25 Tyng Street
Newburyport, MA 01950
October 1. 2010

Mr. Steven Cole, chair
Charter Review Commission
City Hall
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Mr. Cole:

I am writing to express my interest in filling the vacancy on the Charter Review Commission. Unfortunately, we have been out of town since last Friday and did not return until last evening and I was not aware at the time we left that the deadline for applications was yesterday. I do hope that the commission will be able to consider my application nonetheless.

As you are aware, I ran for the commission and missed being elected by only a few votes. I was the next up in position. Submitting a petition to run was an expression of my interest in the work that the commission is doing and I continue to have a strong interest in their work.

I am prepared to submit a full curriculum vitae as soon as possible, although for today's purposes I will only summarize some appropriate past experience and education. I have a B.A. from Cornell (in history and economics), an M.A. from Harvard, and a J.D. from Hofstra. I have been a practicing attorney since 1977. I moved to Newburyport in January 1999 and since then have run for the City Council (was not elected); served on the NRA for 5 years and chaired the NRA for 2 years; served on the board of the Anna Jaques Aid Association for 6 years, was president for 2 years, and served on the hospital board for 2 years; sat on the board of the Maritime Museum for 2 years; have been a docent at the Peabody Essex Museum since 2002; and have been on the board of Symphony by the Sea since 2003.

In my former home community, I served as vice chair and then chair of the committee that runs candidate-selection and election for the school board at a time when the committee revised the entire process, which had to be submitted to the community (a town of 17,000, similar to Newburyport) for its approval. The changes passed easily. This process was similar to what the Charter Commission is doing now, except somewhat less extensive.

I will be happy to meet with the committee or its representatives at their convenience and can be reached at home at 978 463-4404 or on a cell phone at 508 335-3848.

Sincerely yours,

Janet K. Marcus

JANET K. MARCUS

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Bar admissions: New York State; Southern District, federal

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (Retired 2000)

1985 to the present (1999) Legal Aid Society of New York
1987 to present Criminal Defense Division, Bronx County
1985-1987 Juvenile Rights Division, law guardian, Bronx

1984-85 Hearing Examiner, Nassau County Family Court

1983, 1984 Lecturer, Ninth Judicial District Law Guardian Training Program

1983-85 Private practice, White Plains, New York
Litigation; matrimonial and family law; real estate; wills and estates; law guardian and 18-b panels

1977-83 Assistant county attorney, Westchester County
Prosecuted juvenile delinquency, child abuse and neglect, paternity, and child and spousal support cases; handled various public assistance eligibility, Medicare and Medicaid matters.

1975 Law intern, Department of Health, Education and Welfare
Regional Attorney's Office
Federal appellate briefs on disability eligibility; seminars on women's legal rights for department employees.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1967-73 History teacher: Woodlands High School and Byram
1956-57 Hills High School, Westchester County, New York; Hewlett High School, Hewlett, New York

1957-67 Editor, college and high-school textbooks in the social sciences, economics, and history: W.W.Norton, The Macmillan Company, and Holt, Rinehart and Winston

EDUCATION

Hofstra School of Law, J.D. (Moot Court board of editors; teaching assistant in property law)

Harvard University, A.M.T.

Cornell University, B.A.

CURRENT COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Westchester Women's Bar Association: chair, Criminal Law Committee

New York State Women's Bar Association, Criminal Law Comm.

Moderator, Update on Family Law, panel sponsored by nine Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, and Orange Bar Associations, April 19, 1995

Parks and Recreation Council, Scarsdale Village: member; chair, ad hoc tennis advisory committee

Administrative Committee of the School Board Nominating Committee, Scarsdale School District: vice chair and chair

League of Women Voters of Scarsdale: cochair, Night Unit

Scarsdale Board of Education: Legislative Advisory Committee

Legal Aid Society of New York, Attorneys' Pension Plan: chairman of the board of trustees

Jewish Community Center of White Plains: budget and finance committee, trustee (6 years)

Town and Village Civic Club (Scarsdale): village fiscal affairs committee, treasurer, vice president

COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES IN PRIOR YEARS

Moderator, panel on domestic violence, New York State Women's Bar Association Convention, May 1995

Town and Village Civic Club (Scarsdale): vice president (1991-94); treasurer (1990-91)

PT Council, Scarsdale: chair, legislation (1992-93)

High School PTA of Scarsdale: chair, legislation (1991-93); chair, parent education (1992-93); chair, hospitality (1990-91); senior breakfast committee (1993)

Nominating Committee of the Citizens' Party (Scarsdale): administrative member (1990-93)

New York State Women's Bar Association: matrimonial committee (1984-88); criminal law committee (1994-96)

Westchester Women's Bar Association: board member (1990-96)

Westchester Council on Crime and Delinquency: board (1983-6)

Mental Health Association of Westchester: task force on child abuse and neglect (1982-1985)

(various other positions in prior years for various PTAs, school boards, Jewish Community Center, Cornell Club, League of Women Voters)