



**CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS**  
**City Council Agenda Communication**

**Meeting Date:** May 5, 2025

**Prepared By:** Liliya Stevens, Mayor

**Agenda Item:** Appointment of Paula Johnson to fill Ward 1 Alderperson Vacancy

**Explanation:** The timing of this transition creates an immediate vacancy on the Council during a critical moment - as we begin a new chapter and continue essential business. To ensure a fully seated Council can function without delay, I am recommending Paula Johnson to fill the Ward 1 vacancy. Paula recently ran as a candidate in the City election and demonstrated a clear commitment to serving our community. Her interest, experience, and the public's familiarity with her make her a strong and ready choice. Going forward, future vacancies will follow a transparent, open process that invites community participation and interest.

**Fiscal Impact:** N/A

**Action Requested:** Approval by the City Council of the above appointment.

## **Paula Johnson**

806 Devonshire Rd

**Position sought:** Alderperson, Ward I

**Personal statement:** I would appreciate being considered to fill Alderperson Stevens' seat for the remainder of her term. I ran for the position in the recent election, receiving over 500 votes from residents of Ward I. With my priorities of representation, fiscal responsibility, and transparency, I feel I would be a good choice to take over Alderperson Stevens' place in representing the citizens of Ward I and Washington as a whole.

### **Education:**

- B.A in English, Illinois Wesleyan University, 1994
- M.S. in Speech-Language Pathology, Nova Southeastern University, 2010

### **Career overview:**

- Technical writer/software trainer, 1994-2002
- Speech-language pathologist, 2010-present

### **Community service/volunteer experience:**

- WCHS Band Boosters, 2017-present (vice president 2019-2022, president 2022-present)
- Penguin Project, 2018-present (parent mentor, 2019-present)
- WMS Music Boosters, 2014-2019 (president 2016-2019)

### **Washington History**

- Attended Lincoln Grade School/Washington Grade & Junior High 1978-1986
- Attended Washington Community High School, 1986-1989
- Resident 1995-1996
- Current resident since 2004