

Candidate Statements for Brainerd HRA Resident Commissioner Election

Candidate Name: Sandra Byzewski

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 want to learn more about these programs. I have a open mind, it sounds interesting and I'm willing to learn.

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

Attended Dale Carnegie Business College in Memphis, Tennessee. I won an award for people relations and communications.

What volunteer work or public service have you performed?

None.

What most qualifies you for this role?

The desire to help when and where I can.

Why should tenants and program participants vote for you?

Because of my eagerness to learn.

Candidate Name: Chris Daugherty

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

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

To inform people of services available.

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

Personal experience with human services programs available. Forklift certificate.

What volunteer work or public service have you performed?

Mowed for a camp organization, non profit volunteering.

What most qualifies you for this role?

Personal experience with human services programs available like Section 8.

Why should tenants and program participants vote for you?

As a Section 8 participant I will advocate for participants such as myself.

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?

I truly enjoy learning at the meetings and then sharing what I learned with my fellow residents and helping the Board to be aware of resident concerns.

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

I have work experience in the apartment caretaking field, special needs training for elderly, customer service experience and customer service at current job.

What volunteer work or public service have you performed?

Volunteer at the food shelf and ReStore locally. Volunteered at food shelves and housing agencies in the cities.

What most qualifies you for this role?

Incumbent experience for 1 year. Listening and communication skills and understanding issues that people have trying to navigate the housing system. Compassion is #1.

Why should tenants and program participants vote for you?

As the incumbent I would like to continue to be on the Board. I do understand many of the dilemmas we all struggle with because I too have been there and understand trying to climb back up to happiness and success.

Candidate Name: Gaea Downing

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 believe that I can help make a honest difference in people's lives and give positive ethical standard of work to keep the risks of fraud & problems from even happening. To follow all policies & procedures.

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

I have graduated from college on the Dean's list with my Associate degree in Business Administration, from the AIU online accredited online college. I used my skills as assistant mgr at hotels when I was working in Kentucky.

What volunteer work or public service have you performed?

I have volunteered to serve at the soup kitchen on Oak St. I have volunteered at the Brainerd/Baxter youth shop. When I lived in Texas I volunteered to help coach pregnant women who were abused, after training. I also have quantity time in recovery.

What most qualifies you for this role?

I am an honest, trustful, fun & hardworking person and I enjoy working with people.

Why should tenants and program participants vote for you?

I am an honest, hardworking, dependable, fun person who has the love to help others.

Candidate Name: Shelby Fitch

Participant of what Brainerd HRA Program: Public Housing: Scattered Sites

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

I want to serve as Resident Commissioner because I want to provide leadership and oversight on rules and regulations of Brainerd HRA. I feel this experience will help me participate in my community while demonstrating a say or need within it.

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

Currently I am in my second year at Central Lakes College working to obtain my transfer pathway degree in social worker, then transferring to Bemidji State for my BSW. Honors program at CLC, leadership courses.

What volunteer work or public service have you performed?

I really haven't been able to volunteer due to school and have three littles of my own but I am willing to designate time to be a better source for the community.

What most qualifies you for this role?

The skills and experience that I possess qualify me for this role. My communication along with my leadership skills make me a great candidate. I am committed to learning new skills to succeed in this role while being a voice for our community.

Why should tenants and program participants vote for you?

I have participated in Public Housing and Section 8 previously at the Brainerd HRA. Both programs are extraordinary with helping the community. I feel that my knowledge and years of experience in these programs makes me the perfect candidate.

Candidate Name: Deborah Lee

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

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

Being a renter with experience working as a property manager I have had the experience of seeing situations from a landlord and renter perspective making me qualified to offer unique observations and feedback. I want to serve in this role to make a positive impact in my community and use my educational and work history to solve any issues that need to be addressed.

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

I have extensive training on fair housing rules and regulations, affordable housing/Tax Credit that I have applied while working as the property manager at the Franklin Arts center.

What volunteer work or public service have you performed?

I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work and an Associates of Art degree in Human Services. I have volunteered 4 years at the St Cloud Hospital. My final year, I was the Vice President. I have volunteered over 10 years in Minnesota public and private grade schools. I have completed a full-time internship with New Beginnings, a home for unwed mothers. I have done a variety of other volunteer and internship work.

What most qualifies you for this role?

I have over 5 years experience working as the property manager and residential manager at the Franklin Arts Center.

Why should tenants and program participants vote for you?

I will listen to your concerns, needs and wishes on areas that could use improvement, awareness, or change. I will use my voice to be a strong advocate for you.

Candidate Name: James Strom

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 make a difference in the community and our apartment building.

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

I have lived in Public Housing for the past five years. I have a high school diploma and I'm going to college for computer science. In my high school career I lettered three times. I was awarded the most spirit.

What volunteer work or public service have you performed?

I have volunteered with Kinship of Morrison County. I have volunteered for the Brainerd high school. I worked in Woodland Good Samaritan. I work now at Walmart. I have been part of the resident council for about 3 years.

What most qualifies you for this role?

I am an outgoing person. I know how to communicate with people. I know a lot of things.

Why should tenants and program participants vote for you?

I'll make the best decision for the residents vs. the best outcome for myself.