

EXECUTIVE:
Satpal Sidhu



COUNCILMEMBERS:
Rud Browne
Barry Buchanan
Tyler Byrd
Todd Donovan
Ben Elenbaas
Carol Frazey
Kathy Kershner

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO WHATCOM COUNTY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY and COMPLETE ALL ITEMS

Name: Mark S (Dee) Stidham Date: 6-29-20
Street Address: [REDACTED]
City: [REDACTED]
Mailing Address (if different from street address): Same
Day Telephone: [REDACTED] Cell Phone: Same
E-mail address: [REDACTED]

- Name of board or committee-please see reverse: Homeless Strategies Workgroup
- You must specify which position you are applying for.
Please refer to vacancy list. Homelessness Advocate
- Do you meet the residency, employment, and/or affiliation requirements of the position for which you're applying?
(If applicable, please refer to vacancy list.) ☒ yes ☐ no
- Which Council district do you live in? ☐ One ☐ Two ☒ Three ☐ Four ☐ Five
- Are you a US citizen? ☒ yes ☐ no
- Are you registered to vote in Whatcom County? ☒ yes ☐ no
- Have you ever been a member of this Board/Commission? ☒ yes ☐ no
If yes, dates: 7-19 to present
- Do you or your spouse have a financial interest in or are you an employee or officer of any
business or agency that does business with Whatcom County? ☐ yes ☒ no
If yes, please explain: _____
- Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.055, see instructions) for a paid elected
office in any jurisdiction within the county? ☐ yes ☒ no

You may attach a résumé or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions.

- Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or community
activities, and education. I have occupied the position of (Homeless Advocate)
for the last year. Please see attached resume from last year. *Also please
note, that since that time, I've become Vice chair of Homeless not later, and continue
to lead the citizens outreach team, saving lives since 2018 I have tremendous support
11. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this board or commission: for my position.
I have personally accomplished much through the workgroup, and only
wish to continue my good work. I appreciate my position, and take it very seriously

References (please include daytime telephone number): (See Attached) Please Add Eric Richey ^{county} prothonotary
My Position has afforded me many opportunities to move the ball forward
Signature of applicant: I'm protecting our citizenry,
and furthering cooperation with leaders. [Signature] 6-29-20

THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT: As a candidate for a public board or commission, the above information will be available to the County Council, County Executive, and the public. All board and commission members are expected to be fair, impartial, and respectful of the public, County staff, and each other. Failure to abide by these expectations may result in revocation of appointment and removal from the appointive position.

Committee

2. Do you meet the residency, employment, and/or affiliation requirements of the position for which you're applying? Yes

3. Which Council district do you live in? District 3

4. Are you a US citizen? Yes

5. Are you registered to vote in Whatcom County? Yes

6. Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.055) for a paid elected office in any jurisdiction within the county? No

7. Have you ever been a member of this Board/Commission? No

8. Do you or your spouse have a financial interest in or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency that does business with Whatcom County? No

You may attach a resume or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions

Field not completed.



9. Please describe your occupation (or former

I've been in Whatcom County since 1984 and have worked as commercial fisherman and Carpenter all of my adult life. I have

occupation if retired),
qualifications,
professional and/or
community activities,
and education

taken part in different environmental and social advocacies over the years. Like so many people I tend to be attracted to the advocacies which I feel the most deeply about, and being a fisherman , was really drawn to environmentalism. And being someone who is on his own at 14 living in a tiny Shack on Lummi Island, I can tell you what it's like to be on the edge of homelessness for the first several years that I lived there.

10. Please describe
why you're interested
in serving on this board
or commission

As I had previously stated, I have a history of living in the tiny housing that used to be available in Whatcom County in the late 80s and even in the small pockets in the early 90s. That type of housing actually helped me to become a man among men in a small fishing Village where I fed a nation from my subsidized housing.

This experience has made me a huge advocate of tiny house Solutions in the housing first model. So when I met Jim Peterson of homes now not later, I knew that I needed to be involved with that program, because it was a program that had worked for me, and used to be here in Whatcom County all along...

I see it as the missing housing that everyone is talking about. In my time with homes now I quickly became an independent advocate of servicing the unhoused population Whatcom County in the streets where they live. I designed and oversaw the construction of the ShowersNow shower truck with which our group has been servicing the homeless population for over a year, and in that process we have given somewhere in the neighborhood of 1600 showers.

In February of 2019, myself and my fiance saw that there was a dire need in the streets and answered it by going out into the streets in a terrible blizzard that had inundated Bellingham.

Our efforts quickly and organically blossomed into a giant operation in cooperation with homes now which sheltered over a hundred and fifty people within Bellingham City Limits, who were unable or unwilling to go to the current shelters available.

We delivered people to the shelters until the shelters were full.

Saint Joseph Hospital emergency room had my number and called me personally at least 10 times to come and pick up people who were being discharged.

With the cooperation of homes now we launched an organic effort to get funding to House people in hotel rooms all over Bellingham.

The money raised in this period was around \$30,000 during the 6-week emergency.

Also during this time we, in cooperation with a church in Northern Whatcom County, opened up our own no barrier unisex shelter, and we kept it open for about 8 days with our maximum occupancy somewhere around 35 souls.

There were no problems they could not easily be contended with. There was no need to call the police ever during that Sheltering.

We petitioned the city the county to help us to provide emergency shelter, with varying success, including the temporary

84

emergency men's shelter that we influenced the city to open at Maritime Heritage Park that lasted for three days. Followed by the County run shelter at the Garden Room which I believe ran for about a week.

The Staffing for that particular shelter was a mixture of citizen volunteers, city, and county staff members, including County Executive and many different Council persons. Both of these shelters were men's only facilities, and were still not enough to fulfill the need on the street.

Is my heartfelt goal to find the resources within our government structure to get this vital work done and more, without putting our citizens at such great risk. That is a priority for me.

I have recently submitted the paperwork for a new 501 c 3 nonprofit named Hearts and Homes.

Our focus is mobile Outreach oriented, with room to grow as is needed, with the eventual goal of getting everyone safely and healthily sheltered in our area.

In brief, I see homelessness as completely solvable.

I have many different solution-based ideas for our County and the City of Bellingham, and I can't wait to share these ideas with a group dedicated to the same cause as me.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Amy Glasser MSW (social worker)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Douglass Gufstafson . Technical director, homesnow not later

[REDACTED]

JC Mansfield Homesnow administration

[REDACTED]

Signature of applicant: Markis D. Stidham

Place Signed / Submitted Deming WA

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

