

## Brenda Hopwood

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**From:** Nicole Livsey <nlivsey@pha.peoria.il.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 03, 2015 8:29 PM  
**To:** Brenda Hopwood  
**Cc:** Kate Green  
**Subject:** City of Peoria, Illinois Contact:

To:  
MayorsOffice

Name:  
Nicole Livsey

Email:  
nlivsey@pha.peoria.il.us

Home Address  
1227 Royal Avenue Apartment B, Pekin IL

Business Name  
Peoria Housing Authority

Business Address  
100 S Richard Pryor Place, 61605

Home Phone  
815-302-5583

Business Phone  
309-676-8736 ext. 14104

Fax  
309-494-9454

Preferred method of contact:  
\* Home Phone \* Email

Preference on which commission you would like to serve:  
Fair Employment & Housing Commission

Community Volunteer Experience  
-Board Member for Peoria Proud, September 2014-Present -Coming Together to Get Ahead/Bridges Out of Poverty Steering Committee Member, December 2013-Present -Leaders Change Peoria Project Champion, March 2013-Present - Saint Vincent de Paul Society Home Visit Leader, August 2012-Present -Peoria Housing Authority Internship and Extra Community Events, August 2011-Present

Have you previously served on a city commission:  
No

If yes, please list which commission and the date of service N/A

#### Professional and Employment Background

I graduated from Illinois State University in May 2012 with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work. While completing my 600 hour internship, I was placed at the Peoria Housing Authority under Meghan Lundeen to work with the Resource and Referral Program. Upon graduating, I was offered a full-time position with PHA as the Section 8 Family Self Sufficiency and Homeownership Coordinator, and have been working there ever since. During my time at PHA, I have increased our community quarterly meeting membership from 4 to 26 members, ran 2 successful summer food programs at 2 housing sites, supervised 3-4 interns each semester, and worked with 9 families to move from Section 8 to independently owning their first homes.

#### Educational Background

As previously mentioned, I am a graduate of Illinois State University.

I have my Bachelor's degree in Social Work. I also have taken 2 courses at Illinois Central College in exploration of obtaining my Paralegal Certification.

State briefly why you wish to be considered for a city volunteer commission and what you would hope to accomplish if appointed I originally came to Peoria, rather than interning in Bloomington-Normal, because I wanted to work with families the most affected by poverty. Immersing myself in Peoria for an internship, and now settling into the community, I really see the need to increase economic opportunities for low income families, especially those working hard to make an honest, minimum wage. In social work, it is easy to focus upon a person or their family, but forget about the importance of financial skills and long-term resources. By serving on the Fair Employment and Housing Commission, not only would I have the opportunity to increase employment opportunities within the community by connecting with workers who qualify under Section 3, but to increase the access that families have to the trades and certificate programs, rather than a focus on only 2 and 4 year degrees. Housing opportunities need to increase for families of all income levels outside of 61605 and 61603. After learning that these two zip codes rank 3rd and 17th for the highest concentration of poverty in a zip code, it speaks to me that something needs to be done to help tenants in those zip codes realize their rights and their ability to move upward in life and status. I would want to increase homeownership opportunities for moderate income families through partnerships with banks and FHA loan administrators, and work with landlords to allow tenants to exercise the option to have their rent report to credits and increase their credit scores. Increased credit coupled with stable and secure income allows for new housing opportunities. I believe that I have many connections to local non-profits that could bring an action component to this committee that has been sitting dormant and unnoticed for too long.

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

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<http://www.peoriagov.org/mayors-office/commission-volunteer-interest-sheet/>

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