

Dear Valerie and Bristol Selectboard,

Let this letter serve as my expression of intent to serve in the volunteer role of Bristol Town Moderator. The fact that the people in this role volunteer ensures that he or she brings a high level of commitment and integrity, to fulfill duties that one has to really enjoy and want to do! The moderator role depends on this, which is not unlike many of the public service jobs and volunteer roles that many in Bristol depend on. For over 200 years, our town has conducted "town meetings" governed by moderators, and at Holley Hall since 1884. Many of us serve and volunteer to help make Bristol one of the "Top 10 places to live" (according to Travel & Leisure magazine), and since our family's move to Bristol in 2000, I've been very fortunate to engage in a variety of public servant and volunteer positions.

I've been very fortunate to serve our five town area as both a highly regarded Teacher and Varsity Coach at Mt. Abraham Middle/High School. When Bristol's Cub Scout Pack 543 had an abrupt personnel change, I was nominated as the Cubmaster and was able to fulfill the duties effectively by overseeing a 300% boost in membership as well as guide the Pack's transition from being "in the red" to finally being "in the black." Other volunteer roles in Bristol where I've served include the following: volunteer elementary, middle, and varsity coach, Coordinator for Bristol Youth Sports Programs, and presently Asst. Deputy Director for the Knights of Columbus. Not as important to note is that I've enjoyed serving (pre-covid) our local Addison County Gospel and St. Ambrose Parish Choirs, and as "starter" for the Bristol Outhouse Races.

Additionally, although experience is not necessary I would suggest that mitigating the public's pleasure and displeasure as a volunteer official at local youth sporting events is a great (and insightful) background to have for someone interested in the town moderator role---one really has to conspicuously demonstrate impartiality, be non-judgemental, maintain rules and structure, while concurrently keeping things moving forward (in addition to keeping order, and ensuring that things proceed smoothly in a fair and efficient manner).

Fred Baser was an expert tactician and treasure while serving as moderator (Henry McLaughlin would've highly approved), and a tough act to follow. My past and present family have strongly influenced my desire to serve others. My father served as a police officer in Tucson, Arizona, and to this day remains the highest ranking black officer on the force. I have two older sisters, one who served as a Principal before retiring, and the other currently serving as Director of Domestic Abuse Division at a county hospital, and my Father-in-law, George Smith, served in various town positions (tax collector, selectboard, trustee, fireman, etc...).

In my current role as Classroom Teacher and Football Coach in South Burlington School District, and as volunteer Advisor of our school's S.O.A.R. (Students Organized Against Racism) Program, I've engaged in and conducted multiple discussions, meetings, and dialogues that demonstrate my skills and experience in group process, and I'm highly interested in any training available. Please accept this letter of interest with my apologies for the lateness of submission.

Bristol is my home and I truly cherish the uniqueness and tradition of the "town meeting." My interest in serving is in line with my philosophy of giving back to the community and to serve in the community's best interests. Thank you for your consideration and for taking the time to review my letter of intent.

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