



**SECTION II: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

1. Please describe your community activities in which you are or have been engaged in Oxnard. Include the organization, your role, a brief description of your activities, and your dates of participation:  
*(If more space is needed, please continue on a separate page.)*

Fremont South Neighborhood Council

My earliest municipal involvement started with the Fremont South Neighborhood Council. I was elected Member At Large in 2013, just prior to the Council's meetings being discontinued. In 2018, after completing my Master's Degree, I realized I now had the desired time to dedicate to my neighborhood and community. I reviewed the Neighborhood Council bylaws and organized my neighbors and the former Executive Board to officially restart the Council. Our first meeting in June 2018 was an Election Meeting, where I was elected Council Chair by a unanimous vote of over 30 residents. I was recently re-elected for a third term as Chair.

In this time, I have ensured that our Neighborhood is well represented at each Inter Neighborhood Council Organization (INCO) meeting, as well as City Council meetings when items relevant to the Neighborhood arise. I have always viewed the Chair position as a service role to our neighborhood, and I pride myself in being a liaison for my neighbors, to ensure that all voices are heard. As an example of this, when the City proposed a Homeless Navigation Shelter on Saviers Road, I researched the proposal and presented the information to our Neighborhood Council. After discussion, we voted to send a formal letter to the Commission on Homelessness and the City Council expressing our Council's opposition to the proposed site, as well as our reasons why. Additionally, we informed the City that we were willing to continue to host the current shelter location in our neighborhood until a more suitable location - one that would better serve the shelter clients - could be found.

Lastly, our Neighborhood was the first to hold a fully online meeting via Zoom near the beginning of the Stay Home Order in April 2020. I used my own personal Zoom account to host a meeting where City officials addressed the public to update and inform them on the Coronavirus. This was held as a Fremont South Neighborhood Council meeting, but we promoted the meeting to all City residents because of the important public health information being shared.

Inter Neighborhood Council Organization

In July 2018, shortly after being elected as Neighborhood Council Chair, I started attending the INCO. My first few meetings I took in information and observed the role of the Chairs and the INCO Body. I saw the great potential of the organization, and although I was still a new Chair, I ran for the INCO Executive Board that same November, 2018. I was elected by my peers to the Fourth Vice Chair position. My first year in the INCO, I joined the Communications Committee and was assigned to develop online surveys to engage resident input. We surveyed on important topics including quality of life priorities, cannabis policies, and budget priority areas. I analyzed and summarized the survey outcomes and created visual presentations to report to the INCO General Body, the public, and the City Council. I was also part of a sub-committee of three that coordinated the other Neighborhood Council Chairs to plan the first-ever offering of Oxnard District Meetings.

In November 2019 I was elected by my peers to the INCO First Vice Chair position. At the direction of the INCO, in February 2020 I spearheaded the planning and implementation of a County Supervisor Candidates Forum and an informational forum for Measure B. These were intended to prepare and inform Oxnard residents ahead of the March Primary election. A month later, the COVID-19 Stay Home Order effectively canceled nearly all city meetings. As mentioned above, I worked with the City to pilot online Zoom meetings for the Neighborhood Council system, often using my own personal Zoom account, so that meetings, information dissemination, and resident engagement could continue.

Lastly, at the direction of the INCO, in August and September 2020, I recruited a geographically diverse planning team to work collaboratively to plan fully virtual Elections Forums. In total, we conducted four evening forums for the public to view, coordinating programming for 16 candidates and five ballot measures.

Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Commission

In 2017 and 2019, I was appointed to serve on the Oxnard Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Commission (PRCSC). In my time on the Commission, I have pushed for more engagement of residents in PRCSC-related items that directly affect them. As an example, in my first year, the City received a grant to plant new, California native trees in under-served and tree-deficient neighborhoods. While the City could have just unilaterally found eligible public spaces and planted the trees, I requested to use this grant as an opportunity to engage residents in the decision making process for the type of trees going into their neighborhood, and the best placement of the trees. I recruited two resident volunteers to form a committee to assist City staff and myself in conducting community workshops for residents. One of the resident committee members was a retired professional horticulturist, and the other was a skilled English to Spanish interpreter with access to interpretation headsets. As a committee, we held three bilingual community workshops in South Oxnard Neighborhoods to include residents in this process. The participating residents were fully engaged and appreciative of the opportunity to participate in the process. This level of participation would garner a higher level of ownership and pride in the trees, as the residents can say for many decades that "they helped plant these trees."

