



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Record Number of Individuals Apply for Council Vacancy

On January 10, 2015, City Council will choose from among 36 applicants to fill a vacancy on the Bowie City Council. The vacancy was created when former At-Large Councilmember Todd Turner was elected to the Prince George's County Council. His departure was effective on November 30, 2014.

The application deadline for the At-Large seat on the Bowie City Council was Wednesday, December 31, 2014 at 5 p.m. As of that time, 36 residents from all over Bowie had submitted a letter of interest for the position. City Clerk Awilda Hernandez reported steady interest in the vacancy throughout December, but the number of applicants didn't increase dramatically until the latter half of the month. Between December 18th and 31st the number of applicants jumped from five to 36.

The person who is appointed to the At-Large seat on the City Council will serve until the next City election on November 3, 2015. The appointee is eligible to run for re-election in November as is any other incumbent member of the City Council.

According to the City Charter, if the vacancy occurs less than 15 months prior to the next election, the City Council will select an individual to fill the open seat. If there is a vacancy prior to 15 months before the next General City Election, a special election will take place. Since the next election is 11 months away, City Council will make the selection.

The 36 candidates will be interviewed by the Council during public meetings at City Hall on either Saturday, January 10th or on Monday, January 12th. The interview slots will be assigned randomly. Each candidate will have 15 minutes to make a statement and answer questions posed by Councilmembers. At the conclusion of the interviews, Council will meet in closed session to make its selection. The list of applicants is attached to this press release.

The last time the City Council made an appointment to fill a Council vacancy was in January of 2011 when Henri Gardner was selected to fill the remaining term of Geraldine Valentino-Smith who was elected to the Maryland General Assembly. Twenty-three candidates were interviewed for that opening.

List of candidates for Bowie City Council vacancy

- Bruce D. Edwards – Westview
- James A. Golato – Kenilworth
- Brenda Thompson – Somerset
- Karl H. Stehmer – Overbrook
- Joseph Edward Lim – Saddlebrook East
- Courtney D. Glass – Northview
- Sybil Smith-Gray – Glenn Allen
- Stephen N. Barr – Somerset
- Brandon A. Smith – Northridge/Hillmeade
- Carl J. Schuettler – Overbrook
- Keith Jackson Jr. – Chapel Forge
- Mishondy Wright-Brown – Highbridge Park
- Gail L. Elkins – Woodmore
- Kelly L. Pierce – Saddlebrook West
- H. L. Dufour Woolfley, Jr. – Longridge
- Parag Ambardekar – Derbyshire
- Mary Cunningham – Saddlebrook East
- James G. Bell – Northview
- Craig M. Muckle – Grovehurst
- Shawn Paxton – Huntington
- Monica Brown-Lipscomb – Somerset
- Kelly P. Rowe – Kenilworth
- Toni Adams – Glenridge
- Patrice Little Murray – Collington Station
- Babatunde Alegbeleye – Northview
- David J. Grogan – Bowie Town Center Condo
- Sanford E. Holman – Northridge
- Julie S. Holley – Somerset
- Dustin M. Kuzan – Bowie Forest
- Piero “Pete” V. Mellits – Buckingham
- Anita S. Studgeon – Meadowbrook
- J. Scott Hessberger, Jr. – Westview
- Muzar A. Jah – Huntington
- Martin P. Delgado – Somerset
- Charlene Beairsto – Belair Town
- Cecilia D. Marsh – Covington Manor