

City of Peoria Commission Volunteer Interest Sheet

Committed volunteers play an important part in shaping Peoria's future. Commission members assist the City Council and administration in developing policies and services which reflect the needs and values of the entire Peoria community. As a member of a City committee, you serve as a respected community advisor to the City Council and Administration.

While volunteer involvement requires time and effort, it also provides an opportunity for genuine public service. In addition, you gain knowledge about the role of City government and its day-to-day operations.

If you are interested in joining over 400 Peoria citizens currently serving as volunteer commission and committee members, please complete this volunteer interest sheet/profile and return it to:

Office of the Mayor
City of Peoria
419 Fulton Street, Suite 207
PEORIA, IL. 61602

Questions about the purpose of, or volunteer commitment required for any of the commissions can be directed to the Assistant to the Mayor, Michelle King, at mking@peoriagov.org or 309.494.8558.

I am interested in serving on the following committees:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advisory Committee on Police-Community Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Peoria Civic Center Authority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Examining Engineers | <input type="checkbox"/> Peoria Housing Authority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Local Improvements | <input type="checkbox"/> Peoria Urban Forestry Advisory Board |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CDBG Public Service Advisory Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Peoria Public Library Board of Trustees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Constitution Garden Advisory Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning and Zoning Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Police Pension Fund Board of Trustees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Downtown Advisory Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Arts Advisory Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> East Village Growth Cell | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Building Commission of Peoria |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fair Employment Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Riverfront Program and Police Advisory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fair Housing Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Sister City Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fire and Police Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste (Landfill) Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Firemen's Pension Fund Board of Trustees | <input type="checkbox"/> Springdale Cemetery Management Authority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greater Peoria Mass Transit District Board of Trustees | <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism Reserve Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Liquor Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning Board of Appeals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor's Advisory Committee for Citizens with Disabilities | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Metropolitan Airport Authority of Peoria Board of Commissioners | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Band Commission | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors | |

Volunteer Profile

Name: Nina Gougis

Home Address: 2837 W. Susan Curve, Peoria, Illinois Zip Code: 61615

Business Address: 411 Hamilton Blvd., Ste. 1928, Peoria, Illinois Zip Code: 61602

Home Phone: (309) 294-0025 Business Phone: (309) 282-6325

Fax: (309) 279-5214 Email: ninagougislaw@gmail.com

Date of birth:(dd.mm. yyyy) 02.15.1984

Preferred method of contact: mail, email, or fax. Email

Preference on which commission you would like to serve: Advisory Committee on Police-Community Relations

Community Volunteer Experience:

- Executive Board Member, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People - Peoria, Illinois (2016 to present)
- Member, Peoria County Bar Association (2012 to present)
- Member, Delta Sigma Theta Peoria Alumnae Chapter (2017 to present)
- Member, Parent Teacher Advisory Board – Peoria Public Schools (2018 to 2019)
- Executive Board Member, American Civil Liberties Union – Peoria, Illinois (2018 to 2019)
- Board of Directors Member and Diversity Chair, Peoria County Bar Association (2013-2014)

Have you previously served on a City Commission?

If yes, state commission and date of service: No, N/A

Professional and Employment Background:

- *Guardian Ad Litem* – Tenth Judicial Circuit, Peoria County, Illinois (October 2018-present)
 - Represent minors in abuse, neglect, and dependency hearings for the Peoria County Juvenile Court
 - Make recommendations to the juvenile judge regarding findings of child abuse and neglect; findings of parents' fitness; services to be provided to parents found unfit; and services to be provided to children who are found to be abused, neglected and/or dependent
- Attorney/Owner – Law Office of Nina R. Gougis (January 2018 to present)
 - Represent clients in a wide variety of areas, including labor and employment, civil rights, education, bankruptcy, and family law
- Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Trustee – Private Panel of Trustees – Central District of Illinois (November 2017 to January 2020)
 - Collected and liquidated property of the bankruptcy estate and distributed proceeds to creditors
 - Investigated financial affairs of debtors filing Chapter 7 bankruptcy in the Central District of Illinois


Volunteer Profile

- Presided over meetings of creditors held pursuant to Section 341 of the U.S. *Bankruptcy Code*
- Senior Associate – Angela Evans Law, Peoria Illinois (August 2016 to December 2017)
 - Represented clients in a wide variety of areas, including labor and employment, education, bankruptcy, and family law
- Senior Associate – Smith & Weer, P.C., Peoria and Pekin, Illinois (September 2015 to August 2016)
 - Represented clients in bankruptcy, family, criminal, and various other legal proceedings at all stages
- Associate – Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick & Kohn LLP, Arlington Heights and Peoria, Illinois (September 2009 to September 2015)
 - Negotiated with unions concerning the terms and conditions employment and facilitated the interest-based bargaining process between management and unions
 - Represented school districts and municipalities and counseled administrators and governing board members in/on various areas of law, including labor and employment, education, *Freedom of Information Act*, *Open Meetings Act*, and other areas of school and municipal law
- Educational Background:
 - Juris Doctor – University of Illinois College of Law, Champaign, Illinois – 2009
 - Bachelor of Arts – Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois – 2006
 - Major in journalism, minor in political science

State briefly why you wish to be considered for a City volunteer commission and what you would hope to accomplish if appointed:

I believe the committee, through a collaborative effort among the committee and police/city leadership, can institute changes that help improve the relationship between Peoria Police and all demographics of the community and help provide for a meaningful citizens' complaint review process. I look forward to assisting with that collaborative effort.

Would your service on a City commission be a conflict of interest for you? No

Signature:  Date: 6/11/2020

Please Note: If you are selected for appointment to a City commission, a copy of this form will be attached to the public Council communication requesting your appointment.