In April 2019, my fellow Commissioners and I advocated for a Housing and Community Development (HCD) Grant to be spent in city parks that were most in need of upgrades or repairs. Because of this advocacy, the \$1.3 million HCD grant was able to be used for this purpose. This included \$537,547 for a full replacement of the decades-old playground at Durley Park. Durley also had the designation of being Oxnard's first park with inclusive amenities for children and adults of varying abilities. In the same effort, we were also able to achieve an allocation of nearly \$672,000 of Measure O funding toward additional improvements in Oxnard parks. This included rubberized walking tracks, new LED lighting, and bleacher and bench repairs or replacement.

Lastly, another proud achievement during my tenure on the PRCSC, is the awarding of \$8.5 million to the City for development of the long-vacant Campus Park. This resident-driven process was conducted collaboratively by the PRCSC and City staff. Each meetings was bilingual and residents were given the ability to brainstorm and prioritize the amenities they felt should be included in the grant application. Participants were also provided with the constraining variables (e.g. the Runway Protection Zone, or costs for certain amenities) that factored into planning out the park's design. While this was a highly competitive grant, our robust resident-engagement process led to the City of Oxnard being awarded with \$8.5 million dollars to develop the park. We were one of only 62 awardees, out of 478 applications, statewide. Without securing this funding, there was no other identified financial path to begin development of the park property. This future park will serve community members for many decades to come. And I take great pride in being a part of that effort and working to engage other residents in that process.

2. Please state why you would make a good representative for District 2.  
*(If more space is needed, please continue on a separate page.)*

I believe that there are four key factors that make me the right representative for District 2.

The first and most prominent factor is my own level of engagement, knowledge, and grasp of the City's processes and governance. I have a competent understanding of the City's organizational structure, the function of the City's different funds, the Council approval process, and the provisions of the Brown Act.

This level of engagement leads into the next factor. From getting more involved in city issues, I realized that there was a significant disconnect between what was actually happening, and what the average resident "believed" was happening. In addition to this, misinformation that was making its way into the public realm only exacerbated the information disparity. For the past 18 months, I have tasked myself with providing information and education to my fellow Oxnard residents. I have worked to develop my knowledge about city issues and governance, and then explain that subject to others in lay terms. It is my personal view that all Oxnard residents deserve to be factually informed on what is happening in our city, and be aware of the existing mechanisms to inform our city leaders on how we'd like them to proceed. Additionally, through informing residents about factual information, it is also my hope and aim to build capacity in our residents being able to more easily identify misinformation, and credible resources to obtain facts.

The third important factor is one of experience - both professional and personal. I have spent much of my 17-year career working with our local government systems, including school districts, municipalities, and our county government. Through that work, I have been tasked with working collaboratively with front line staff, administrators, and elected officials. I not only have a deep handle on the structure and function of local government, but I have also trained youth and adult educators from across the county in how to approach and work with these multiple levels of government. From a personal perspective, I have spent nearly all of my life living in the City of Oxnard, and in District 2. I also am a young man of Latin heritage and feel strongly that our many residents who communicate in languages other than English deserve to have information and provide input in their preferred language. Lastly for this point, I have come to know every Neighborhood Council Chair in the District, and have a positive working relationships with each of them. I have dedicated much of my spare time to serving the residents of our City, and District 2.

This brings me to my fourth and final factor: my collaborative, holistic, and systemic approach to work. I have worked tirelessly to better connect the many efforts in Oxnard and the County of Ventura to continuously improve our community. This includes work with local non-profits, parent and teacher-led educational organizations, governmental entities, neighborhood councils, Citizen Advisory Groups, and individual residents. It is my personal and professional belief that all persons and organizations looking to affect positive change in the community could benefit from collaborative work, rather than maintaining siloed efforts. As the saying goes, "many hands make light work."

