

Elise Spring Vitus



April 8, 2013

Kirkland City Council  
City of Kirkland  
123 5th Ave  
Kirkland, WA 98033

Dear Kirkland City Council,

Throughout the last twelve years, I have discovered that Kirkland has a unique vibrance that makes it a special community. I read the notice for the vacancy position on the Kirkland city website and wish to apply for Position No. 2 on the Kirkland City Council.

My work in a variety of activities to benefit the city of Kirkland include participation with the Kirkland Wildlife Habitat Team, the Kirkland Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), the Central Houghton Neighborhood Association (CHNA), updating the Houghton Neighborhood Comprehensive Plan, and organizing several annual events benefitting Eastside Audubon Society, HopeLink, and Eastside Baby Corner. Additionally, as Office Manager and Enrollment Coordinator at the Kirkland Children's School, I focus on identifying and responding to the needs of hundreds of parents and children in the community. As a resident and employee in Kirkland for twelve years, I understand the needs and qualities of our remarkable city.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to meeting with the selection committee to discuss my perspective and qualifications for this position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elise Spring Vitus".

Elise Spring Vitus



# Application Form for Position No. 2 Kirkland City Council

Please return your letter of interest and completed application form to the City Clerk's Office no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9, 2013. You may submit your application materials in the following ways: Email to [kanderson@kirklandwa.gov](mailto:kanderson@kirklandwa.gov) or hand deliver to Kirkland City Clerk's Office, 123 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033. Applicants selected for interview must be available on Tuesday, April 16, 2013 between 4:30 and 7:00 p.m.. If you need an accommodation in the application process or if you have questions about this application process, please call City Clerk Kathi Anderson at (425) 587-3197. Persons with a disability who need assistance in the application process or who need this application in an alternative format may call (425) 587-3190 or TTY Relay 711.

**NOTE: Please provide answers for all of the questions listed below. A one page resume may be submitted in lieu of question 2. All other responses should be limited to 250 words. Responses may be provided as an attachment to this application.**

**All information on this form, including any attachments, except Personal Information, will become public information when submitted.**

**Name:** Elise Spring Vitus

## 1. Applicant's Statement of Qualifications:

**In order to be considered for this appointment, you must have been a resident of the City of Kirkland for at least one year at the time of the election and you must be a registered voter.**

- a) Will you have been a Kirkland resident for at least one year as of August 6, 2013? Yes X No
- b) Are you a registered voter? Yes X No

## 2. Describe your education, occupational background and/or community activities that qualify you to serve as a Kirkland City Council member. You may provide this information in a resume not to exceed one page:

Studied music at the University of Oregon  
Studied English-writing at Northwest University  
Founding member of the Kirkland Wildlife Habitat Team  
Served on the Advisory Board for the Houghton Neighborhood Comprehensive Plan Update  
Certified with the Kirkland Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)  
Hosted charitable events benefitting Eastside Audubon Society, HopeLink, and Eastside Baby Corner  
Attended Central Houghton Neighborhood Association (CHNA) meetings since 2008  
Worked in the Central Houghton Neighborhood since 2005  
Lived in both the Houghton and Totem Lake neighborhoods

## 3. Describe why you are interested in serving on the Kirkland City Council:

I have lived and worked in Kirkland for more than 12 years. Throughout this time, I have discovered that Kirkland has a unique vibrance that makes it a special community. I look forward to being able to serve the city by maintaining Kirkland's unique charm while it grows and responds to the needs of the future.

**4. What do you see as the top three issues currently facing the Kirkland City Council? For each issue, describe the nature of the issue or problem to be addressed, what policy guidance you would provide as a Council member to address the issue and your preferred solution(s). You may provide up to 250 words for each issue.**

**4a. Issue #1:** Kirkland section of the decommissioned railroad tracks (Cross Kirkland Corridor). How this corridor will be used will impact the future of our city. Appropriate utilization of this area can address growing transportation needs for the City and the surrounding cities. It is also important to balance transportation opportunities with environmental impacts, public safety concerns, and the creation of a dependable infrastructure. The key to this is to promote cooperation with surrounding cities and to encourage public comment and feedback throughout the process.

**4b. Issue #2:** Totem Lake Urban Center/Business District  
This area remains underutilized. It hosts the largest employer in the city (Evergreen Hospital) yet the availability of services and economic development do not yet meet the needs of the neighborhood nor of the City. The key to solving this issue is to focus on population and employment growth by working with the City planners and community to create or modify existing policies designed to promote business and residential development. The process should encourage investors and be streamlined to reduce time and other deterrents.

**4c. Issue #3:** Balancing the needs of major neighborhood influences.  
The Houghton, Downtown, Totem Lake, and Kingsgate neighborhoods are pivotal areas of Kirkland. Each of these areas plays a significant role in the overall health of the entire city. Additionally, large businesses such as Evergreen Hospital, google, and Northwest University further impact the community. The key is to consider the unique needs of each while unifying them under a single direction for the benefit of the entire City and the surrounding areas. Promoting and sustaining good, working relationships with the neighborhoods and businesses will help everyone to understand the vital role they play in the health of the entire City.

**5. If appointed, would you seek election to the City Council in 2013? Yes  No  Undecided**

**6. How long have you lived in the City of Kirkland or in the newly-annexed area? 12 years**

**Your Signature\*:**  **Date:** 04/08/2013  
**\*Applications submitted electronically will be signed during the interview process.**