



City Council Agenda Bill

20390

Bill Number

Subject: Mayor's appointment of Daniel Austin to the Bellingham-Whatcom County Housing Authorities Board

Summary Statement: The Housing Authorities Board is established by RCW 35.82 and Whatcom County Ordinance 2.36.

The Mayor appoints Daniel Austin to his first term which will expire on April 8, 2019. This is a concurrent appointment with Whatcom County. County Council approved this appointment at their April 8th meeting.

The mission of the Housing Authorities Board is to provide quality, affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families, elderly households, and persons with disabilities through innovative resource development and responsible stewardship of our housing and fiscal resources.

Previous Council Action: none

Fiscal Impact: none

Funding Source: n/a

Attachments: Mr. Austin's application

Meeting Activity	Meeting Date	Staff Recommendation	Presented By	Time
Mayor's Appointment for Information	4/21/2014	Information Only	Mayor Kelli Linville	0 minutes

Recommended Motion: .

Council Committee:

Agenda Bill Contact:

Vanessa Blackburn, Mayor's Office

Reviewed By	Department	Date
<i>Brian M. Heinrich</i>	Executive	04/15/2014
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<i>Peter M. Ruffatto</i>	Legal	04/15/2014
<i>Kelli J. Linville</i>	Executive	04/15/2014



**BELLINGHAM
WHATCOM COUNTY
HOUSING AUTHORITIES**

COPY

Office: 208 Unity Street – Lower Level • Bellingham
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 9701 • Bellingham, WA 98227-9701

March 6, 2014

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EXECUTIVE
DEPARTMENT

The Honorable Jack Louws
Whatcom County Executive
311 Grand Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dear County Executive Louws:

Howard Heppner completed his term as Commissioner of the Whatcom County Housing Authority Board last April, 2013. This created a vacancy that the Board has been working hard to fill, but we are pleased to notify you that, after much diligence, our Board believes they have a strong candidate for your consideration.

Our Board has nominated Daniel E. Austin, M.D. to fill this position. A newly retired family practice physician, Dr. Austin is eager to give back to his community and support a cause that is important to him, the provision of affordable housing to the less fortunate members of our community. His application is attached for your information.

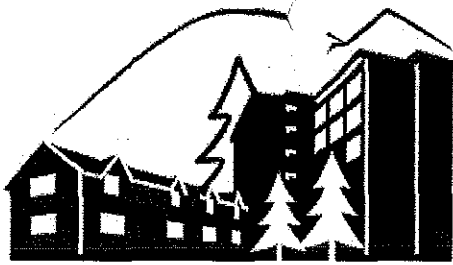
Dr. Austin would be a valuable addition to our Board. We hope you will concur with our recommendation and forward this nomination to the County Council and to Mayor Kelli Linville for his concurrent appointment to the Bellingham Housing Authority Board.

Sincerely,

John E. Harmon
Executive Director/CEO

Enc.

c: Mayor Kelli Linville ✓



BELLINGHAM WHATCOM COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITIES

Commissioner Application

Name Daniel E. Austin, M.D. **Date** 02/26/2014

Address 4323 Skallaham Drive, PO Box 245, Lummi Island, WA 98262

Email SIERRARED2@GMAIL.COM **Phone** 360.319.6190

Please answer the questions below completely. You may attach additional pages to this form.

1. **Why do you wish to serve on the Housing Authorities Board of Commissioners?**

I have dedicated my careers initially as an educator and later as a family physician trying to help all improve their health, education and quality of life. I believe having a roof over one's head is a key component to achieving these. I would gladly give of my time and energy in helping an entity such as BWCHA provide affordable housing for all.

2. **What personal strengths would you bring to the Board?**

- 8 years as an educator – Junior High, Community College, Whitworth College
- 4 years as a general and electrical contractor
- 23 years as a family physician practicing in Bellingham at North Sound Family Medicine /Family Care Network (NSFM/FCN).
- 20 years of experience as committee member/chair/officer and president of professional organizations.
- A lifetime commitment to service to others. Working within BWCHA would be an excellent opportunity in retirement to continue this.

3. **What do you think are the critical issues facing affordable housing in this community and what role do you see the Housing Authority and others playing?**

- Ever increasing demand while the economy falters and financial resources dry up.
- Critical need for all to have a residence they can call "home".
- BWCHA et al. need to continue to pursue broad-based financial resources, while finding creative means to provide housing for those in need!

4. **Please list your community volunteer experiences.**

None – I have dedicated my time for 23 years to a very busy and demanding family medicine practice while serving in organized medical entities at multiple positions including committee and commission member and chair, board member, multiple offices including president for organizations including the Washington Academy of Family Physicians (WAFP) and American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP).

5. **List any experiences you have on policy-making boards and how they would contribute to your being an effective Board member.**

(See #4 above) 20 years serving in organized medical entities at multiple positions including committee and commission member and chair, board member, multiple offices including president for organizations including the Washington Academy of Family Physicians (WAFP) and American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) and Washington State Medical Association (WSMA). Areas experienced include legislation and government affairs, student and resident affairs, finance, women in family medicine, ethics, and more. This has provided me an excellent background to facilitate the development of my personal skills in serving on and leading boards to get results.

6. **How do you see the role of a Commissioner in relationship to the role of an Executive Director and staff?**

Day-to-day operations belong in the hands of the Executive Director and his/her staff. The Executive Director advises Commissioners regarding tasks and challenges at hand, and the Commissioners form the governing body to deal with these challenges, especially around policy and finance.

7. **Using information on Page 4, Commissioner Selection Guidelines, please comment on your qualifications for each guideline.**

a. Demonstrated leadership capabilities.

As noted above, I have years of experience at running a business, both in my early construction years and then in my medical practice with North Sound Family Medicine prior to forming Family Care Network where I have served as "lead" physician in the operations our current practice today providing care to over 17,000 patients.

b. Knowledge of and commitment to affordable housing

Life experience has been a big help on both counts; 4 years in construction; 20+ years in family practice witnessing the difference having a home can mean to individuals and families.

c. Time commitment

I am currently easing into retirement, completing a transition from NSFM by end of this coming June. I will only be doing urgent care and locum tenens (filling in for other physicians) from this July forward, expecting to work less than 10 hours a week with no on call duties.

d. Policy, planning, budgeting experience

Graduated college with majors in physics and mathematics; mathematics teacher at various levels for 8 years; multiple responsibilities in medical professional organizations including finance chair, treasurer and president (15 years on the board of WAFP); active involvement in financial viability of former construction business and current medical practice.

e. Collaboration and interpersonal skills

During years of active participation while working in a collaborative relationship with folks from a variety of cultural, economic and political backgrounds, I have always strived to show and appreciate the opinions and perspectives of others. Three careers have definitely enhanced my interpersonal skills. As an aside I was the only male member on the AAFP Committee on Women in Family Medicine.

f. Board perspective.

Again, too many positions on boards to list in detail, but I have always strived to get results in an efficient manner while looking for consensus and helping all involved feel they have had a voice in the process. I have both participated and led under a philosophy of making it a priority to appreciate and respect the perspective of all involved.

Added Comments:

I believe strongly in the mission of BWCHA and would love the opportunity to give of my time and experience on behalf of such a just cause.

Thank you for considering my candidacy.

Daniel E. Austin, M.D.