In the end, my entire professional career has been based on serving our community - especially our many vulnerable and under-served populations. I started my career as an Addictions Treatment Counselor for adolescents - most of whom were already involved in the juvenile justice system, the foster care system, or alternative education system (due to previous school expulsions). Starting my career with this important population of young people showed me the many service gaps we have in addiction, mental health, physical health, and education. I have been able to see, first-hand the many challenges facing our low socioeconomic status communities, and communities of color. There was also a personal investment in providing a safe space and positive outcomes for these youth and families - as many of their experiences were ones that I also shared in my formative years, growing up in Oxnard.

I feel incredibly fortunate that my life and my career have provided me with insight into not only the needs of our community, but also the knowledge of available resources and other efforts to address these needs in a meaningful and impactful way.

3. Please discuss any experience you have with policymaking, legislation, budgeting or other related experience. This can include the private, public or non-profit sector.  
*(If more space is needed, please continue on a separate page.)*

Regarding policy making, I have spent much of my 17-year career working with our local Ventura County governments, including school districts, municipalities, and our county government. For the last 12 years, I have been tasked with working collaboratively with government front line staff, with administrators, and with elected officials. This work has afforded me a deep understanding of the structure and function of local governments. Additionally, my level of knowledge in this area has led to my assignment as a trainer of Ventura County youth and adult educators in approaching and working with these multiple levels of government.

To add to this experience, serving on the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Commission since 2017, and the Neighborhood Council System/INCO since 2018, has gained me more Oxnard-specific insight into our city's policy work.

My job working for the Ventura County Office of Education also requires me to monitor relevant state legislation and determine if proactive efforts are needed to remain in alignment with anticipated new legislation. There are numerous state and federal mandates that school districts and our office must observe and comply with through our project work.

For budgeting, I personally oversee a \$300,000 annual budget which supports four staff and associated programmatic operating costs. Each year, I need to propose, monitor, and close out our budget, and assess for the following year's allocations and proposal. While that is the budget I directly oversee, I am also part of a team of eight who oversee Health and Wellness mandates and initiatives for the county's school districts. Since 2012, my team has written and been awarded over \$10 million for our county's education system. This funding is incredibly competitive, and without it, our schools would have few, if any additional funding sources for school-based drug prevention and mental health support. These efforts have many programmatic and fiscal moving parts and require a team effort that has effective communication and attention to detail.

I firmly believe that these aforementioned skills and experiences demonstrate my ability to understand local governmental functions in terms of policy, legislative compliance/monitoring, and budgeting.

4. How would you approach constituent service for District 2?  
*(If more space is needed, please continue on a separate page.)*

Constituent service is one item that will always remain among the highest on my priority list. One of my biggest “wants” for getting more involved with City functions (PRCSC, Neighborhood Council, INCO) was to improve communication between the City and its constituents, and to push the City to be more inclusive and engaging with residents.

I have already begun a foundation of prioritizing constituent service through my Neighborhood Council by being attentive and responsive to issues that arise from local residents. As Chair of our Neighborhood Council, I am elected by my neighbors to represent our community and act as a liaison between our neighborhood and City staff. When issues or concerns arise, I will respond to the resident and appropriately forward the information in a timely manner. This will not only work toward addressing the constituent's issue, but they can also learn which department or staff person may act as a resource for them in the future - and they may contact them directly, as opposed to going through their City Councilmember. Regardless, I have always carried myself as an approachable person who is willing to troubleshoot issues, offer help, or even just be an open ear. As I have learned through my PRCSC, Neighborhood Council, and INCO work, sometimes residents just want to be validated and listened to. Much of my professional life has required me to do just that - be a good listener first, and a problem-solver second. I am confident that this skill will serve constituents well.

