

Amy Champlin

General Seat C Vacancy

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## Reasons I am the best choice ...

1. We read those stories where people go to visit a place but then don't leave; they end up staying and making a life for themselves. That's what I want for the City of Springfield. I want people to visit because they know we protect LGBT people from discrimination, make things accessible for people in wheelchairs, and go out of their way to keep everyone safe and happy .

My short-term vision is simply to start reaching for the long-term ones. A single ordinance or program is not going to give us a storybook ending ; we need to take baby steps.

2. The City's greatest strength is clearly it's people; I have not been left to struggle because I use a wheelchair. People have always stopped to see if they can help me. I can build on that by affording other people the courtesy of having help if they need. For example, there was a bill in 2014 to prevent LGBT discrimination in businesses; I want to know what happened and why because it's an issue that can't be forgotten.

The Springfield Police Department is another strength of the City of Springfield; especially under the leadership of Paul Williams. However, policing is often seen as Us v. Them so police officers are not appreciated. Light Up the City Blue is a week, held concurrently with National Police Week, where residents, businesses, and other buildings change outside lights to blue to show support for the police. I want to set this up in Springfield.

3. \$10 a year. That's it. It is a RIDICULOUSLY low price to have a business license for a year. Raising the price to a reasonable amount would help to fund issues.

Homelessness is an issue that will never go away completely but we can make the situation better for a lot of people. In Houston, Texas the city has a program where homeless people are employed to clean the streets. This gives those people a work history and the chance to live with dignity while the city gets clean streets and to be a help to, rather than a hindrance to, homeless people. Plus! People who are employed pay taxes.

4. There are only a few months left before the election for the Seat; after getting a handle on going to Council meetings (and dealing with the many ordinances to rezone...), attending and participating in Council lunches and committees, constituent relations, and everything else required of a Council member while still accomplishing major goals may be too tall of an order. I think I will have to settle for getting the ball rolling on the things I want to accomplish.

The only wheelchair accessible transportation in Springfield is the city bus or the paratransit bus. For the city bus, a wheelchair user must be able to access a bus stop and then they must be able to wait in the elements for the bus. To use the paratransit service, a wheelchair user must be signed up for the service and be able to schedule trips in advance. Forget taking your cat to the emergency vet at 3 am. There are groups that won't consider having a conference in a city like Springfield- partly because of the lack of wheelchair accessible transportation. This is an important issue that I would like to address.