

TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO

525 San Anselmo Avenue San Anselmo, California 94960

(415)-258-4660

Town Council Application for Appointment

Applications must be in the Town Clerk’s office by 5 PM on **Thursday, June 20, 2019.**

Applications may be received by email or hand delivery. Interviews, which are open to the public, will be held at an upcoming Council meeting. Once a date is determined, the Town will alert the public through its website and Town Manager weekly newsletter.

An appointment is expected to be made at the regular Town Council meeting on **Tuesday, July 23, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.** Please note, the term for this appointment will be until November 2020 at which time the position will come up for election.

Please note that the completed form and the answers to the questions on the form are public records upon receipt by the Town Clerk and are subject to full disclosure.

If you have any questions about the application form, the appointment process, or the duties and responsibilities of a Town Councilmember, please feel free to contact Town Clerk Carla Kacmar at 258- 4660.

Date: 6/20/19

Name: Nicolas Pommier

Address: [REDACTED], San Anselmo CA 94960

Phone Number(s): E-mail address:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I am a registered voter in San Anselmo: X Yes _____ No

I have been a resident of San Anselmo for ___24___ years, and my occupation is ___Self-Employed, Business and commercial building owner

Signature of Applicant: ___ *Nicolas Pommier* _____

Date: ___6.19.19_____

Please answer the following questions:

1. Please describe your educational background, including degrees, special distinctions or honors, and the dates received. Special training and/or skills should also be noted.

While studying Political Economies of Industrialized Studies at Cal Berkeley from 1995 - 1997, I simultaneously opened my first small business in Red Hill Shopping Center at age 22.

As a 3rd degree black belt and disciple of the Shaolin Temple in China, I was passionate to share my love of health, wellness, dedication and community with as many people as possible, which inspired me to open my second dojo in Northgate Center in 2000.

As part of the largest martial arts organization in North America, it was an honor to receive the title of "Instructor of the Year" twice.

After selling the two dojos, and taking a year to travel internationally, I returned to the US and opened a new business, Ross Valley CrossFit, in 2010 with my wife, Stephanie, and our 6 month old son (who is now a 4th grader at Wade Thomas, and is an incredible big brother to our youngest son, a preschooler at San Anselmo PreSchool)

2. Please summarize your involvement in the community and civic activities. Include any offices held and/or significant accomplishments.

While owning the business, I conducted martial arts seminars, focusing on life skills such as discipline, integrity, and commitment, to the students at Wade Thomas, Manor, Brookside, White Hill and Drake schools. My students and I participated in the Country Day Fair parade each year, in addition to hosting an information booth.

While operating the business, I also donated complimentary self-defense courses to the Center for Domestic Peace, in addition to scholarships to the community at large, in order to support the holistic health of those with limited financial means.

As the owner of Ross Valley CrossFit, I was a founding member of the Ross Valley Health Alliance, a collaboration of health and wellness business owners focused on working together to enhance the holistic wellness and awareness of Ross Valley community members.

From 2015 - 2018, Ross Valley CrossFit had the honor of hosting an annual street wide health expo on Greenfield Ave, centered around a fitness competition. Collaborating with other businesses on San Anselmo's "Fitness Row", Ross Valley CrossFit brought hundreds of athletes, spectators and national vendors to Greenfield Ave, exposing the local business and residential communities to new clientele.

Additionally, RVC has provided annual scholarships to community members desirous of receiving support in their health goals, but who struggle financially.

3. Please explain why you wish to be a member of the San Anselmo Town Council and describe what skills or unique qualifications you would bring to the Town Council.

As not only a long term resident but also a small service-based business owner in Ross Valley for over 2 decades, I am passionate about seeing this community thrive and evolve. I am personally invested in the success of this community, not only as a business owner but as a parent of two young boys in local schools. But further, I feel called to take my participation in this community to a new level; one that is bigger than just myself, my family and my business. I want to play a direct part in helping the community at large, and give back, through service, to those who have supported me over the years.

4. Look 10 years into the future and describe what you want this Town to look like and why?

I want to see San Anselmo thriving with local business. I want to see San Anselmo Ave packed with sustainable businesses from the firehouse to Bolinas Ave. I want to see good roads, beautiful parks, and secure plans in place for emergencies. I want to see the town calendar packed with family-friendly events that bring the community together.

5. What are your three top priorities for the Town?

Balancing the budget, emergency preparedness, community engagement

6. What do you see as the role of Town Council? What do you see as the role of Town staff?

Town Council promotes the town, represents its interests, and supports the work of different groups in the community. They review laws, listen to all perspectives, and execute on the best interests of the town and its residents. Town staff researches and presents initiatives, as well as execute and follow up on legislation.

7. Give an example of how you would resolve a situation where your personal philosophy is at odds with what is best for the Town.

Acting in good conscious, as a public servant to the town of San Anselmo, I would be obligated to defer to the best interests of the town's citizens for the long term. For example, while I might personally desire to fix the roads in my neighborhood immediately, I would refer to budget constraints and the greater needs of the town on the whole when determining where, when, and how to handle infrastructure improvements.

8. What would you do if you were contacted directly by a resident or business to resolve a Town related problem?

I would listen to their concerns, in a professional and friendly manner, as a representative of the town. I would educate them on the proper avenues and procedures to take in order to have their concerns heard, and I will share the concern with the rest of the town council.

9. If you are currently contracting with or providing services to the Town, are you willing to suspend those activities if appointed to the Town Council?

NA

10. What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the Town in the next year?

Balancing the budget, emergency preparedness, fostering community engagement with local businesses with the goal of economic stability.

11. What do you feel needs to be done to maintain and enhance the Town's economic health?

We need to be fiscally responsible with our existing budget and attempt, to the best of our abilities, to anticipate and plan for future needs. San Anselmo needs to be more business-friendly.

12. Circumstances outside the Town's control can and have impacted dramatically the Town's budget. What approach would you take as a Councilmember to balance the budget or address the issues?

The best defense is a good offense. I'd take a proactive approach to forecasting and preparing for financial challenges by being cognizant of the town's legitimate long term needs. The current situation of what appears to be rampant small business closures has a direct effect on the town's ability to handle unforeseen challenges. We need to create a robust emergency fund by providing smart services that align with the interests of the taxpayers. We need to engage with and listen to the citizens of San Anselmo to gain insight into where we have opportunity to be of service and collect taxes for those services.

13. Have you reviewed the Town budget and are you familiar with where and how the Town receives its funding? While I have yet to take a "deep dive" into the minutiae of the town budget, I have a firm grip on the generalities of where and how funds (taxes) are levied and collected.

14. Have you reviewed the Town's General Plan and Work Plan? In the past, I have viewed the General Plan and Work Plan, with most of my focus having been placed on the Open Space Element, the Parks & Rec element, as well as the Circulation Element, as these have been of personal and professional relevance. Obviously, if moved into a public service position, a thorough review of both documents would be in order.

15. All persons serving on the Town Council are required by State law to disclose both their own and their spouse's investments and income. In addition, the appointee to the Town Council must be prepared to make a significant time commitment. Please indicate if there are any personal or professional time limitations on your availability to serve as a Councilmember. There are no limitations. As a self employed business owner, I don't foresee any issues in meeting time requirements.