

## Board, Committee and Commission Application

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### Profile

Daniel

First Name

Muth

Last Name

[Redacted]

Email Address

[Redacted]

Street Address

[Redacted]

Suite or Apt

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

State

[Redacted]

Postal Code

City

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

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Ward 1

[Redacted]

Primary Phone

[Redacted]

Alternate Phone

### Which Boards would you like to apply for?

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Educational Facilities Task Force: Submitted

### Referred By:

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**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.**

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As a parent with two children in Hyattsville Elementary school and as an advocate for local public education, it is extremely important to me that the schools servicing Hyattsville children offer the opportunities they deserve. Indeed, as a community, we are not meeting our obligations toward social justice if our middle class is opting out of our local schools (and they are) while leaving the socioeconomically disadvantaged to fend for themselves in failing overburdened facilities way past their intended lifespan. So I've taken a keen interest in trying to bring them up to par (at the very least) and in pushing toward facilities improvements that can help make Hyattsville the kind of community that more actively rallies around it's public education. Schools are the heartbeats of communities. And when neglected, affect the health and functioning of justice at the most fundamental level. So while my biography includes expertise in science, building, land use, and education, the most important I can name is a pressing concern about how our schools are represented and shepherded in this community. Hopefully, that is a quality you're looking for when sitting this task force. As for the Planning Committee, I have become an advocate of smart building here in Hyattsville in a way that both furthers transit-oriented communities as laid out in the DDOZ while at the same time respecting the code and the vision laid out in the governing TRN sector plan. These are meant to work in concert with one another, and I've become concerned that developer expedience is often used as a justification to overlook clear conflicts with our environmental and public infrastructure. As a builder that does renovations to LEED standards (and higher) I know that environmentally friendly work can be profitable. As an environmental scientist with expertise in atmospheric, watershed, and ecosystem dynamics, I know that ignoring the immutable laws of nature can be disastrous. Not just for us, but to our immediate and regional neighbors. "Smart Growth" is not just a concept centered around adding density with available public transport, but rather doing so in a matter that respects the natural features and public infrastructure available to support them. As a member of the planning committee, I would bring an expertise in building, an expertise in environmental science, and an in-depth knowledge of the sector plan and overlying District Overlay. If we want our developers to have certainty in their endeavors it's all there in the code. We create uncertainty by allowing waivers upon waivers, seemingly without predetermined qualifications for achieving them. It is my firm belief that we can both expand the economic base of this community, add services, and increase tax revenue while still respecting the vision for this community set out in the Sector Plan. And that is a perspective I would bring with me to the planning committee. I would be happy to provide any supplemental information, and look forward to further correspondence on these issues. All the best,  
Daniel Muth

**The Educational Facilities Task Force will make recommendations to the City Council to ensure the County addresses local school infrastructure needs. We are specifically seeking individuals with expertise in one or more of the following areas: Hyattsville area public school operational needs and landscape, architecture, land use/acquisition, urban planning, and PGCPs policies and procedures. Please describe how your skills and experience will assist the Task Force in making these recommendations.**

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I have been involved in the impetus to form this committee and am well informed about the processes and issues that offer both opportunity and setback. I am an active member of the Hyattsville Elementary PTA and have met about this issue with most of the county administrators who have the authority to improve it. From our County Council members, to members of the Executive's office, to various higher ups on the Capital improvement staff. What's more I've maintained good relationships with these people, which is important, given that Hyattsville schools are not the only ones challenged with infrastructure needs, particularly in North County. While there might be a few people in town that are more versed in the subject matter, I can't imagine there are too many. While I am not a large developer, I am knowledgeable about building and land acquisition through my renovation business, and while I am no longer a teacher, I am knowledgeable about the interaction between facilities and learning through my time teaching courses at the collegiate level at the University of Virginia, Montana State University, and Randolph-Macon College. While I'm not a land use attorney, I have an extensive knowledge of the code and the challenges of trying to acquire building sites in an area where not much open land is available. In short, I feel like I would be a strong member of this Task Force. With expertise to offer, skin in the game, and a true passion for serving the breadth of the diversity that makes Hyattsville a special place. Thank you for your consideration, DM