

Boards & Commissions Application



I am interested in serving on the following boards/commissions. (Please indicate the order of preference).

1. Parks and Recreation Commission
2. _____

As an applicant/member of a Council-appointed Board or Commission, your name, address, and phone number will be available to the press and public. Information will be kept on file for three years. Public discussion of information contained herein may occur in the meeting at which appointments are considered by the City Council.

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr. (Please type or print clearly)
Name: Reed Deanna R **Date** 2/13/2015
(Last) (First) (M.I)

Home Address: 231 Broad Street Harrisonburg VA **Zip Code:** 22802

Phone Number: 434-409-1472 **Alternate Phone:** 540-434-6002

Occupation: PreK Teacher and Founder/Director of Precious Gems Academy

Employer/Organization: Roberta Webb Childcare Center

E-mail: deannareed32@gmail.com **Harrisonburg resident for** 20years.

Were you referred by anyone: No Name of Referring Party:

How did you hear about volunteering on a board or commission? Cable Website **Council Meeting**
City Council meeting

Why do you wish to serve on a board or commission?

I heard about the open seat for the Parks and Recreation Commission at the most recent City Council meeting. I am interested in serving on the commission because I am a native of Harrisonburg and resident for over 20 years (most recently since 2009). I am a proven leader in the community with experience and commitment to serving and expanding opportunities for all youth. My passion for youth development inspired me to implement my own nonprofit, Precious Gems Academy. Precious Gems is committed to the self-empowerment and academic excellence of youth in the Harrisonburg City Schools. Additionally, I am involved with other youth serving organizations, including Roberta Webb Childcare Center, On the Road Collaborative/Beyond the Bell and the newly formed Out-of-School Learning Coalition. As a native of Harrisonburg, I am dedicated to encourage and inspire our youth to become productive leaders in our community, and the Parks & Recreation Commission provides an excellent opportunity for me to continue to fulfill this mission.

What relevant experience or education do you have to this board or commission?

I have 20 years of experience in retail merchandising and community development initiatives. For over 16 years, I have served as a member of the Charlottesville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority a Public Service organization, where I served as President from 2000-2004. I am currently the Advisor for the Iota Alpha Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority at James Madison University. I have coordinated numerous community programs in Harrisonburg and Charlottesville (VA), including Black History programs, Women's Trailblazer programs for Lucy F. Simms Educational Center, voter's registration drives, political candidate forums, HIV/Awareness programs and Founders' Day Celebrations. I am currently a PreK Teacher at Roberta Webb Childcare Center and Program Director of Precious Gems Academy at Harrisonburg City Schools.

What other interests or concerns do you have regarding the community?

I am most interested in, and passionate about, our youth and their parents. I believe how we invest in our youth and their parents is a key factor for our success as a community. I have growing interest in our local government- I regularly attend city council and school board meetings. I am continuing to find ways to get involved, be a leader in our community, and affect positive change. I have a strong connection with several local colleges and have more than 30 volunteer college students who serve as mentors for Precious Gems Academy. I also have collaborated with Officer Chris Monahan to lead workshop for our youth at Skyline Middle School and Roberta Webb Childcare Center to develop a relationship between law enforcement and our young adults to make them better citizens

Please list any past or present community involvement e.g. City Council, Board and Commissions, Citizen Academy, etc. in Harrisonburg or elsewhere:

I hold numerous offices within several community organizations. I am a member of John Wesley United Methodist Church where I serve as the Chair of the Staff/Pastor Parish Relation Committee and Trustee. Additionally, I serve as a board member and Vice President of On the Road Collaborative, a new 501c3 youth empowerment organization. I am a member of the Harrisonburg Women's Service League. Recently, I was recognized by my community at the African American Festival with the Empowering Youth Award and was featured in the Curio Magazine for my work with youth development in her community.

-Please return completed application to the City Manager's Office-

Applicants are encouraged to attach a resume or other supporting information that may be helpful to Council in considering their application.

345 S. Main Street, Room 201, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Tel:(540)432-7701 **Fax:**(540)432-7778 **E-mail:**Erica.Kann@harrisonburgva.gov

DEANNA REED

Biography

Deanna Reed, a Harrisonburg native, is a proven leader with strong skills in coordinating programs for elementary, middle and high school youth. Deanna is the co-founder and director of Precious Gems Academy, a youth empowerment organization that serves 65 'at-risk' youth through its network of after school programs in the Harrisonburg City Schools. Precious Gems Academy empowers youth by building their self-esteem and self-awareness and prepares them for college. In addition, Deanna created an original summer enrichment program for the Roberta Webb Childcare Center (summer 2014), which included a camp and community musical.

Beyond her leadership and achievements in serving youth, Deanna has 20 years of experience in retail merchandising and community development initiatives. For over 16 years, Deanna has served as a member of the Charlottesville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority where she served as President of the organization from 2000-2004. She is currently the Advisor for the Iota Alpha Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority at James Madison University. She has coordinated numerous community programs in Harrisonburg and Charlottesville (VA), including Black History programs, Women's Trailblazer programs for Lucy F. Simms Educational Center, voter's registration drives, political candidate forums, HIV/Awareness programs and Founders' Day Celebrations.

Deanna continues to hold numerous offices within several community organizations. She is a member of John Wesley United Methodist Church where she serves as the Chair of the Staff/Pastor Parish Relation Committee and Trustee. Additionally, Deanna is a board member and Vice President of On the Road Collaborative, a new 501c3 youth empowerment organization. She is also a member of the Harrisonburg Women's Service League.

Recently, Deanna was recognized by her community at the African American Festival with the Empowering Youth Award and was featured in the Curio Magazine for her work with youth development in her community. Deanna currently resides in Harrisonburg VA. She remains passionate in her work to enrich the lives of our youth.