

Hal Seligson

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City of Langley
112 Second Street
Langley, WA 98260

Please consider this letter a supplement to my application to fill the vacant position on the Langley City Council. A resume covering my career in government service and other related material is attached.

I believe in an open participatory society. Since moving to Langley eight years ago I have been participating in efforts to safeguard and tangibly improve our community. Among them:

- I served as member and chair of Langley's Planning Advisory Board, dealing with issues crucial to our city's future: I gathered information, deliberated with other members and voted in open meetings on land use recommendations that I believe to have been in Langley's best interest. Reviews included two of the largest developments proposed in Langley's history. I worked with the Council to improve ongoing two-way communication regarding land use policy matters. I developed a productive working relationship with the City Administration, WA State agencies and State legislative staff. I introduced the incorporation of Low Impact Development (LID) Standards into Langley ordinances by reference, a simple, now well-accepted approach that benefits the environment, the city and potential developers. I worked with City staff to formulate a Wellhead Protection Plan to safeguard our water supply.
- I was a member of the Integration Committee of the Comprehensive Plan Group.
- With Fran Abel, I co-led the successful community/government cooperative effort that planted nine gardens with trees on Second Street; helping to enliven and make more pedestrian-friendly what is essentially Langley's Main Street. I am an active member of the Board of Directors of the Langley Community Club that was much involved in that project and many others to better our community.
- Working with community leaders including Susie Richards, Kathy McLaughlin and Helen Price Johnson, I led the successful effort to create a community garden at the Langley Middle School where students gain life experience and provide fresh produce to Good Cheer's Food Bank. This little garden in Langley was the forerunner of the large and productive garden at Good Cheer in Bayview.
- I served on the Mayor's Committee in the (first) successful effort to save the Langley Clinic.
- My wife Marilee and I are supporters of local organizations we value highly: We are Friends of the Langley Library, supporters of and volunteers at Good Cheer (Marilee is a member of the Board of Directors), and we both support and have volunteered for Hearts & Hammers.
- Most importantly, I believe I have earned a reputation as someone who honestly speaks his mind on topics of importance to our community; and who offers a positive voice of experience, reason, and moderation in discourse.

I have been consistent in my defense of everyone's right to know. I am a strong proponent of a government of co-equal branches and the exercise of checks and balances... of trust and transparency. I have no personal agenda. I seek only to participate in the best governance we can provide and that the citizens of Langley deserve.

Being a dedicated member of our community, and having spent my entire career working in public service, I know that I have the requisite motivation and the relevant experience to be a productive member of the Langley City Council.

Thank you.

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Prior to retiring to Langley in 2002, I was a senior administrator at the New York State Psychiatric Institute / Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons in New York City for 21 years. This job entailed a high degree of responsibility, requiring the ability to work collegially with a broad spectrum of co-workers, other governmental agencies, contractors and community-based clients. I was known for developing and implementing creative solutions to complex situations... and for working with others to prevent problems.

Directly, and through a staff of subordinate department heads, I managed the Fiscal and Operational divisions of one of the largest and most prestigious research and teaching hospitals in its field, wherein government and the private sector successfully collaborated for the public good.

My areas of responsibility included:

- Creation of institutional policies and procedures, interpretation and implementation of relevant external regulations and laws.
- Development and administration of operating and capital budgets.
- Participating in the management of capital projects – including design and construction of a new research and teaching hospital budgeted at \$100+ million.
 - This responsibility frequently required direct coordination with political and community interests, State and Municipal agencies, familiarity with environmental issues, design principles, building codes and techniques.
- Chairmanship and membership of various facility-wide committees.

Departments managed included:

- Contracts & Business Administration
- Internal Audit & Control – including liaison with State auditors
- Maintenance & Engineering
- Nutrition Services
- Safety & Security
- Transportation
- Housekeeping and Hazardous Waste Management
- Telecommunications and Mail
- Website development

Proposed Council Initiatives

If I become a member of the City Council, I will work to represent all citizens of this City.

I will work collegially with all the other members of the Council to ensure that Langley has the most open and responsive government possible. To that end, I will request that the City of Langley not fund my service on the Council. Rather, keep the \$600 per year and use it to improve the City's ability to communicate with the community: through live internet streaming audio/video and radio broadcasts of Council meetings, as well as open sessions of the PAB and other Boards.

I will work toward ensuring that the government of Langley functions with two separate but equal branches... Exercising checks and balances as appropriate.

I recommend now that the Council and Mayor hold quarterly meetings to include more citizens of Langley as well as residents of the area surrounding the City. Reach out to and include non-resident business owners, non-resident property owners. Use larger venues for these meeting that would be planned and announced well in advance.

Review Langley Municipal Code section 2.06.270 **Filling council vacancies** to clarify and improve the method by which future vacancies on the Council are filled.

Seek a **Standing Council Committee on Finance and Personnel**.

- Inspire confidence in the citizenry that the Council fulfills its fiduciary duty to safeguard the taxpayer's money
 - Monitor budgets and keep the people informed about how their money is being used.
 - Monitor all contracts approved by the Council.
- Work with the Mayor to make government more efficient.

I will also work with officials of Island County and the Port of South Whidbey to ensure that Langley follows the letter and spirit of the Growth Management Act. Langley needs to serve its appropriate role as the economic and cultural center of South Whidbey. We must cooperate meaningfully to capitalize on Langley's existing strengths to ensure the success of our City and environs as a place to live and work.