

**Print**

**Advisory Board & Committee Interest Form - Submission #28554**

**Date Submitted: 4/9/2025**

**Last Name\***

Kniffin

**First Name\***

Richard

**District # You Live In.\***

6

**Home Address\***

510 S 58 CT

**City\***

Hollywood

**State\***

FL

**Zip Code\***

33023

**Home Phone**

9546467633

**Cell Phone**

9546467633

**Email Address\***

rkniffin@bellsouth.net

**Owner or Renter \***

Owner

**Number of years as city resident\***

30

**Are you registered to vote in Broward County?\***

Yes



**Education (highest degree / level)**

BA

**Occupation\***

Marine Safety Equipment Sales

**Work Phone**

9546467633

**Business Name\***

Aquaventures, Inc.

**Business Address**

510 S 58 CT

**City**

Hollywood

**State**

FL

**Zip Code**

33023

**Identify the board / committee(s) to which you request appointment (Please rank in order of preference)**

**Selection (1)\***

Marine Advisory Board



**Selection (2)\***

Marine Advisory Board



**Selection (3)\***

Marine Advisory Board



**Selection (4)\***

Marine Advisory Board



### **Affordable Housing Advisory Committee - Questions\***

Please answer these five questions above. 1. In your opinion what is the greatest challenge to keeping housing affordable in Hollywood? 2. Which of the following disciplines are you most skilled? • Home Purchase Education, • Housing Market Employment, • Housing Market Stability, • Affordable Housing Construction, • Affordable Housing Activism. 3. Which of the following disciplines are you most passionate? • Ownership Housing Affordability, • Rental Housing Affordability, • Housing Market Stability, • New Housing Construction, • Fair Housing. 4. What (if any) life experience motivated you toward volunteerism? 5. What role does housing diversity play in Hollywood's economic health?

### **African American Advisory Council - Questions\***

Please answer these five questions above. 1. What is the greatest challenge facing the African American Community in Hollywood? 2. How many hours per month can you dedicate to AAAC initiatives? 3. Which of the following disciplines are you most skilled? • Education, • Employment, • Economics, • Cultural Awareness, • Housing. 4. Which of the following disciplines are you most passionate? • Education, • Employment, • Economics, • Cultural Awareness, • Housing. 5. What (if any) life experience motivated you toward volunteerism?

### **Artwork Selection Committee - Questions\***

Please answer these five questions above. 1. What are your primary interest in City Government and City Services? 2. Why do you want to join the Artwork Selection Committee? 3. What other relevant organizations, clubs, or associations were you previously, and/or currently are involved in? 4. Are you available to attend regular committee board meetings scheduled for the Second Monday each month at 5:30pm? 5. What is your one area of highest interest related to the Arts within the City of Hollywood?

### **Civil Service Board - Questions\***

Please answer these five questions above. 1. Describe your involvement with establishing, reviewing and interpreting policies and procedures? 2. Describe your involvement in employment practices including interviewing, testing, hiring, selection and promotion, demotions, transfers, etc. 3. Describe your knowledge of Civil Service and its purpose. 4. Why do you want to serve on this Civil Service Board? 5. Are you a continuous resident of and continuous registered elector in the City of Hollywood?

### **Community Development Advisory Board - Questions\***

Please answer these five questions above. 1. Do you reside in a low and moderate income (LMI) neighborhood in Hollywood per the most recent US Census data? A Hollywood LMI Map is located at [www.hollywoodfl.org](http://www.hollywoodfl.org) on the Community and Economic Development webpage. 2. What Community Development issues do you believe are the most important to Hollywood? 3. What is your definition of a healthy neighborhood? 4. What do you believe is the vision and primary work of the Community Development Advisory Board? 5. What do you believe uniquely qualifies you to serve on the Community Development Advisory Board?

### **Education Advisory Committee - Questions\***

Please answer these five questions above. 1. What are the current challenges facing education? 2. What is your vision for education in Hollywood? 3. What do you see as the primary work of the Education Advisory Committee? 4. With only one meeting a month, the Committee is limited in what it can do. How does/should the Committee decide what's most important? 5. How can the Committee know if its mission and goals are being accomplished?

