

Print

Charter Review Committee Interest Form - Submission #20553

Date Submitted: 2/2/2023

Last Name*

Berens

First Name*

Samuel

District # You Live In.*

4

Home Address*

3541 N Hills Dr

City*

Hollywood

State*

FL

Zip Code*

33021

Home Phone

954-850-2443

Cell Phone

954-850-2443

Email Address*

samgbe0@gmail.com

Owner or Renter *

Neither (live at home)

Number of years as city resident*

22

Are you registered to vote in Broward County?*

Yes

Education (highest degree / level)

Bachelor's degree

Occupation*

Hospitality Worker (Room Service Attendant @ Diplomat Resort)

Work Phone

Business Name*

The Diplomat Beach Resort Hollywood, Curio Collection by Hilton

Business Address

3555 S Ocean Dr

City

Hollywood

State

FL

Zip Code

33019

How many elections have you voted in and when was the last time you voted?*

Roughly 7-8 elections; last voted in 2022 midterms

How many City Commission or board meetings have you attended in the last 2 years? Please list:*

Summer 2021 internship with Hollywood Planning

Why do you wish to serve as a member of the Charter Review Committee?*

I believe that truly updating and aligning the City Charter with our needs as a growing community is ever-present in an era of unprecedented changes to our built environment. The city of Hollywood will face critical challenges in upcoming decades related

If appointed, what specific contribution(s) will you bring to the Charter Review Committee?*

I bring a young and optimistic voice and perspective to the Charter Review Committee that seeks to make our municipal systems sustainable and accountable for future generations. Often, many citizen review boards overrepresent the voices of a few

Have you had any previous experience with a Charter review process?*

I have studied the charter review process during my time as an urban planning student in college but have not formally been a member of a committee for such activities.

Please describe your qualifications as an applicant including your professional and/or volunteer experience or background.*

I am currently working at the Diplomat Beach Resort, a huge player in our city's beach tourism industry, which means I represent the working citizens of the community and a young voice. I have been involved in numerous urban political initiatives.

Do you currently serve on any City or County boards or committees? Please list.*

no

Have you ever served on any City or County advisory boards? Please list.*

no

List community / civic service involvement.*

see resumé attached because none of these text boxes are actually letting me write more than two lines

Attach Resume (only .doc and .pdf files)*

Sam Berens Short Form Resume.docx

Samuel Gabriel Berens

Mailing Address: 3541 N Hills Dr, Hollywood, FL 33021 - Phone: 954-850-2443
samgbe0@gmail.com - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/sam-berens-4a977814b/>

Fluent in Spanish and Limited Working Proficiency in Portuguese

Education:

Bachelor of Arts of Political Science and Bachelor of Arts of International Studies (Latin America/Caribbean concentration); double major; Minor: Urban and Regional Planning; graduated August 2022

Study Abroad: Summer 2022; Sustainability Politics/Environmental Ethics in France, Germany, Switzerland, and Italy

Relevant Experience:

The Diplomat Beach Resort Hollywood, Dining Ambassador **January 2023-Present**

- Helping launch the Diplomat Delivery room service system using the Infogenesis on-demand guest experience software; serving as expeditor and server to connect guests with deliveries from the resort's outlets; garnering feedback on the service and adjusting as necessary

Mazel at 195th Street, Consultant/Business Assistant **August 2022-Present**

- Handles administrative, tax, and financial tasks pertaining to maintenance of brick-and-mortar retail centers

City of Hollywood, FL Division of Urban Planning & Design, Department Intern **June-July, 2021**

- Produced and researched zoning verification letters
- Processed Certificate of Use (CU) applications, worked w/ MuniCode and other softwares
- Organized office mail projects and handled certain correspondence
- Participated in Planning/Development Board, Historic Preservation Board, and Technical Advisory Committee meetings

Jen Perelman for Congress Campaign, Campaign Intern **2020**

- Organized campaign events with the candidate and in the community
- Completed outreach to networks of in-district voters to spread the message of the campaign
- Knocked on doors and canvassed, engaged with voters directly, distributed signs
- Provided essential goods and personal protective equipment during the Covid-19 pandemic to affected communities as part of the JenCORPS service-based initiative

Florida Democratic Party, Unpaid Intern **June-August 2019**

- Worked with Finance Team on donor and lobbyist research including utilizing databases like the Florida Sunshine Project, in tandem with FDP's 67-county strategy
- Archived local elected officials in the State of Florida through the Municipal Victory Project
- Prepared and executed a donor reception on the first night of the Miami Democratic Presidential Primary debates
- Worked with the Communications Department and Hispanic Press Secretary to transcribe phone calls with elected officials using my Spanish language skills
- Crafted social media posts and news clippings for the Comms team

Office of Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, District Office Intern **July-August, 2019**

- Completed clerical duties (i.e., photocopying, filing, and folding letters for office records)

- Assisted with prep and execution of press conferences and meetings between the Congresswoman and stakeholders in the District
- Casework duties under the constituent services director, particularly relating to immigration and veterans' affairs
- Answered phone calls and transcribed constituent concerns into a database for review by the team

Andres Jimenez for Virginia House of Delegates, Campaign Intern

May-June 2019

- Oversaw certain voter outreach and social media strategies
- Completed campaign/opposition research to improve strategic targeting
- Phone banked, distributed signs, canvassed and spoke to voters on behalf of candidate
- Attended campaign events for the campaign, helped with Spanish language outreach using my skills, etc

Friedman CPA Group, Paid Intern (\$11/hour)

June-July 2017

- Handled audit checklists for clients, tax documents, website design and firm marketing, worked with Quickbooks software, etc

Mathnasium Educational Center, Instructor (\$11/hour)

May 2017-June 2018

- Working with students and crafting and implementing tailor-made math curricula

Broward County Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division, Unpaid Intern **July 2016**

- Researched and drafted ordinances and policy memos for light pollution policy and electric vehicle charging infrastructure
- Advanced goals of Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact and Broward County Sustainability Stewards

Other jobs included school uniform store clerk (handled point of sale, inventory, customer service, multilingual skills, and other retail tasks, also ~\$11/hour), other political campaigns, and gig economy freelance settings

Research Experience:

Senior Thesis Topic: *Who are the biggest polluters in Brazil and Argentina, both in the transportation sector and overall, and are they responding to international pressures to meet climate goals?*

Leadership Experience:

Secretary, UF Students for New Urbanism, 2021-2022 academic year

Treasurer, JStreetU @ UF, 2021-2022 academic year

Student Government Senate candidate, Fall 2019 & Spring 2020

Activism on campus through numerous left-leaning political organizations, student government, environmental groups, foreign policy work, and faith-based (Jewish) movements

Skills: Multilingual (see above), extremely fast typing, adept writer, knowledgeable on world affairs and geopolitical issues, extremely passionate about urban policy and climate/social justice work

Awards:

Florida Academic Scholars, Bright Futures full-tuition scholarship to the University of Florida

Congress for the New Urbanism General Scholarship – CNU.30 Oklahoma City

Grisham Scholar, Jill Benjamin Academic Scholar, Herbert D. Philips Award for Volunteer Commitment; 2018

2nd place winner of statewide creative writing contest, Jewish Museum of Florida; 2017

Credentials: Esri Online Course - Spatial Data Science: The New Frontier in Analytics