

Profile

Michelle

Thornton

First Name

Last Name

Email Address

Street Address

Suite or Apt

City

State

Postal Code

To find your City Ward, click on this link! <http://www.hyattsville.org/538/Residency-Verification-Page>

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☒ Ward 1

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Education Advisory Committee: Submitted

Referred By:

Please provide a brief background statement including why you want to serve on a committee. This statement may be posted on the City's website.

"We have a powerful potential in our youth, and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power toward good ends." - Mary Mcleod Bethune. I, Michelle Thornton, am a lifelong resident of Hyattsville and I believe it to be a duty and honor to play my part in impacting the next generation. I had the opportunity to work in the Prince George's County government and I've seen the need for education at all levels. I've seen the results of a strong academic foundation in my life and I've seen the shortcomings of those who lack education. There is a need for education inside and outside of the classroom for all residents of Prince George's County. We here in Prince George's County have to import other technological people to come in because we do not have educational technology training in its entirety. I am also a product of the Hyattsville public school system. This too has given me a first-hand look at the education system in Hyattsville. I have seen that many of our young people are left behind and do not have solid foundations in science and math. We need to tackle these types of issues to better our community. I am a mother and I have a young daughter and I want to make sure that the structure and community resources are available for her and her peers from preschool to college. The sense of responsibility and urgency is what calls me to serve. I believe this is what calls me to serve the people of Prince George's county. In the 21st century, the transmission of information outpaces the rate at which education policy is developed. The mandate to meet these needs is not moving as fast. I think it is our responsibility as people of this Hyattsville community to look at our condition and our situation and to further position ourselves for the future. I have desired to awaken in us all of the opportunities for preparing the next generation with a foundational education. Dr. Charlene Duke the President of Prince George's Community College believes education is a major social justice issue and stated, "We can't talk about a great economy if we cannot talk about education and what that does to support that. We cannot talk about a talented workforce if we cannot talk about how education supports that." Education supports the economy. We need to take a stronger look at our preschool system, I think the kindergarten may be too late to start but we should be looking at earlier opportunities and growth for our babies and toddlers. Dr. Alvin Thornton, Chair of the Board of Education for Prince George's County, is a member of the Kirwan Commission. As a result of that commission, Maryland recently approved a 10-year education plan that includes full-day prekindergarten for low-income families to provide a foundation in academics to prepare the future children in our community. The purpose of the bill is to improve education access for all Marylanders pre-k-12. I want to continue to foster the programs implemented already in Hyattsville, while also bringing back vocational training in the same vein as the great Mary Mcleod Bethune when she founded schools. I think technical and vocational education should be stressed because there needs to be more on the job training and one should be able to better themselves either through college or technical schools. I think that a committee such as this should find ways to make this happen, with budgeted legislation. Education should be an opportunity for all whether we are challenged or not. I am fascinated by the educational structure of Gallaudet in Washington, DC where challenges do not prohibit people from being educated. Also, I admire Freeman A Hrabowski III the President of the University of Maryland Baltimore County, not only because it is my alma mater, but because he implemented the UMBC'S SUCCESS program. This program offered opportunities for adults with intellectual disabilities to have a chance to attend college in an inclusive environment. The program taught individuals independence and job skills. After completing the program they were able to retain a job. I do understand that a degreed person is important however education should not only include the degreed but also the non-degreed. I would like the opportunity to be on the education committee because I have always been interested in education, it is the road map to greater opportunities for oneself. I am writing this letter to express my interest in serving on the Education Advisory Committee. I want to be able to serve the residents of Hyattsville and develop solutions and implement programs that affect the children being raised in Hyattsville and future children. Wilkins, Tracee. "Prince George's Will Need \$360M to Fund Education Equity Plan." NBC4 Washington, NBC4 Washington, 13 Jan. 2020, www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/prince-georges-must-find-360m-to-fund-education-equity-plan/2198919/.