

Contact Information

* Name
Antwhon Suiter

* Home Address*
207 Gray Avenue, Staunton VA 24401

*You must be registered to vote in the City of Staunton. You can determine this by checking your voter card or by calling the Voter Registration Office at 540.332.3840.

Phone

Mobile Phone

* Email

Qualifications

* How long have you resided in the Commonwealth of Virginia?

I have resided in the Commonwealth of Virginia for 27 Years, My whole life.

* How long have you resided in the City of Staunton?

I have resided in the City of Staunton for about 16 years

Have you ever been elected or appointed as an Officer or Commissioner for the City of Staunton?

No

* Please indicate why you are interested in serving on City Council:

I worry, as the city sees expansion in areas like The Crossings and Richmond Ave, that Stauntonians in the City's west end may feel neglected. We cannot let the west end of our beautiful city fall behind. I plan to spend my time on council, should I receive the honor of being selected to serve this remaining term, working with residents and business owners in the City's west end to bring economic growth and family prosperity to this incredibly important part of our community. I live in the West End, and I can tell you the feeling of being left behind or forgotten is real. As an activist, I understand that nothing happens without stimuli. I believe that I can work with residents and businesses in the West End, during my time on council, to bring the kind of energy and effort needed to promote economic growth and to bring new businesses and life blood to the area. As far as I'm concerned, the City's West End is ready and open for business.

* Please indicate areas of your experience and knowledge that you see as important for consideration of your application for appointment:

I graduated with an Advanced Technology Diploma from Staunton High School (formerly Robert E Lee HS) in 2014. I am enrolled at Western Governors University where I am pursuing my Bachelors of Science Degree in Business Management I expect to graduate in 2024. After graduation I plan to join the Virginia Bar's law reader program. Ultimately, I plan to practice law in the City of Staunton, following my licensure by the State Bar. My ongoing schoolwork at WGU, and my work under the law reader program, is flexible and will not impede my ability to serve my constituents if appointed. I work as the Executive Director of BLM Shenandoah Valley, a non-stock non-profit corporation. I also own and manage a company that audits police interactions with citizens and helps police departments learn best practices to avoid unlawful interactions before they occur. It's fair to say that part of my work is to encourage other police departments to adopt policies and procedures that we have here in Staunton. I believe that I understand our local community, both its amazing strengths and its unique challenges. I have many local community networks and know that I can invest my whole self in working to make the lives of my neighbors and community better if appointed. I believe in the ability of local government to actually make a difference in the community for its citizens. In fact, the matters considered before City Council are far more likely to affect the lives of City residents than the actions of our federal or state representatives. Being a 27-Year-Old and having a Non-Profit and an auditing firm, I'm uniquely qualified to help align small and home-based businesses with our city resources to achieve the most positive social, economic, and environmental outcomes for all residents of our great City! We need to use these assets to attract businesses that can build long term jobs, wealth, and success in our community.

* Please list any relevant leadership skills or educational training:

"Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love." - Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. I want to serve. I want to represent my fellow city residents in order to achieve the greatness King spoke of - the greatness that comes from comforting the afflicted and finding ways to support the growth and prosperity of this City and all of her citizens. I love Staunton. As an activist and local community leader, I have seen the city at its best, and I have seen it during times of deep struggle. What I know, deep in my heart, is that every single member of city staff, and each of its council representatives, truly believe in this same culture of service that King so often spoke about. With that culture, dedication, and motivation as my guiding principles, I am eager to bring my talents and skills to work for the people of our great City! This is particularly true in the City's west end. To summarize why I chose to apply; I'd simply say that Staunton is worth it. We are all a part of an amazing community of some of the best people and amazing businesses. We have incredible city staff and emergency services that are leaders among other agencies in the region. We have a Police Department that actually cares to listen to Black voices, and while we always have room for improvement, we can be proud today of the civil servants working for our citizens. Why wouldn't everyone want to serve? This is perhaps the better question. For me, I want to add to that passion of fighting for citizens and I want to bring economic development to struggling areas of our city. I am honored for the consideration, and I thank council and staff for reviewing my application.

Indicate if you are attaching additional information pertinent to this application.
No attachments were necessary

Attachment
SKIPPED

* **Digital Signature**
Antwhon Suiter

* **Date and Time**
01/15/2023 5:00 PM

Be advised that upon submission, this application and supporting documents become a public document and will be published by the City of Staunton.