

Mary Katherine (Katie) Koester
58481 Bruce Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

March 13, 2015

Mayor Wythe and Homer City Council
City of Homer
491 E. Pioneer Ave
Homer, Alaska 99603

Honorable Mayor Wythe and Homer City Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for the position of City Manager. When I moved from state to local government I did so with municipal management as my career goal. Since then I have learned about the inner workings of the City, the relationships that make it tick, and the many demands on time, resources, and energy Homer expects of government.

I have the communication skills necessary to be Homer's City Manager. My work experience at the Alaska State Legislature and the City of Homer has taught me how to listen to people and make them feel heard. I identify with and respect all types of people and have spent as much time discussing issues with elected officials in suits and ties as commercial fisherman in Xtratufs and Nomar fleece. I represent the City on four boards and regularly communicate with the Legislature on behalf of the City. I promote Homer through various publications and am often tasked with high-profile projects like putting on the Citizen's Academy, Governor's Picnic, or Strategic Doing.

Homer's City manager needs to be able to see the big picture. I am a generalist by trade. My work day can bounce between seemingly disparate topics: researching funding for the Deep Water Dock, writing a resolution on tidal power, handling a complaint about the gas line, attending a meeting on community health improvement, and an evening speaking engagement on economic development. This has taught me how to take a holistic view and connect resources to find solutions. I am not an expert on any of these topics, but I know how to find information and bring stakeholders to the table.

I am deeply committed to this community, was born and raised here, am raising my boys here, and want to be part of Homer's growth and success as City Manager. Thank you for considering me for that responsibility.

Sincerely,



Katie Koester

MARY KATHERINE (KATIE) KOESTER

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WORK EXPERIENCE

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR *City of Homer, Homer, AK*

12/2011-present

- Represent the City on the Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District, Homer Chamber of Commerce, Homer Marine Trades Association and MAPP.
- Facilitate government relations for the City with state and federal representatives including travel to Juneau, advocating for legislation, and hosting public officials.
- Implement special requests from the City Manager and Council. Examples include the Governor's Picnic, Citizen's Academy and Strategic Doing.
- Spearhead the annual Capital Improvement Plan process from collecting and identifying new projects to advocating and finding funding for projects.
- Market Homer through projects such as *Alaska North to the Future* and promoting the marine trades.
- Public information contact for the Natural Gas HSAD which involves authoring publications, fielding questions, organizing meetings and managing the website.
- Research and write grants such as the \$4.2 million grant for Harbor Improvement Projects.
- Staff the Economic Development Commission which includes planning meetings, agenda content and researching requests from commissioners.
- Write resolutions and ordinances as requested by the City Manager.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Representative Paul Seaton, Homer, AK

11/2004-12/2011

- Manage 7-10 bills through the legislative process annually, including HB 25-Public Recreational Use Easements and the House version of SB 141-Creating a New Tier for PERS & TRS Employees.
- Spokesperson for the Representative at capital budget meetings, hearings on controversial issues, conferences and other public meetings.
- Mediate between constituents and state agencies; successfully helped Voznesenka Village resolve issues with DEC to complete a piped water system and alternative village access.
- Closely follow the state operating and capital budgets, including attending finance subcommittee meetings and preparing budget amendments.
- Review and prioritize hundreds of capital budget grant requests from cities and communities working behind the scenes with legislators.
- Advise district 35 communities on potential funding opportunities such as \$6 million for Cruise Ship Dock and Passenger Facility Improvements in Homer.
- Educate the public about government through a weekly newsletter and direct outreach.
- Oversee two staff and one intern.

CAMPAIGN MANAGER

Seaton for State House, Homer, AK

6-11/ 02, 04, 06, 08, 10

- Ran five successful State House campaigns in a district of 13,500 voters.
- Composed and successfully executed 5 campaign plans, establishing and implementing timelines, budgets, and fundraising and marketing strategies.
- Recruited and managed an average of 20 volunteers per campaign.
- Designed and authored over 50 pieces of campaign literature.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA SOUTHEAST, Master of Public Administration, *in progress via distance education*

PONTIFIC CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF CHILE, Master of Political Science, *graduated with distinction 2005*

- Thesis: "Chilean Women in Positions of Political Power: the Masculanization of Power."
- Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar: Fellowship required promoting mutual cultural understanding by speaking at dozens of Rotary meetings, service projects and graduate studies.

SMITH COLLEGE, B.A., Government, *cum laude 2002*

- Varsity Athlete: Crew 1998-2002; Co-captain 2002; NCAA Academic All-American 2002.

RELEVANT TRAINING

- FEMA Incident Command System 100, 200, 300, 400, 700, 800b and NIMS ICS All-Hazzard Liaison Officer.
- Alaska Funding Exchange Grant Writing Intensive Course.

SERVICE

- Kachemak Bay Rotary Club, member 2007-present. International Committee Co-chair, 2009-2011; District Conference Planning Committee, 2011; board member 2011-2014.
- Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic, board member 2005-2011. Organized Iron Chef Fundraiser 2007; Gaming Committee Chair, 2011.

SKILLS

- Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point and Adobe InDesign.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Fluent in Spanish.