### **Employees' Retirement Plan - Questions\***

Please answer these five questions above. 1. Are you familiar with the State's Sunshine Laws (Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes)? 2. Are you available to attend in person regular monthly Board meeting (typically held the 4th Tuesday of each month)? 3. What knowledge, skills and/or abilities will you bring to the Employees' Retirement Plan? 4. What do you believe are the responsibilities of a trustee on a municipal retirement plan board? 5. Are you familiar with municipal defined benefit retirement plans and/or have previous experience serving on a municipal retirement plan board?

### **Firefighters' Pension Board - Questions\***

Please answer these five questions above. 1. What knowledge, skills and abilities would you bring to the meetings? 2. What experience do you have with firefighter pensions? 3 What is your financial background? 4. How many years have you lived in Hollywood? 5 How familiar are you with local retirement systems?

### **General Obligation Bond Oversight Advisory Committee - Questions\***

Please answer these four questions above. Why do you want to join the GO Bond Oversight Advisory Committee? 2. Explain how your personal and/or professional experiences will contribute to the meeting the goal(s) of the Board or City. 3. Which Bond interests you the most? Public Safety? Parks/Golf/Open Space or Neighborhoods & Resiliency? 4. What is your perspective on city quality of life, healthy neighborhoods, economic development & a strong tax base?

### **Hispanic Affairs Council\***

Please answer these five questions above. 1. What is the greatest challenge facing the Hispanic Community in Hollywood? 2. How many hours per month can you dedicate to HACA initiatives? 3. Which of the following disciplines are you most skilled? Education, Employment, Economics, Cultural Awareness, Housing. 4. Which of the following disciplines are you most passionate? Education, Employment, Economics, Cultural Awareness, Housing. 5. What (if any) life experience motivated you toward volunteerism?

### **Historic Preservation Board - Questions\***

Please answer these five questions above. 1. How have you prepared yourself to serve on the Historic Preservation Board? 2. Explain how your personal and/or professional experiences will contribute to the meeting the goal(s) of the Board or City. \* Personal experiences, \* Professional experiences. 3. What is your perspective on balancing growth of the City's tax base, within the Historic Districts, while maintaining neighborhood stabilization? 4. How would you balance historic architecture with modern architectural styles? 5. What do you like about the City's different Historic Districts?

### **Hollywood Centennial Celebration Committee\***

Please answer these five questions above. 1. What is your primary interest in serving on the Committee? 2. What is your financial/accounting background? 3. What knowledge, skills and abilities would you bring to the meetings? 4. What other organizations and/or associations were you previously, and/or currently involved with? 5. Are you available to attend regular committee meetings? (dates to be determined by all members)

### **Hollywood Housing Authority - Questions\***

Please answer these five questions above. 1. In your opinion what is the greatest challenge to keeping housing affordable in Hollywood? 2. Which of the following disciplines are you most skilled? \* Property Management, \* Affordable Housing Administration, \* Housing Market Stability, \* Affordable Housing Construction, \* Affordable Housing Activism. 3. Which of the following disciplines are you most passionate? \* Property Management, \* Rental Housing Affordability, \* Housing Market Stability, \* New Housing Construction, \* Fair Housing. 4. What (if any) life experience motivated you toward volunteerism? 5. What role does housing diversity play in Hollywood's economic health?

### **Marine Advisory Board - Questions\***

1. Local boater and marine professional
2. Maritime knowledge and experienced Marine Advisory Board member for 7 years.
3. Yes
4. Yes, to all.
5. To continue to advise for best solutions to waterway issues such as derelict vessels, sea level rise and local marine safety.

Also, I have served on the Kid's Fishing Tournament committee since its inception which was formed to promote the ability for Hollywood school age youths the opportunity to learn about local fishing. We will have our 4th tournament in 2025.

Please answer these five questions above. 1. What is your involvement with the City of Hollywood's Waterways? 2. What will guide your decisions on this board? 3. Are you able to dedicate 2-3 hours a month to attend the meetings? Attendance is paramount to this Board being able to get things done. 4. Are you currently or have you been a boater, marine industry professional or involved in any other marine related industry? 5. What is your vision for the city of Hollywood's Waterway system?

