

Memorandum Mayor's Office

To: Rock Island City Council
From: Mayor Mike Thoms
Subject: Community Development Commission Appointments and
Police Community Relations Commission Appointment
Date: February 3, 2023



Community Development Commission – The term is for one year, expiring February 2024.

Appointment of Hershel Jackson – Mr. Jackson serves people with disabilities as an Independent Living Advocate for Deaf and Hard of Hearing with the Illinois-Iowa Center for Independent Living (IICIL). He has been a member of the Rock Island community for 57 years and is fluent in American Sign Language and English. Mr. Jackson currently serves on the Statewide Independent Living Council, Illinois State Rehabilitation Council, and Illinois Telecommunication Access Corporation Advisory Council. His previous involvements include the Rock Island County NAACP, IICIL volunteer, and Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission. As an individual who is deaf, he brings knowledge of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Disability Rights Movement, and connections to minority and disability groups within the community. Mr. Jackson would like to use his expertise of disability to help members of the community by making City services and programs more accessible.

Appointment of Richinda Lisle Sakho – Ms. Sakho is a United States Postal Worker and Landlord. She has been a member of the Rock Island community for 44 years and currently serves as a Census Enumerator and as a member of the Douglas Park Neighbor Association and the Quad City Youth Association. Her previous involvements include Project Now, Community Caring Conference and AmeriCorps. Ms. Sakho would like the opportunity to demonstrate fiduciary responsibility to see that donor funds are well spent in the best interest of the community and stakeholders.

Appointment of Andy Boswell – Mr. Boswell is a Probation Officer and has been a member of the Rock Island community for 28 years. He is currently involved with the House Church and was formerly involved with the Rock Island Neighborhood Partners, Keystone Neighborhood Association, Community Caring Conference, Safer Community Task Force, Changing Faces Immigrant and Refugee Task Force, Community Solutions Task Force, and Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Boswell has worked in corrections for nine years and bring knowledge and experience of the population involved in the criminal justice system, most of whom are at or below the poverty line. He would like to support community re-integration of individuals involved in the criminal justice system so that they can better assimilate and be productive members of the community.

Community Development Commission – The term is for two years, expiring February 2025.

Appointment of Jeremy Crafton – Mr. Crafton is a Project Manager and has been a member of the community for 2 years. He is a HUD Certified Housing Counselor, NCHM Certified Fair Housing Specialist, and IDPH licensed Lead Risk Assessor and oversees the community service program that serves lower income residents of Rock Island with

accessibility and rehab assistance to their homes. His current involvements include Quad City Housing Cluster, Illinois Housing Council, Royal Neighbors of America, and as Vice President of the Broadway Historic District Association. Mr. Crafton would like to serve on this commission as he has a vested interest in the preservation and growth of our City.

Appointment of Tom Tarnow – Mr. Tarnow works as an attorney with Prairie State Legal Services (PSLS), ensuring that low-income residents have meaningful access to the courts. He has been a member of the community for less than one year. In his role with PSLS, he works closely with agencies such as Project NOW, MLK Center, and Christian Family Care including holding offices hours at these agencies. He has previously worked to help low-income families in places such as Newark, NJ, and Rochester, NY, by representing low-income community members in a variety of administrative proceedings. He has taught college course for Social Work and Law and he has supervised new attorneys, paralegals, and interns in their efforts to help the community. Mr. Tarnow would like to better serve the Rock Island community by being a member of the CDC.

Appointment of Jen Osing – Ms. Osing is a Program Director at World Relief, a non-profit agency that serves refugees and immigrants in the Quad Cities area. She works with many low to moderate income residents living in Rock Island and supervised the Initial Resettlement Program which includes securing safe, stable housing for all newly arriving refugees. She has been a member of the community for 10 years and is currently involved with World Relief Quad Cities and the St. Ambrose University MPH Community Advisory Board. Her previous involvements include Augustana College American Cancer Society Relay for Life and the Quad City Alliance for Immigrants and Refugees. Ms. Osing brings knowledge of barriers faced by refugees and immigrants to obtain and maintain safe, stable housing that is specific to their needs. Ms. Osing is passionate about building a welcoming community and brings a unique perspective to the CDC.

Community Development Commission – The term is for three years, expiring February 2026.

Appointment of Kaye Whitley – Ms. Whitley is a government employee and has been a member of the Rock Island community for 30 years. Her current involvements include being a member of the Labor Parade Advisory Board, a South Rock Island Trustee, and the President of the Rock Island County Board of Health. Ms. Whitley enjoys being a public servant and would find it meaningful to be a part of the solution and provide input to see the community continue to grow.

Appointment of Ametra Carrol-Castaneda – Ms. Carrol-Castaneda recently retired from Community Caring Conference as a Community Organizer who has been a member of our community for more than 36 years. Her current involvements include the Rock Island Economic Growth Corporation Board, Central States Development Partners Advisory Board, MLK A.C.T.I.V.E. Club, and NAACP Silver Lifetime member. Her previous involvements include being a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor for the Robert Young Center, Community Integration Advocate for IL/IA Center for Independent Living, Heart of Hope Board, NAMI Coordinator and Team Captain for RYC Walkathon, Rock Island County NAACP Community Outreach Chair, Rotary Club, Citizen Advisory Commission, and Rock Island Housing Authority Commission. Ms. Carrol-Castaneda is a passionate advocate on behalf of people and neighborhoods, she has a rich history of

community building and leadership, and she is excited to serve on this commission to continue cultivating community building.

Appointment of Franklin Roe Jr. – Mr. Roe is the Executive Director for Christian Care and has direct involvement with those experiencing homelessness. He runs two shelters, a 20-bed facility for single women with children, and a 42-bed facility for men with a meal site serving 35,000 plus meals each year. He currently volunteers as the 6th grade teacher for his church and was previously a board member of Delacerda House. He has been a member of the community for 7 years. Mr. Roe would like the opportunity to share his experiences of working with the homeless to the community.

Police Community Relations Commission –The term is for three years, expiring September 2025.

Appointment of Stephan Triplett – Mr. Triplett is a Correctional Officer with Rock Island County and has been a member of the Rock Island community for 4 years. He has experience in working with populations diverse in ethnicity, culture, and age. He is currently a member of the Rock Island County NAACP. He has a unique understanding of urban and suburban communities through his personal experiences. Mr. Triplett is seeking the opportunity to assist in bridging the gap between law enforcement and the community they serve with an unbiased perspective.

Recommendation: Approve the appointments as recommended.

Submitted by: Mike Thoms, Mayor

Approved by: Mike Thoms, Mayor