



CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

110 N 1st Street, Indianola, IA 50125-0299 • www.indianolaiowa.gov
515-961-9410 phone • 515.961.9402 fax

MAYOR POSITION EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME:	Michelle Feters Steen	TODAY'S DATE:	10/7/2020
STREET ADDRESS:	610 E Scenic Valley Ave #134		
CITY:	Indianola	STATE:	Iowa
ZIP:	50125		
EMAIL:	the.citygate.us@aol.com		
HOME PHONE:	→	CELL PHONE:	515/961-2169
WORK PHONE:	←		
OCCUPATION:	self-employed	YEARS RESIDED IN INDIANOLA:	Needs explanation 1 1/2 yrs
HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL, HERE OR ELSEWHERE?			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
OFFICE:		YEARS SERVED:	

Please provide an essay of no more than 500 words indicating:

- Why you desire to be Mayor of Indianola;
- Why you believe you are qualified for this position; and
- How you will contribute to keep Indianola moving forward in a positive way.

Please also attach a resume or bio that includes a listing of work experience and civic involvement.

Completed applications, with all required attachments, must be received by **5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 21, 2020**. All materials must be submitted to:

City Clerk's Office
110 N. 1st Street
Indianola, IA 50125

Or

CityClerk@indianolaiowa.gov

Applicants will be asked to make a presentation of 5 minutes or less during the City Council meeting at 6:00 p.m. on October 29, 2020.

Applicant's Statement

I certify that I am legally eligible for appointment to the office for which I am applying, including residency requirements. I agree, if appointed, to fairly and impartially, to the best of my ability, discharge all the duties of the office as required by law.

Michelle Feters Steen

SIGNATURE

10/7/2020

DATE

Michelle Fetters Steen
610 E Scenic Valley Ave #134
Indianola, Iowa 50125
515-961-2169 thecitygateusa@aol.com
Birthday April 3, 1954

I am a daughter, sister, wife, mom, grandma, aunt, cousin, Christian, friend. At one time, I named my stay-at-home position Family-Unit Specialist. I have never really stayed home, but personal interests don't pay much. The name gave meaning. Money is a necessity, but life isn't all about money.

EDUCATION

1992—Graduate with Bachelor of Liberal Studies Degree, University of Iowa
1972-1976—Attended University of Iowa, completed degree by correspondence
1986—Institute of Children's Literature course
1972-1973—Attended Iowa State University
1972—Graduate of Indianola Senior High School
I have taken a couple of classes at Simpson.

WORK EXPERIENCE

2016-Present—Sell Park Lane Jewelry.
2012-Present—Sell LegalShield and IDShield protection memberships so people can be assured that finances and reputations remain safe.
1986-Present - Sell Jafra Skin Care products
2006-2018- Dance team coach for the Iowa Energy senior women's team, The Spark Plugs. We performed at Wells Fargo Arena before 100s of people one time a month during the basketball season. Required choreography, teaching, writing dance step notes, cutting music, marketing the team for out side appearances (Simpson College, Drake University, Iowa State Fair, William Jewell College, in Liberty, Missouri....) When the Iowa Energy dance team ended, we formed a team, called Encore, for two years.
1990s—Record Herald and Indianola Tribune Kaleidoscope writer and then Feature Article writer.
These articles spotlighted people or subjects in Warren County that readers would find interesting.
1997-2019 - Small dance studio and business retailer on the Square in Indianola, Iowa.
1995-2009 - Publisher, editor, proofreader, writer for The City Gate Christian Newspaper, Indianola, Iowa.
1988-2010 - Dance instructor for children 3 to 6 years old. Also created a dance team for high school girls, called Ovation; purpose was to offer a team for teenage girls who didn't make the high school team or didn't have confidence to try out for it. Taught teenagers who had no studio experience so studios would see that they were caught up and could join their studio.
Summers of 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975 and school breaks - Data Processing Department, State of Iowa, as receptionist.

CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

2011-2015—Was heavily involved with starting a Celebrate Recovery group at Indianola First Assembly of God Church, to help people with addictions. When that ended, it was changed to Anchor of Support Open Share.
2009-Present - I get involved politically concerning politicians and candidates for office. I support a County Supervisor with the desire to give Warren County true facts and help with the campaigns.
2013-2018—Was involved with the committees to gather facts about where a new Justice Center would benefit the City of Indianola and Warren County best.
2014-2015 - Proofread a Prayer Letter for the Dr. Ben Carson Presidential Campaign. Writer of the Letter was in San Diego, California, so we did this via email.
2009-2017 - President of Warren County Child Abuse Prevention Council, Indianola, Iowa
2004-2017 - Accepted invitation to be on the Board of Warren County Child Abuse Prevention Council, based in Indianola, Iowa, as a representative of the Faith community, small business owner and residence address of Carlisle in Warren County, Iowa.
2016—Coached oldest grandson's Little League team with my husband.
2012?—Went to Indianola City Council, on behalf of the Downtown Development Group, to request the Council recognize The Square as a destination location so that it would be capitalized when printed. (The Square is a destination; a square is merely a shape.)
2007-2011 - Member of Indianola Kiwanis Club, serving as Vice-President and President during that time.
2006 - Completed classes for Non-Profit Management Certification, through Faith-Based Initiative and ISU Extension.

