

Questionnaire *(Attach additional pages as needed)*

1. **Name:** Rolanda Smith
2. **Party Affiliation as of 11/18/2021:** Democrat
3. **Address (where registered to vote) as of 11/18/2021:** 1099 Iranistan Ave,
Bridgeport, CT 06604
4. **Please state your interest in the Office of City Council for the 132nd District? Why do you want to be on the City Council?**

I enjoy helping people which is evident by my decades of experience volunteering for non-profit organizations whose sole mission is to help our most vulnerable.

I believe there are opportunities to provide assistance to those who need it most. As an elected City Council member, I would have a great opportunity to connect the people in my district and throughout the city with city government services. I want to serve in this position of leadership in my city because I know that it is the best opportunity for me to serve the people of Bridgeport.

As a City Council member, I would work to ensure that the city budget reflects our values and prioritizes the greatest needs of the people of Bridgeport. I would also put my time and energy into addressing the needs and quality of life issues of the people of my district who often need the help of an elected representative to address their day to day issues.

I would really cherish the opportunity to serve my city in this elected capacity, understanding that I can be a part of the change that this city is currently undergoing. I know that together, we can build this city up.

I promise that I am a team player who would work cooperatively with the 19 other Council members to do the business of the City Council.

I would be remiss if I did not talk about my dear friend and former Councilwoman Evette Brantely, who taught me how to be a servant of the people and use your connections to help people who are in need. She taught me that your constituents are always watching and that you should not make promises that you cannot keep.

I plan to build on her legacy and all of the work that the Council is doing. I would build on the work of all those who have come before me to do the work of the people and make this city better and stronger.

5. Please tell us about your qualifications for the Office of City Council, with a focus on your past civic/community involvement.

As you can see from my attached resume, I have a lot of experience volunteering with various non-profit organizations who do some fantastic work with the most vulnerable people in our city. The most significant volunteer work that I engage in is with the King's Pantry, located on the East End of Bridgeport. King's Pantry, which has existed for over 35 years, provides thousands of meals to families all across Bridgeport and beyond who are in need, year-round. This is extremely rewarding work and allows me to help families who are in great need.

Other volunteer work that I do includes working with Goodwill Industries to help those with learning disabilities and working with several programs that help at-risk youth. It is my passion to help those who are most in need, and this is what drives me to want to serve on the Bridgeport City Council.

While I have never worked for the City or been in elected office, I have tried to stay civically engaged in my community by helping out at local community events, working with my elected Council members on issues in the district, and most recently by serving on the 132nd Town Committee trying to bring a focus to the needs of the people in the Bassick precinct of the 132nd District.

6. As a Councilperson, what would your priorities be while on the Council, including issues that you think are most important to the residents of the 132nd District?

I cannot become fixated on the plan and not love the purpose. I will prioritize the work that I do based on the greatest needs of the people of Bridgeport and my constituents in the 132nd District.

Among the issues that I will work on are day-to-day quality of life issues such as blight and cleanliness, street paving, and crime.

But I would also want to prioritize other issues, such as making sure that our city budget reflects our values as a city, that we invest more into education, and that we are planning for the city's future development.

I am personally passionate about ensuring that the city has affordable housing, and ensuring that we meet the needs of the most vulnerable, especially our youth and our seniors.

While I am not very experienced in the workings of local government, I would do my best to learn from the other Council members to serve my constituents. By working together, I know that we can make our city even better than before.

7. Please attach a resume.

Note: At the interview, please come prepared to talk about your answers to these questions, as well as others about your time commitments, understanding of the City Council duties, etc.