



- Brainerd HRA Board of Directors -
Resident Commissioner Election Notice

**The election for the Resident Commissioner
position will take place on
September 30, 2020 from 7AM to 7PM.**

Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing Residents have several options for voting, including phone, email, drop box, or coming to the office on election day. You will be asked a verification question prior to your vote being accepted. Each household gets ONE vote.

To learn more about each of the 7 candidates running for election, candidate information statements are included in the following pages. You may also call the Brainerd HRA office at 218-828-3705.

We invite all Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing Residents to exercise their right to vote for their elected representative to participate on the Brainerd HRA Board.

To vote by phone: call 218-828-3705 and select any program staff.

To vote by email: email Tania@brainerdhra.org or Shannon@brainerdhra.org.

To vote by drop box: ballots will be in an envelope at the front door of the office.

If you have any questions, please contact Shannon or Tania at the Brainerd HRA office.

Thank you for your participation!

Brainerd HRA Housing Choice Voucher Program Staff

Candidate Name: Brenda Biever

Participant of what Brainerd HRA Program: Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher

Why do you want to serve as Resident Commissioner for the Brainerd HRA?

Because I am passionate about homelessness and finding ways to help.

What personal experience, special training, education, or awards have you received?

I managed Hidden Jewels at the Pine River Family Center in 2009-10. At the time I attended a seminar in managing volunteers, changed (successfully) donation procedures, and revenue in the store. I helped families with resources and donations.

What volunteer work or public service have you performed?

Before managing Hidden Jewels I volunteered for 6 months. Last winter I put together a drive for the homeless and gave many warm clothes and helped with resources.

What most qualifies you for this role?

I have been on both sides of the fence and I believe I could be a positive voice for the less fortunate and mentally handicapped. I am passionate about homeless and fighting for the underdog.

Why should residents vote for you?

Because I believe in them and I will fight for them. Because I care!

Candidate Name: Candice Frederiksen

Participant of what Brainerd HRA Program: Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher

Why do you want to serve as Resident Commissioner for the Brainerd HRA?

Housing/property management has been my career for most of my adult life. Most recently, Fall 2018, I worked as Leasing Agent for Central MN Housing Partnership temporarily to help with lease up. I love both market rate and affordable housing and hope to acquire my Real Estate License in the future, to pursue more opportunities here.

What personal experience, special training, education, or awards have you received?

Fair housing training, INH Properties, Gaughan Companies; Crime Free/Drug Free Training Brooklyn Park Police Department/Nexus Real Estate; 10+ years working as resident/property manager in the cities; about 1 year combined in affordable housing experience with Dominion and CMHP; recognized for 100% occupancy with INH Companies and Nexus Real Estate.

What volunteer work or public service have you performed?

I volunteer in the recovery community helping people in recovery, "sober squad".

What most qualifies you for this role?

I have a very good understanding from both management's perspective as well as residents given my background. We had Section 8 participants at a property I was Assistant Manager at for Dominion and have a general knowledge on the paperwork/expectations from both management and resident perspective.

Why should residents vote for you?

I have personal experience with both the challenges and benefits various affordable housing offers, as well as a good understanding of management/ownership challenges – expectations, etc. I could help bridge any gaps and help problem solve with the knowledge I've gained prior in employment and now recently as a grateful Section 8 participant.

Candidate Name: Christopher Mathison

Participant of what Brainerd HRA Program: Public Housing: North Star Apartments

Why do you want to serve as Resident Commissioner for the Brainerd HRA?

To help be a voice for everyone, so everyone can be heard.

What personal experience, special training, education, or awards have you received?

I have my high school graduate as well as an A.A. from CLC. I also ran for Brainerd City Council in 2018.

What volunteer work or public service have you performed?

I gave numbers talks on television and radio shows about internet bullying.

What most qualifies you for this role?

I was born and raised here, always lived in Brainerd, and am passionate about helping.

Why should residents vote for you?

Because any resident can communicate with me anytime about anything. I'll be available and get things done that are asked of me. And because I am a part of this HRA community as well!

Candidate Name: Janet Decker

Participant of what Brainerd HRA Program: Public Housing: North Star Apartments

Why do you want to serve as Resident Commissioner for the Brainerd HRA?

