

February 1, 2022

Joseph Chesler
55 Longview Road
Asheville, NC 28806-4418

City Clerk
City of Asheville
P.O. Box 7148
Asheville, NC, 28802

RE: Candidacy for MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

To Whom it May Concern:

In support of my candidacy for a vacant seat on the City of Asheville's Multimodal Transportation Commission, I am excited by the opportunity to share my 40+ years of experience in planning and environmental advocacy to improve and enhance multimodal activities citywide. Additionally, my previous service on similar boards and commissions has provided me with a key understanding of the role of commission and staff in providing the City with thorough and enlightened results.

My summary resume provides details of my background and experience. In 2006, I retired as Chief of Planning with Los Angeles County Department of Beaches & Harbors and moved to North Carolina where I lived in Hendersonville until 2018 (13 yrs); I moved Asheville then and have lived here for three years. I have worked part-time at The Biltmore Estate since 2009, but have retained my planning certification (AICP, retired) and certified flood plain manager status (CFM). When deployed by DHS/FEMA, I also serve as a Public Assistance expert to provide disaster assessment and recovery assistance for public agencies.

I am an avid cyclist and an experienced cycling and transit advocate. I have served on the board of Hostelling International-US and two other public commissions that focused on environmental stewardship and education. This combination coupled with and my professional experience has formed a keen awareness of the value of efficient and effective multi-modal recreational and workplace transportation opportunities for all communities ... I hope to add to that experience here in Asheville.

Thank you for your consideration when filling this important position.

Sincerely,

Joseph Chesler
(828) 808-0513
ichesler@morrisbb.net

Joseph J. Chesler, AICP/CFM

♦ 55 LONGVIEW ROAD ♦ ASHEVILLE, NC 28806-4418 ♦ CELL: 828.808.0513 ♦

Professional Objective: To continue providing quality customer service as an experienced planning and environmental professional as a means of improving community services and to expand my role as a caring World Citizen.

Professional Experience:

- Technical Assistance Contractor (TAC)/Senior Environmental Specialist (EHP) – EUDS, INC; subcontractor to CCPRS Corporation, (Sep 2019-current): [see work description below]
- Technical Assistance Contractor (TAC)/Project Specialist/Senior Environmental Specialist (EHP) – L-W RESOURCES, LLC; subcontractor to CCPRS Corporation, (Sep 2015-2018): Disaster-related damage assessments, environmental (EHP) evaluation, QA/QC responsibilities and preparation of project worksheets for grants under DHS/FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Program; most recent deployments have been as PA Task Force Lead in California under FEMA-DR-4305-CA (2017-18) and Program Delivery Manager in Puerto Rico under FEMA-DR-4339-PR (2018).
- Technical Assistance Contractor (TAC)/Project Specialist (PS)/Public Assistance Coordinator (PAC) – ATCS, LLC; subcontractor to Fluor Corporation, Herndon, VA (Sep 2007 to Apr 2014): Disaster-related damage assessments and environmental (EHP) evaluation, QA/QC responsibilities and preparation of project worksheets for grants under DHS/FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Program. Recent deployments for DHS/FEMA have included PA/EHP/QA-QC assignments in South Dakota (12/2013 to 04/2014), New Jersey (12/2012 to 04/2013) Louisiana (2009-12), Florida (2008-09), New York (2008), California (2008) and Alabama (2007-08).
- Chief, Planning Division – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF BEACHES & HARBORS, Marina del Rey, CA (1973-79 and 12/00-03/06, retired): Duties included: Management and planning for analysis and development oversight for public beach and marina facilities along 31 miles of public beach and waterfront area, including 800-acre Marina del Rey; responsible for environmental permitting and client interests in completing \$32 million in beach capital improvements; responsible for grants and legislation portfolio supporting beach and harbor operations.
- Principal Planner – PCR SERVICES CORPORATION, Santa Monica, CA (02/00–12/00): Duties included: Senior staff manager of high-profile environmental planning and documentation projects for public and private clients nationwide.
- Environmental Compliance Manager – THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY, Burbank, CA (1994-2000): Office of Corporate Counsel (CECD). Duties included: Environmental compliance oversight, technical advisor for Disney worldwide operations; Project manager on various research, design and development efforts.
- Senior Environmental Planner- WALT DISNEY IMAGINEERING, Glendale, CA (1990-94): Duties included: Environmental planning; policy planning; environmental oversight and project permitting; regulatory oversight for development of Walt Disney World Master Plan build-out.
- Manager of Master Planning- THE PORT OF LONG BEACH, Long Beach, CA (1978-89): Duties included: Land use, seaport & transportation planning; coastal and waterfront planning; port master planning and development strategies; completed Queensway Bay Master Plan; completed POLB Risk Management Plan

Related Experience:

- Estate Ambassador II – (2021-current), THE BILTMORE ESTATE, Asheville, NC 28801
- Parking & Transportation Host II, (2008-10, 2020-21), THE BILTMORE ESTATE, Asheville, NC 28801
- NC Commercial Drivers' License/Class B with Passenger (P) endorsement (#32319487-active)

Professional Affiliations:

- **Certified Planner (AICP) [#10600], American Institute of Certified Planners (<http://www.planning.org/aicp>)
- **Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) [#NC-11-0444], Association of State Flood Plain Managers (www.floods.org)
- Member, AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION (www.planning.org)
- Member, AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION-NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER (www.nc-apa.org)
- Past Member, Board of Directors & Life Member, HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL-USA (www.hiusa.org)
- Past Member, Board of Directors, CALIFORNIA MARINE & NAVIGATION CONFERENCE (www.emanc.com)
- Past Member, Board of Directors, SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION FOUNDATION (www.santamonibabay.org/site/aboutus/layout/foundation.jsp)
- Past Commission Member, SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION [ex-officio] (www.santamonibabay.org)

Education:

- MASTER OF URBAN & REGIONAL PLANNING (M.U.R.P.) (1987)
California Polytechnic University - Pomona
- BACHELOR OF SCIENCE - PARK ADMINISTRATION (B.S.) (1974)
California Polytechnic University – Pomona