

Sadie Blancaflor

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City of Valdez – City Council Appointment
Attn: City Clerk Sheri Pierce
PO Box 307
Valdez, AK 99686

Dear City Clerk Sheri Pierce and the Valdez City Council:

With my nearly nine years of experience working with civic and governmental bodies, I am eager to contribute my expertise, dedication, and passion for the City of Valdez as a Council Member. I bring a wide array of skills to this role from my work as the Terminal Operations Project Manager for the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (RCAC), among which include stakeholder engagement, collaboration, and creative problem solving. In the evenings, I also teach at Prince William Sound College as an adjunct professor; this fall, I look forward to teaching Introduction to Physical Geography for our newest cohort of the Natural Resource Technician Program. I am eager to apply my effective communication skills and adaptability from these roles to my responsibilities on City Council.

Outside of work, I am deeply involved in various organizations, boards, and commissions for Valdez, and understand the unique challenges facing our community. I serve as Chair of the Library Board, where I collaborate with Library staff and other board members in running the Book Basket Auction, reviewing recent reports, and advocating for other library needs. I also serve as a Commissioner on the Economic Diversification Commission, where we engage in discussions with stakeholders about efforts to diversify Valdez's economy to new sectors.

Additionally, I am active at both the Elks Lodge and for my local Church Council. I serve as a Loyal Knight for the Elks Lodge. This summer, I will help coordinate our Steak Nights to raise funds for our scholarship program to continue to provide continuing education resources for recent Valdez high school students. At Epiphany Church, I serve as the Church Council Secretary, helping to coordinate meetings and provide outreach to our small parish.

As a recent graduate of Stanford University, one of my main interests in serving on City Council is addressing how to both attract and retain a younger demographic in Valdez. As referenced in the 2021 report issued by the Valdez Economic Diversification Commission, our population is rapidly aging – “over the past 11 years, those of prime working age (19-59) has decreased by nearly 2/3s.” As we look to the future of Valdez, our industries and their development are reliant on a strong and vibrant available workforce. I am eager to work on this and continue to develop it as a priority area for the City Council.

I am also a new homeowner in town and am deeply aware of the challenges of both finding and securing long-term housing in Valdez. I am well-aware of the way this issue presents difficulties for those seeking employment in Valdez, especially for the students I interface with in my role at the College who hope to stay post-graduation. I am eager to work on this with the Council as a priority area.

If selected for this role, I look forward to working closely with City Council to ensure our City's vision for residents – an “*environment of opportunity, sustained prosperity, and well-being for all people of Valdez.*” Thank you for your consideration for this role, and please feel free to reach out over the phone or email if I can answer any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Sadie Blancaflor