To be a voice for my neighbors and myself. To bring neighbors' concerns to the Board and help reach "win win" solutions.

What personal experience, special training, education, or awards have you received?

I have experience with several large corporations and understand corporate process for resolving issues. My work history includes management of several senior living housing facilities.

What volunteer work or public service have you performed?

Prior to working at T.J.Maxx I volunteer at Restore here in Brainerd, also Salvation Army food shelf.

What most qualifies you for this role?

I reside at North Star so I have a personal interest in how our building is cared for and understand the concerns of my neighbors.

Why should residents vote for you?

I believe I can listen to their concerns and then convey them to the Board in a positive manner. I also believe respect for my neighbors and residents is very important.

Candidate Name: Laurie Rosdobutko

Participant of what Brainerd HRA Program: Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher

Why do you want to serve as Resident Commissioner for the Brainerd HRA?

I am very detail oriented and I would like to make sure people are happy.

What personal experience, special training, education, or awards have you received?

I have been on Board for other organizations in the past. I just completed the WRAP training and going to set up the training for the Peer Specialist.

What volunteer work or public service have you performed?

I help anyone in need. I go above and beyond. I take other people's needs before mine. I will go without to make sure someone else does not.

What most qualifies you for this role?

I love to help people in need. It brings me joy when people are happy.

Why should residents vote for you?

I spent most of my life fighting for a better life for me. I have been taught not to give up. I have been through a lot and I am still here to talk about it. I will not give up on anyone else.

Candidate Name: Nathan Steffenson

Participant of what Brainerd HRA Program: Public Housing: North Star Apartments

Why do you want to serve as Resident Commissioner for the Brainerd HRA?

To give customers a voice at the Board meetings.

What personal experience, special training, education, or awards have you received?

I have been involved in the community. I have a Bachelor of Arts degree, an Associate in Arts degree, and three Associates in Applied Science degrees. I attended HUD and NAHRO trainings for commissioners.

What volunteer work or public service have you performed?

Volunteer internships at Onamia Schools, Isle Schools, Central Lakes College, and Brainerd Schools, served at 2008 Onamia Centennial All Class Reunion, City of Brainerd Election Judge, and storm spotter.

What most qualifies you for this role?

I am and have been involved in the community at North Star Apartments as well as Brainerd and Baxter area. This includes my work with my business and working with area youth with ISD 181. I have helped with a number of activities at North Star including the newsletter.

Why should residents vote for you?

I will show up at meetings to represent the residents. Of the over 6 years I was on the Board, I only missed 2 meetings: once while in the hospital and once to attend a funeral. Thank you for your support.

Candidate Name: Sari Mogol-Legge

Participant of what Brainerd HRA Program: Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher

Why do you want to serve as Resident Commissioner for the Brainerd HRA?

I had ideas on contributions to build momentum before the pandemic. This want/ideas made public sense in public discussion in the COVID-19 crisis. Added now after George Floyd was murdered and I feel we can be heard with reforms, streamlines and funding having part of the national discussion and state political ears opened for action as part of changes needed.

What personal experience, special training, education, or awards have you received?

Very much my entire life of career skills have led me to skills in all my passion areas of advocacy, be that in business, health, 501c3 awareness, 20+ times as frontline advocate/founder. Civic/service memberships, owning an income property and now living in a broken system where those at HRA want to help but are held back yet they never give up. See my LinkedIn: Sari Mogol.

What volunteer work or public service have you performed?

See my LinkedIn: Sari Mogol

What most qualifies you for this role?

Because I am on the inside now, taken to each aspect of things gone sideways and as a lifelong person of logic – see that much harm is done in current systems! Wise voices of nonprofit carry what state/federal refuse to do fast enough to stop homelessness because of voucher systems. As above, COVID and civil rights give all of us perfect timing to opportune change and bring less shameless, less hardships upon those in housing subsidy life needs. We can speak it, make priorities of dignity front and center.

Why should residents vote for you?

No change is possible unless input from the bottom reaches the top in person, in media, in facts. And Minnesota can actually save tax dollars to prevent homelessness by implementing agency coordination, reduction of redundancies, and common sense.