2000-2010 - Organized and facilitated monthly meetings of the Downtown Development Group in Indianola, Iowa, comprised of merchants with businesses around Indianola Square and two blocks off.

1999-2014 - With the help of my parents and volunteers, organized a New Year's Eve event on the Square in Indianola, Iowa, with only two weeks of planning time once we had the idea. City and County very involved. Need was for a way to celebrate the change from 1999-2000 in computers which caused the Y2K fear, nationwide. Associated Press picked the story up, so people around the Indianola area heard of the event in that way as well as word of mouth and newspaper. Estimated 800-1,000 people attended, on 12/31/99. We held it every year after except for the year my father died, December 2010. Decided to stop holding it after fifteen years, New Year's Eve of 2014.

1994? - Spoke in front of Iowa Legislature concerning lowering the blood alcohol percentage limit, due to personal experience.

1991-1993? - Coached daughter's Parks and Recreation softball team—one year with Tim Howser and two years with my dad.

1990?—Attended meetings to start the Learning Center for High School students who had difficulty with typical classroom settings, with Mike Baethke leading.

1989-1995—Involved with Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD) due to head-on car wreck in 1978. Consisted of speaking as a Victim Impact Panelist.

1984-1986 - Sold Mary Kay Cosmetics

1983 - Wrote a children's book of bedtime stories; stories told to my boys when they didn't want to go to bed. Illustrations done by my mother and myself.

August 23, 1975 - Married, to same man.

MISCELLANEOUS FACTS; Not sure of the following dates -

Worked with a group to save the Middle School building from demolition or sale to Simpson College, so it could be the Warren County Administration Building.

I stay current on CPR and First Aid.

Taught dance to little kids and adult tap through Parks and Recreation. Then stepped out on my own.

Was on the YWCA Board at the Burlington, Iowa, YM/YWCA. (They are combined there.)

Participated in the Indianola Community Choir, through (I think) Parks and Recreation.

Regular church attendee—currently in 2020 by watching online.

I wrote the narrative and presented it on stage for a ballet performed in Burlington, Iowa.

I've proofread manuscripts for people to have their work published.

Have met with a representative of Governor Reynolds to get the sale of CBD products legalized in the State of Iowa. I'll be on that topic until legal legalization happens.

Began dance classes from Ellen Belle Foster when I was two years old, then Richard Powell until I was fifteen. That's where I obtained instruction to be able to teach and perform at various venues. During my years teaching dance, I had some students with special needs. One Downs Syndrome, one autistic, one with no thumbs (and I hadn't even noticed until I'd taught her for a couple of years and her mom mentioned it one day), and one little dancer with an arm that wasn't fully developed. The little girl with autism had private lessons with me. By the time recital was coming up, she was ready to join the class and perform in recital. (She was assisted by her social worker, but we were certainly proud of her.) I also have a grandchild with special needs from Joubert Syndrome.

Mayor of Indianola, 10/7/2020

By Michelle Feters Steen

As I look out the window, today is a sunny, warm day for October in Iowa. Other days have gray skies, tornado, even derecho winds, blizzard conditions or fog—many of which could happen in Fall, Winter, Spring or Summer here.... That is similar to the conditions of a city. All leaders of Cities, States and Nations must realize the changes that might come gradually or unexpectedly. Having things run smoothly is best.

I grew up in Indianola, was a dancer, a cheerleader, participated in clubs, sang in the choir, was a founding member of the New Life Singers my Junior year; members of whom were kids from every church in the area. I went to college in Ames and Iowa City. My husband and I lived in the mountains of Virginia for a Summer and two years in Minneapolis. We moved back to Iowa City, to Burlington on the mighty Mississippi, and then came full-circle back to Warren County where everything we got involved in was in Indianola.

The Feters and Steen families have been involved in Indianola for many years, in many ways. Education, a dance band, athletics, civic involvement.... My grandpa died in office as Mayor in the mid-60s. I know that Indianola is a different City than it was at that time. But I have a passion for helping Indianola thrive.

In a way, I'd love for the world to know about this City that sits in the heart of the Nation. In another way, it's a rather nice secret.

Balloons that dot the sky every year, and any time the winds cooperate, are a sight to see. I've ridden in balloons twice. Fun! We can brag about the great college that we can all benefit from; everyone taking classes or just to walk the campus. Our Elementary Schools, Middle and High Schools send well-equipped young people into the world when they complete the grades. And to my knowledge, none of them get left behind if they struggle.

I would like a chance to sit in the office of Mayor. What I don't know about or understand, I would get the answers. I would like a chance to help citizens thrive as well as the City. I would do my best to make Indianola continue to be a place of which we're all proud.