Beyond this, I believe that regular communication with constituents is key, and something to which Oxnard's residents have shown to be very receptive. There are many residents who are incredibly busy attending to their needs and those of their families, and are often unable to dedicate time to studying staff reports or viewing meetings. By creating videos about Oxnard government-specific content, I have found many residents to be very appreciative of a simple explanation of what is happening in our city governance. If appointed, I would still plan to continue keeping our residents regularly updated through information via social media. I would of course confer with the City Attorney's office to ensure that I am structuring my videos to keep them fully informational, and staying in compliance with what a City Councilmember can say about City happenings. To me, this is a practice that has not been done as of late - taking full advantage of social media outlets that so many audiences now use to obtain their information. While the City has vastly improved their information dissemination to residents, some information coming from a City Councilmember has high potential for additional resident engagement.

5. How would you approach balancing City-wide needs with District-specific needs?  
*(If more space is needed, please continue on a separate page.)*

In the City of Oxnard, all City Councilmembers, regardless of the district they represent, also make governance decisions for the entire city. While there are certainly instances where some decisions may directly affect a specific district, many decisions are intended to positively impact the entire city. An example of this is the Homeless Navigation Center; while its proposed location is on the border of Districts 2 and 4, the implementation will allow services to be provided to individuals experiencing homelessness, citywide.

I believe that a Councilmember's district and constituents should be a priority lens through which they study materials before forming decisions. Additionally, maintaining open communication with staff and constituents will ensure that residents' questions and concerns can be properly addressed. Providing space for constituents' input, questions, and concerns allows the City an opportunity to address the issue, and alleviate concerns of district residents. District residents should know that this is an avenue that is readily available to them.

There may also be instances where residents of other districts reach out for assistance. In this case, it would be prudent to provide them assistance, just as I would for any resident. However, in the interest of working as a cohesive Council, it would be appropriate to loop the resident's respective district Councilmember into the issue.

While every City issue would be taken on a case-by-case basis, I would study materials and reports, and listen for questions and concerns that come from constituents in working toward decisions. Ultimately, after gathering needed information, I would also be sure to ask myself: (1) "How does this serve the residents of District 2," and (2) "how does this serve residents of the entire City?"

**DISTRICT 2 CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENT APPLICATION FORM**

**SECTION III: EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

Please include a brief background on your education and employment history. You may also attach a copy of your resume for this purpose.

Full resume is attached.

**I attest that the information in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature  \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name Gabriel Teran

Date 01/12/2021

Oxnard, CA 93030

# Gabriel Teran

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**Objective** To provide high quality, empathetic, culturally aware, engagement and facilitation services to all with whom I interface.

**Oxnard  
Resident/  
Constituent  
Service**

**Chair, Fremont South Neighborhood Council**

June 2018 - Present

- Elected by neighborhood residents
- Engage residents and hold open and inclusive public meetings to allow communication between the neighborhood and the City of Oxnard
- Act as liaison between neighborhood residents and City staff
- Preside over all regular and special meetings of the General Membership and of the Executive Board
- Appoint and dissolve committees
- Respond to questions concerning procedures and business of the Neighborhood Council
- Attend INCO General Membership meetings as a voting member

**Vice Chair, Oxnard Inter Neighborhood Council Organization (INCO) - Nov 2018 - Nov 2020**

- Elected by peer-level Neighborhood Council Chairs
- Facilitate meetings as Chair in Chairperson's absence
- Aid in development of INCO General Membership meetings
- Conduct special projects as assigned by INCO General Membership or INCO Chair
- Present on special projects to General Membership and the public
- Engage the public and neighborhoods for continuous improvement of the Neighborhood Council system.

