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City Council  
City of Riverside  
3900 Main Street  
Riverside, CA 92522

City of Riverside  
City Clerk's Office

City of Riverside Council Members and fellow Ward 7 residents,

I enthusiastically submit this letter of interest for consideration to be appointed to the Council's Ward 7 seat. As an experienced community researcher with a record of timely and impactful work in community development and evaluation, I am confident that my tenure as appointee will prove to be a service to the elected successor, the seat in general and to the ward overall.

As an applied researcher, I am committed to projects that put data in the service of collaborative community action. In my work with the Metropolitan Nashville Planning Department, for example, my study of organizational networks affecting revitalization in historic black business districts across the southeast identified clear strategies for partnership building between local government, CDCs, and neighborhood anchor institutions leading to collaborative neighborhood planning and redevelopment along the city's Jefferson Street corridor. Implementing a similar project in Ward 7 would help realize the objectives set out in the General Plan's Education Element to make the ward's schools and university central figures in cross sector partnerships.

With my experience in program development and evaluation, I am adept at translating needs into goals, actions and measurable indicators of progress. A key deliverable of my appointment will be a set of metrics related to each objective in the General Plan as pertains to Ward 7. For instance, where the Land Use and Urban Design Element indicates that, given signals of declining industrial use, the City would support mixed-use development along the Arlington corridor, I would look forward to the opportunity to work with the Mayor's Office and colleagues to identify the metrics that would indicate when a turn toward redevelopment might best occur. A comprehensive set of metrics related to the General Plan would not only benefit my successor and the ward, but the City, as well, in its participation in the "What Works Cities" initiative.

I am thrilled at the opportunity presented here to serve as an interim appointee to the Council. While the full scope of responsibilities is sure to present some degree of a learning curve, I am as ready to learn as I am ready, now, to do what I do – produce action-oriented research and strategies that will build the capacity of the seat to better serve the residents of Ward 7. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss the seat and my qualifications with you further.

Sincerely,

Karl Jones, PhD, MSW

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Riverside, CA [REDACTED]  
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