

WARD 2 CITY COUNCIL APPLICATION
CITY OF NORMAN

Please Print

Rice Russell Allen
NAME (Last) (First) (Middle)

ADDRESS 1854 Rolling Hills St Norman, OK 73072 [REDACTED] same
(Number/Street/Zip Code) (Home Phone) (Work/Cell Phone)

NUMBER OF YEARS RESIDED IN NORMAN 7 NUMBER OF YEARS RESIDED IN WARD 2? 2

E-MAIL ADDRESS russarice@icloud.com Have you voted in previous municipal elections? yes

MUNICIPAL/CIVIC ACTIVITIES U.S. Army Reserves 2001-2007; honorable discharge/Social Injustice League of Norman, 2020-2021

EMPLOYER IBEW 1411 OCCUPATION electrician

BUSINESS ADDRESS 1700 SE 15th St OKC, OK 73129 [REDACTED]
(Number/Street) (City/State) (Zip Code) (Phone)

ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT, EXPERIENCE OR EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION YOU FEEL IS RELEVANT:

20 plus years experience in restaurants; First hand experience with construction in Norman, including the permitting process and what that looks like.

EXPLAIN WHY YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING AS COUNCILMEMBER FOR WARD 2: FEEL FREE TO ATTACH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IF NEEDED.

See attached document


Do you have any direct or indirect financial or economic interest in any business or other undertaking (whether for profit or non profit) coming before City Council? no If yes, please explain.

FILED IN THE OFFICE
OF THE CITY CLERK
ON 4-23-21

Note: The City of Norman Charter requires applicants be registered voters in the City of Norman for six months and reside in Ward 2. All information submitted on this application is subject to the Open Records Act.

Return to: BRENDA HALL, CITY CLERK
201 WEST GRAY POST OFFICE BOX 370
NORMAN, OKLAHOMA 73070
FAX: 405-366-5389 PHONE: 405-366-5386

Before signing this document, verify that the content you are signing is correct.

 Signature Date 4-23-21

My name is Russell Rice and I am seeking your support as your Norman Ward 2 councilperson. I am a hard-working family man hoping to offer more balance, stability, and down-to-earth solutions for the City of Norman, representing a ward that has seen so much instability recently. The citizens in our ward deserve someone who has roots within the community, is committed to staying around long enough to implement and oversee change, and who represents our collective values as a ward.

As a third generation union electrician, following in the footsteps of both my father and grandfather, I understand what it means to diligently work for a better way of life for myself and my family, which is exactly why I hope to serve the community in this way. I have experienced what can happen when diligence, determination, and perseverance come together with teamwork and community in the creation of a shared vision, and I think we all want to see that happen in our community. But this is only possible if we have someone dedicated to being our voice.

The days of politics as usual is over. Now is the time for uncommon solutions to common problems. If appointed to the Council, I will support policies meant to help *every* citizen. I believe strongly that every person has the right to pursue their dreams and achieve their full potential, regardless of where they come from or what they have to offer in return. Recently, I have watched as many in our community struggle with needs that most consider basic, such as secure housing, employment, and transportation.

I believe we have a collective responsibility to care for one another. The pandemic has highlighted the need to ensure each citizen has equal access to educational and employment opportunities. One way to do that is through providing municipal broadband internet, accessible to everyone, and free for those who cannot afford to pay. I also plan to work on a compassionate solution to the homeless situation in Norman. I will work to ensure that our public transportation is accessible to all citizens, and I will work to bring jobs to the community that pay a living wage. Additionally, I commit to work to ensure economic policies that benefit the many businesses of our community, not just the few.

I believe that my experience serving in the U.S. Army, as well as my experience in the electrical and construction industry, will bring a fresh, working-class perspective to the Council that is greatly needed. I also bring the connections and support from the IBEW Local 1141.

I have lived in Oklahoma most of my life, growing up primarily in the Tulsa area, but I moved to Norman approximately seven years ago. After moving to Norman, I met and married my wife, who is a Norman native. We live together with our four kids and our beloved rescue dog, Peanut. When not working or spending time with family, you will likely find me feeding and getting to know the unhoused members of our community through volunteer efforts with the Social Injustice League of Norman. In doing this work, I have been heartened to watch a grassroots effort spring forth to fill a void in the community, but I have also seen real needs that should be better addressed at all levels of our government. Leaving people unhoused is a choice that takes political will to compassionately tackle.

I care deeply about my family and neighbors in Ward 2. I ask for your support as I work to build a safe, healthy community where every family is afforded the opportunity to pursue their dreams and achieve their full potential.

Your support will help provide resources we need to meaningfully engage and empower voters in Ward 2. Together, we can make real progress.