**Commissioner, Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Commission, City of Oxnard**

2017 - Present

- Advise the Oxnard City Council on all matters pertaining to parks, recreation, and community services activity in the city
- Serve as a liaison between City Council and the community in aforementioned jurisdictional areas
- Advise city staff on future parks and recreation programming
- Provide opportunities for public input on aforementioned jurisdictional areas

**Career  
Experience****Operations Specialist – Youth Development Programming**

2018 – Present    Ventura County Office of Education    5100 Adolfo Rd  
Camarillo, CA

- Oversee and coordinate Youth Development programming deliverables for multiple grants and initiatives
- Develop and provide training, seminar, and technical assistance to countywide network of youth development advisors to ensure successful program implementation
- Training of adult advisors on mandates and best practices for inclusion and engagement of students from diverse priority and vulnerable populations
- Secure buy-in and commitment from partnering community agencies and stakeholders for collaborative project work
- Expedited staff training for shift to remote learning models and platforms during Stay Safe at Home Orders
- Rigorous monitoring of relevant data collection and reporting for program compliance and continuous evaluation
- Developed, implemented, and provided for evaluation of programs and special projects
- Monitoring of school district, municipal, and county policy to allow complementary and sustainable collaborative partnerships
- Coached and mentored Project Specialist staff for positive professional growth and successful project implementation
- Job duties from previous Project Specialist II position

**Region 3 Representative – CA Friday Night Live Collaborative**

2017 – Present

- Elected by peers
- Member of statewide FNL Leadership Team
- Act as a liaison between Southern California FNL counties and state office
- Facilitate monthly regional meetings with Southern California counties
- Plan, organize, and present at annual statewide FNL Leadership Conference
- Assess all California FNL counties for adherence to Standards of Practice, and determine programmatic status of “Good Standing”
- Assess and address complex, statewide programmatic challenges

**Project Specialist II – Friday Night Live**

2008 – Present    Ventura County Office of Education    5100 Adolfo Rd  
Camarillo, CA

- Coordination of statewide Friday Night Live (FNL) program for Ventura County
- Coordination of county Friday Night Live Mentoring (FNLM) program
- Establish, recruit, train, and provide ongoing oversight for FNL students and adult advisors
- Establish, recruit, train, and provide ongoing oversight for FNLM high school-age Mentors and adult advisors
- Collaborate with district-level administrators and district office staff
- Oversee countywide FNL Youth Advisory Council
- Aid youth in planning, organizing, and coordinating youth projects at site, district, and county levels
- Provide tailored training and technical assistance to sites upon request
- Act as liaison between California FNL office and VCOE/Ventura County FNL sites

**Youth Advocate/Counselor**

2003 – 2008    Project SafeNet    450 Rosewood Ave St 215  
Camarillo, CA

- Screening, intake, and assessment of all participants
- One-on-one counseling, education, and mentoring
- Family session mediation
- Family Conflict resolution, supporting achievement of family consensus, and development of future conflict prevention plans
- Co-advisor of Pacifica High School's Friday Night Live chapter
- Collaboration with school staff and numerous outside agencies
- Case management and documentation
- Administration, scoring, and interpretation of Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory Version II
- Administration and interpretation of California Healthy Kids Survey
- Development and completion of Quarterly Summary Reports
- Development and implementation of various tools utilized by project staff
- Development and utilization of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention presentations to high school students

**Substance Abuse Counselor-Intern**

2002 – 2003 PDAP of Ventura County, Inc. 450 Rosewood Ave St 215  
Camarillo, CA

- Screening, intake, and assessment
- One-on-one ATOD counseling
- ATOD process groups
- Family counseling sessions
- Informal case management
- Formal Drug Medi-Cal case management
- Collaboration with probation and other outside agencies
- Establish and maintain agency-wide electronic networking capabilities

**Education**

2017 – 2018 **Western Governor's University**

- Master of Science, Management and Leadership

2014 – 2016 **Western Governor's University**

- Bachelor of Science, Information Technology

1998 – 2002 **Oxnard College**

2007 – 2008

- Associate's Degree in Addictive Disorders Studies
- Completed Addictive Disorder Studies program 2002
- Dean's List and consistent 3.73 GPA

1998 – 2001 **Adolfo Camarillo High School**

- High School Diploma

**Certificates**

Certified Addictions Treatment Counselor (CATC)	CAADE
Certified AOD Counselor (CADC)	CCAPP
Project+ Certified	CompTIA
A+ Certified	