### **Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Advisory Board - Questions\***

Please answer these six questions above. 1. How many events have you attended in the past year at any of the parks and athletics facilities in the City? 2. How many City-sponsored special events have you attended for the past year? 3. Are you available to attend regular Board meetings? Regular meetings are on the 1st Thursday of the month for 8 months per calendar year. 4. What is your one area of highest interest related to the parks, recreation and cultural arts for the City? 5. What other relevant organizations, clubs, or associations were you previously, and/or currently are involved in? 6. How does parks, recreation and cultural arts contribute to quality of life?

### **Planning & Development Board - Questions\***

Please answer these five questions above. 1. How have you prepared yourself to serve on the Planning and Development Board? 2. Explain how your personal and/or professional experiences will contribute to the meeting the goal(s) of the Board or City. \* Personal experiences, \* Professional experiences. 3. What is your perspective on balancing growth of the City's tax base while maintaining neighborhood stabilization? 4. What recent developments within the City are most proud of? 5. What is a Comprehensive Plan?

### **Police Officer's Pension Board - Questions\***

Please answer these five questions above. 1. What is a fiduciary? And what is your responsibility to the police pension plan as a fiduciary? 2. What is the Sunshine Law? 3. What is Asset Allocation & Diversification? 4. Explain the history of Chapter 99-1 and Chapter 185? 5. Define the role of the Actuary and the Auditor?

### **Sister Cities Advisory Committee - Questions\***

1. Do you speak more than one language? If so, what languages do you speak? 2. Do you have experience in travel, cultural exchange, and/or fund-raising? Please describe. 3. Which Sister City focus areas are you most passionate about: a. Art and Culture; b. Business and Trade; c. Community Development; d. Youth and Education. 4. What (if any) life experience motivated you toward volunteerism? 5. Please describe why you are interested in serving on the Sister Cities Advisory Committee.

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### **Sustainability Advisory Committee - Questions\***

Please answer these five questions above. 1. Why do you want to join the committee? 2. Have you attended any committee meetings? If so, how many? 3. What knowledge, skills, and abilities would you bring to the committee if appointed? 4. What other organizations, clubs, or associations are you involved in? 5. Are you available to attend regular committee and subcommittee meetings? Regular meetings are held monthly with subcommittee meetings held as needed. 6. What types of projects would you like to see the committee work on?

### **Young Circle ArtsPark Advisory Board - Questions\***

Please answer these five questions above. 1. What are your primary interest in City Government and City Services? 2. How many ArtsPark events have you attended within the past year? 3. What other relevant organizations, clubs, or associations were you previously, and/or currently are involved in? 4. Are you available to attend regular committee board meetings scheduled for the Second Tuesday each month at 5:30 pm? 5. What is your one area of highest interest related to the ArtsPark at Young Circle?

**Are you interested in serving on more than one board/committee?\***

No

**If so, how many?\***

1



**Applicant must attend at least one board/committee meeting prior to consideration of application for every board applied. Please list board/committee meetings you attended in the last year?\***

9

**Are you currently on a County or City Board?\***

Yes



**If yes, please describe**

City of Hollywood Marine Advisory Board

**If you are applying for a board / committee, which has specific requirements / categories, please detail how your background and/or experience meets the required criteria.\***

Maritime professional for 55 years

**Please describe your professional and/or volunteer experience or background, which best qualifies you for selection to the board / committee.\***

I have served on this board since 2017.

**Are you presently employed by the City of Hollywood?\***

No



**If so, in what capacity?\***

Hollywood

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

Kniffin CV - 2016.pdf

## Experience

### **Aquaventures, Inc. – President**

Present

- Incorporated in 1993, I have recently positioned Aquaventures, Inc. to represent unique, high-quality maritime safety products such as the G26 Ambient Oil Mist Detector system from Green Instruments Denmark, Sea Angel and Seanexx AIS products from FT-TEC Austria and the Arctic 25 cold water immersion suits from White Glacier Puerto Rico. These products are the best in the world in their respective industries. I have secured premium space in the 2016 Ft. Lauderdale International Boat Show to represent these products in partnership with their manufacturers. See my website at [www.aquaventures.net](http://www.aquaventures.net)

- **United Ship Service – Luxury Yacht Division General Manager** November 2015 – June 2016

Provide marine electrical services for yachts and commercial vessels in the South Florida area. Primary duties included employee management, company and services promotion and sales. USS-LYD was closed 6/17/2016 due to the parent company's decision to focus on their core services of providing mechanical, electrical and engineering services to the cruise ship industry.

