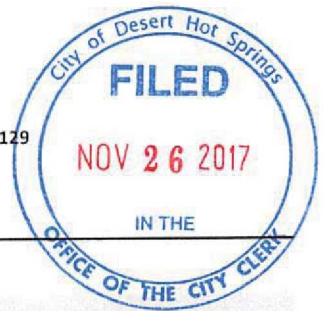


**CITY OF DESERT HOT SPRINGS**65950 Pierson Boulevard, Desert Hot Springs, CA, 92240 · [www.cityofdhs.org](http://www.cityofdhs.org) · P: (760) 329-6411 F: (760) 288-3129**CITY COMMISSION/BOARD APPLICATION****GENERAL / CONTACT INFORMATION**

**NAME:** Ennis Matthew Blake  
LAST FIRST MIDDLE

**ADDRESS:** [REDACTED]  
STREET ADDRESS  
Desert Hot Springs CA 92240  
CITY STATE ZIP

**PHONE:** [REDACTED]  
HOME WORK CELL

**EMAIL:** [REDACTED]

**DATE:** November 25, 2017

Appointed Commissioners must be a resident and registered voter of the City (DHSMC §2.24.040)

Length of Residency in Desert Hot Springs:

2 years 4 months

Registered Voter in Desert Hot Springs since:

2015

Indicate the following Commissions/Committees/Boards in which you are most interested in serving.

Number in order of preference (Example: #1 for 1st choice, #2 for 2nd choice, #3 for 3rd choice, etc.)

3rd	Planning Commission	5th	Oversight Board to the RDA Successor Agency	➔	(Members not subject to residency requirements)
2nd	Public Safety Commission	4th	Architecture and Landscape Review Committee	➔	
1st	Community & Cultural Affairs Commission (CCAC)				

See attachment for Commission/Committee/Board descriptions or visit the City's website at [www.cityofdhs.org](http://www.cityofdhs.org) for more information

**Occupation and Employer:** Musician/Professor. University of Southern California, Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Diego Symphony  
(If retired, indicate last occupation/employer)

The following information consists of some of the factors used by the City Council, and/or subcommittee thereof to select final applicants: 1) Background, education, experience to demonstrate sound judgement; 2) Diversity in commission membership; and 3) attendance at commission meetings prior to interview

**Background / Work Experience / Civic Involvement:**

My time at USC both as a student and employee has allowed me to become involved in the community and public schools surrounding the campus, which is largely underprivileged and lacks sufficient resources for the arts. Because there is virtually no funding, the arts initiatives and after school programs rely heavily on volunteers to bring music programs to the community. We offer free (or very reduced cost) music lessons to students in surrounding schools, free coaching to their performing ensembles, and most importantly serve as a listening ear/voice to help guide them toward their college goals. While the students do learn and improve on the instruments they study, the bigger goal is keeping them engaged in school and out of trouble.

**Education / Training:**

Bachelor of Music - University of Southern California - 2006  
Master of Music - University of Southern California - 2008  
Doctor of Musical Arts - University of Southern California - 2011



**Have you served on a City Commission or Board in Desert Hot Springs or any other City?**

☒ No

☐ Yes

If yes, complete below:

CITY	COMMISSION/POSITION	WHEN	LENGTH OF SERVICE
CITY	COMMISSION/POSITION	WHEN	LENGTH OF SERVICE
CITY	COMMISSION/POSITION	WHEN	LENGTH OF SERVICE

**Have you ever attended a City Council Meeting?**

☐ No ☒ Yes

**Have you ever attended a City Commission Meeting?**

☒ No ☐ Yes

If yes, list which commissions and approximately how many.

I have not attended a city commission meeting, but I do regularly listen to the meetings online

**Describe your knowledge of the functions, regulations and procedures of the Commission (1st choice) on which you would like to serve:**

I understand this committee serves as an advisory voice for the city council. In that role, the committee reviews and analyzes the logistics of rolling out new art/cultural projects and how that impacts the allocated budget. The committee also reviews the perceived effectiveness of each of these project and listens to community feedback regarding new projects and/or how to improve those already in existence. Sub committees like this allow members to focus more in depth and provide feedback to the city council, which can then take those discussions points into consideration for their voting decisions.

**What specific skills, attitudes, and experience do you think you have that will enhance the work of the Commission?**

My background and education are in the arts, so I bring a passion for and understanding of arts and cultural programs and how they can enhance a city. As an educator I have the experience of managing budgets, overseeing year-long and long term projects and goals, and working with multiple view points to come to an agreement and move forward with an effective decision that best benefits the population of students I oversee. I believe I have the skill of actively managing the current projects occurring while also planning for the future and ensuring they are seamless when they approach.

**What specific issues or problems face the commission? Do you have suggestions to address these issues or problems?**

I would say the biggest problem is getting the word out. This problem doesn't only lie within this commission, but it's a bigger problem that we all face with arts and cultural projects. We get involved with the inner workings of projects and stay focused on ensuring the successful implementation, but so often there is a lack of public knowledge of the event being held, so attendance isn't what we had hoped. This somewhat results from the overabundance of information we receive through so many media forms in our lives, so the challenge becomes how to make people aware of the events they might be interested in. I don't necessarily think social media is the effective tool so many believe. It is curated by the platforms and glazed over by the users. I don't know of the practical roll out of this, but I think a weekly news letter along the lines of "This Week in DHS" would be a very effective and interesting way for residents to stay up-to-date with what is happening in the city.

**Appointed Commissioners may be required to submit a Fair Political Practices Act, Statement of Economic Interests (pursuant to Government Code §87200 and/or Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code Section §2.20.050**

**NOTE: This document is a public record and is subject to disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act. Personal contact information will not be released without consent. Your Application will be considered by the City Council, provided that a vacancy exists on a Commission or Board for which you have applied. If there is no vacancy, your application will be kept on file for two years, to be considered when an opening does occur.**

I hereby certify that the above statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge:

  
Applicant's Signature

11/25/17  
Date

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS	
→	Save the application for your records
AND →	Submit the application to <a href="mailto:jsoriano@cityofdhs.org">jsoriano@cityofdhs.org</a>
OR →	Print and mail to: City of Desert Hot Springs Office of the City Clerk 65950 Pierson Boulevard Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240