



City of Gilroy Board, Committee, & Commission Application

**All Commission, Board, and Committee applications are a public record.*

Board/Committee/Commission of Interest:

Planning Commission

Name:

Stefanie Elle

**Phone
number(s):**

Mobile -

email
address*:

Are you a registered voter within the City limits?

Yes

**Physical
Address*:**

**Driver's License
or
ID No.:**

Date of
Birth*:

Last 4 of
SSN:

List your qualifications for this appointment:

Over the past two years I've been honored to serve by City Council appointment to the Planning Commission. As part of my appointment, I've actively participated in yearly ethics training, required Planning Commission training and the training held for Planning Commission by Counsel and Staff including but not limited to 'Open Government Ordinance Training' and 'AB1234 Ethics Training' plus optional modules. I have familiarized myself with many City of Gilroy Documents such as our '2040 General Plan', 'City Code and City Charter', '2019 Handbook for Board, Commission, & Committee Members', as well as specific plans for projects. On a personal level, I am an engineer with an attention to detail. I also have experience in negotiating projects, plans and bridge solutions where both parties create new ideas to agree on instead of the original ones they presented.

List any service to the community including any prior appointments:

I've been serving on the Gilroy Planning Commission for the past two years. During this time, I've taken my appointed duty to act as an advisory board to the City Council on all planning and development issues brought before us with seriousness. Additionally, I've done my best to ensure that the general plan is implemented by reviewing development applications that come before the Planning Commission. This was done with guidance by Staff, documentation and training. I'd like to thank the Planning Staff for making the commission aware of training outside of those during commission meetings. I've been able to engage with two of them while serving my volunteer appointment. 'Historic Preservation Bootcamp for Local Governments: Essential Training in Three Parts' The course provided the fundamentals for planners, cultural heritage, planning, and historic preservation commissioners. Through examples of what other cities are implementing we learned how to expand the list of designated sites or recognize the areas of Gilroy that deserve historic designation. We discussed the Secretary of Interior Standards and why they matter. Finally, what I found the most interesting was how implemented city codes

protect historic buildings so that they do not fall into disrepair or become blights. 'Silicon Valley Bike Summit 2022' This annual event has been held for over a decade. I was able to hear, meet and interact with active transportation leaders and organizers from government, the private sector, non-profits, innovators and other citizens. I was able to learn what other cities are doing to reduce traffic and increase other modes of transportation. Additionally, discussions on success factors in reducing parking requirements were very enlightening. Gilroy City Council was mentioned, specifically Counselor Fred Tovar, by Nuro, an exhibitor at the event. Some of the interesting topics were 'The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of Travel Demand Management' and 'Bike Lanes Alone Are Not Enough: Bringing All the Puzzle Pieces Together'. Finally, we were given a book that provides very interesting statistics on bicycle research.

What are your goals while serving on this Board/Commission/Committee?

When I applied last year, I did not have any specific goals because I was unsure of the role and responsibilities of the Planning Commission. Having been able to volunteer my time for the past 24 months, I have learned how work intensive this position can be for those who want to learn and understand the workings of Gilroy government and city planning. I strive to continue to learn the roles and responsibilities of the Planning Commission. As part of the Planning Commission, I've worked closely with and been guided by City of Gilroy Planning Staff. The dynamics of the Planning Commission have changed dramatically over that time and I am very proud to be a part of it. As I come with more experience to this application, I feel comfortable to identify three major goals for the next four years: 1) Integrating with and learning from the Gilroy Planning Staff to remove silos. 2) Continue to be the voice of the public, even if my own opinion differs, and acting in the public interest. 3) Continue to educate myself and the public about the roles of the Planning Commission and other parts of city government to the best of my ability.

Why are you the most qualified to serve on this Board/Commission/Committee?

In addition to the other items I've included in this application that add to my qualifications, I can say that I already understand the process and have a rapport with Staff. I am not afraid to ask questions of Staff. On the other hand, many times I have defended staff in and outside of Commission sessions. I've dedicated much of my free time to prepare, watch previous sessions, read and learn. On a personal level... I am fair: I review applications and make decisions based on the merits of the issues. I try to consider the laws and the public's expectations with regards to the general plan and other planning policies. I endeavor to promote equality and treat all people, projects and perspectives impartially. I have compassion: I recognize the government's responsibility to represent all community members here in Gilroy. I embrace exceptions to planning policies when there are unintended consequences or undue burdens. I realize that some people are intimidated by the public process and encourage stress-free communication as much as possible. Respect for others is critical: I treat fellow officials, Staff and the public with courtesy, even when we disagree. I focus on the merits in discussions, not personalities, character or motivations. I value diverse opinions to build consensus. I am responsible: I come to meetings prepared. I represent my appointment and the City of Gilroy before third parties' interests. Integrity is important to me: I am truthful with my fellow commissioners, the public and others. I am prepared to make unpopular decisions to further the public's interest. I strive for public trust: My obligation is to serve the whole community. I focus on implementing the policies expressed in the general plan. I consider the interests of the entire community in reaching my decisions. I have great respect for my community and City of Gilroy: I endeavor to provide courtesy to officials, Staff and the public, even when we disagree. I focus on the merits in discussions, not personalities, or motivations. I believe that diverse opinions are critical in consensus.

School: / Grade: null

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By clicking on this box, I declare under penalty of perjury that I am currently a registered voter within the City limits of the City of Gilroy. Furthermore, I understand that this application and any attachments are subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act and must complete mandatory Open Government Ordinance Training. I further understand that members of the Planning Commission, Building Boards of Appeals, and Physically Challenged Board of Appeals are also subject to filing the Fair Political Practice Commission's Statement of Economic Interest Form 700 relating to financial disclosures.