### **The University of Miami (UM) – Director of Marine Operations** March 2009 – September 2012

- Overall responsibility of the Research Vessel (R/V) Walton Smith (owned and operated by UM), UM Diving Safety Office, UM Small Boat Operations, UM Marine Technical Group at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute in Ft. Pierce, FL and UM Oceanographic Support Facility in the Port of Miami with 18 employees.
- High quality leadership and management of all aspects of marine operations for the University of Miami such as human resource management (hiring, motivating, reviewing, negotiating, retaining), crew training (especially safety), ship/small boat/ equipment and facility maintenance, ship cruise schedules, inspections, interdepartmental budgets, planning and meeting scientific research cruise objectives.
- Developed and submitted successful grant proposals to federal agencies for funding of an annual Marine Operations budget of up to \$3,000,000. Detailed budget development, analysis and execution.
- Provided direct support for scientific operations to National Science Foundation (NSF), Office of Naval Research (ONR), National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) and all other ship users.
- Primary liaison with US Coast Guard, American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other agencies to ensure all regulatory safety, pollution and training compliance. Designated Person Ashore, International Safety Management compliance as required by International Maritime Organization (IMO).
- Represented UM marine operations at all federal and regional meetings. Created and delivered various presentations related to research vessel activities.
- During my tenure, funding from federal grants rose by almost 200%, crew quality was greatly increased (with turnover substantially decreased), vessel condition and capabilities were significantly improved and the UM ship operations reputation was dramatically enhanced.

## **The Marine Group -Yacht Broker**

June 2000 – March 2009

- Represented buyers and sellers in the sales of various sized vessels, especially to initiate, develop and maintain relationships with new and existing clients, crews and vendors. Many of these relationships are still quite strong.
- Negotiated contracts, insurance and financial issues, hull and mechanical surveys, dockage and shipyard events, taxation and legal considerations, and successfully closed vessel transactions in the US and abroad.
- Established budgets and timelines for new build vessels and refits in shipyards or dockside as well as the management and supervision of crews and vendors. Primary liaison with Class and Hull surveyors.

## **The University of Miami – Research Vessel Captain    June 1992 - May 2000**

- Captain of the R/V Calanus and the R/V Walton Smith, Chief Mate R/V Columbus Iselin all University National Oceanographic Laboratory Systems (UNOLS) vessels, on numerous (over 100) scientific research cruises in the waters of the US East coast, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean and Central America.
- The funded use of the R/V Calanus increased more than 300% over a six year period while equipment breakdowns were reduced to almost nil and the material condition of the vessel was significantly improved.
- Actively participated in the design and construction of the new UNOLS DP catamaran research vessel R/V Walton Smith. Managed all aspects of commissioning and compliance as a US Coast Guard inspected vessel while at the shipyard.
- Prepared the vessels for sea (provisioning and scientific equipment mobilization), all navigation and routing, stability, hiring/training/supervising crew, drills, preparing ship's budget and submitting cruise reports to federal agencies. Also operated scientific support equipment such as cranes, A-Frame, J-Frame, winches & small boats.
- Hands on management of all shipyard and engineering activities including propulsion systems (main engines, gearboxes, CP shafts and propellers), power generation and distribution, hydraulic (including winch/wire systems), sanitation, reverse osmosis, pump systems and safety systems. Managed all aspects of shipyard repairs and upgrades while liaising with class and insurance surveyors.

## **Education and Credentials**

- University of Miami – BA in Marine Affairs, summa cum laude, December, 2011
- US Coast Guard – Master 500 GRT Motor Vessels upon Oceans. Radar Observer Unlimited, ARPA, AB Unlimited.
- International - Master 3000 GT - GMDSS, Vessel Security Officer, ECDIS
- Scuba Instructor – National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI).

## **Additional Maritime Certifications (2013 – 2016)**

- International Ship and Port Facility Security Code – Vessel Security Officer, Company Security Officer, Port/Facility Security Officer.
- International Safety Management (ISM)/ Designated Person Ashore (DPA) Auditor course.
- Global Maritime Distress and Safety Systems (GMDSS).
- Human Element Leadership Management (HELM) Management level
- Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS)