the end of August and have been invited to interview publicly with the City Council on September 7, 2022. Staff recommends Council conduct interviews of the three finalists in accordance with the process determined by Council, select one finalist for appointment to the position of Ward 5 City Council Member and direct that they be sworn in to office immediately.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: Not Applicable

Previous Council Action:

August 25, 2022 - Council selected three finalists from the list of 36 applicants to move forward in the appointment process to fill the Ward 5 Council vacancy.

August 12, 2022 - Council selected to refill the Ward 5 seat vacated by Councilmember Jardon through the appointment process authorized by the Reno City Charter section 1.070.

Background: At the August 12, 2022 Special Meeting of the Reno City Council, Council determined that it would use the appointment method authorized by Reno City Charter Section 1.070 to fill the vacancy in the position of the Ward 5 City Council Member resulting from Councilmember Neoma Jardon's resignation, which was effective August 15, 2022. The vacancy must be filled by September 13, 2022. The appointee shall serve until the next general municipal election and until their successor is elected and qualified.

Following an application period seeking individuals who may be interested in appointment to the vacant position, Council reviewed 36 applications and selected three finalists on August 25, 2022 to move forward in the appointment process. The three finalists were Alexander Goff, Elliot Malin, and Kathleen Taylor.

In alignment with the timeline and process identified by Council on August 12, 2022, staff hosted two public meet and greet events for the community to get to know the finalists better. The events were hosted the evenings of August 30, 2022 and August 31, 2022. The three finalists were invited to participate, provided an opportunity to give opening remarks, and fielded publicly-generated questions.

Discussion: At this meeting, it is anticipated that Council will interview the three finalists for the position, Council will determine a standard set of questions to ask of each finalist and direct the finalists as to the maximum length of time for which they may make a presentation to Council.

Staff recommends Council conduct interviews of the three finalists in accordance with the process determined by Council, select one finalist for appointment to the position of Ward 5 City Council Member and direct that they be sworn in to office immediately.

Financial Implications: None at this time.

Legal Implications: Under Reno City Charter, Art. I, § 1.070, a vacancy in the City Council must be filled by a majority vote of the members of the City Council within 30 days after the occurrence of the vacancy. The process for filling a vacancy on the City Council must comply with the provisions of NRS Chapter 241, Nevada's Open Meeting Law.

Recommendation: Staff recommends Council conduct interviews of the three finalists in accordance with the process determined by Council, select one finalist for appointment to the position of Ward 5 City Council Member and direct that they be sworn in to office immediately.

Proposed Motion: I move to appoint _____ to the Office of the Reno City Council, Ward 5, to serve the balance of the unexpired term of office or until the general election in 2024 and direct that _____ be sworn in to office immediately.

Attachments:

Application - Goff, Alexander; Application - Malin, Elliot; Application - Taylor, Kathleen