

Ludlow City Council
51 Elm Street
Ludlow, KY 41016

September 18, 2025

RE: Letter of Interest - Ludlow City Council Vacant Seat

Dear Ludlow Mayor and Members of City Council,

I am writing to respectfully express my interest in being considered for appointment to the vacant seat on Ludlow City Council.

I have had the honor of living on the 400 block of Linden Street for the past six years. Born and raised in Northern Kentucky and a graduate of Walton-Verona High School, I deeply value the unique spirit of small, tight-knit communities like Ludlow. Choosing to build my life here has been one of my greatest privileges, and I would be honored to serve and give back to the city that I now call home.

I am a proud alumna of Xavier University, where I earned a bachelor's degree in the *Philosophy, Politics, and the Public Honors Program*, and a master's degree in *Private Interest and the Public Good*. My academic and professional background is rooted in public policy, coalition building, and community engagement. Over the course of my career, I have had the opportunity to work across diverse groups and perspectives, helping to bridge divides and move organizations forward through collaboration and a shared sense of mission.

Professionally, I serve as the Director of the Office Addiction Response for Hamilton County. In this role, I lead the Hamilton County Addiction Response Coalition, nationally recognized as a model for collaborative response, guided by a 20-member steering committee and engaging more than 1,100 community members, leaders, advocates, and subject matter experts united in the mission to end the addiction crisis. I oversee programming for the Quick Response Team, a 10-member unit that pairs civilian navigators with law enforcement officers to provide outreach and create non-arrest pathways into treatment and care. I also manage opioid settlement funds (over \$18M and growing), direct countywide prevention and recovery initiatives, and support programs spanning from jail-based treatment to school-based prevention.

I have secured over 30 federal and state grants totaling \$11.4 million to support critical community health and safety initiatives. This work has earned me national recognition, including multiple invitations to present before Congress as well as meetings with the Executive Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. I have also been honored to speak at major summits and conferences across the country – RX & Illicit Drug Summit, International Deflection & Pre-Arrest Diversion Summit, Police Assisted Addiction & Recovery Initiative (PAARI) National Law Enforcement Summit, and more. My leadership has been recognized through honors such as the 2022 Angel Award,

inclusion in Xavier University's inaugural 30 Under 30 class, and the 2025 Police Assisted Addiction & Recovery Initiative Leadership Award.

These experiences have equipped me with skills in problem-solving, consensus building, and navigating complex issues, skills that I believe would benefit Ludlow as we continue working together through challenging and transformative times.

I am deeply engaged in our community, I frequently support local small businesses, worship at Wesley United Methodist Church on Oak Street, volunteer with Blood Cancer United (formerly the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society), and regularly participate(d) in Coffee with the Mayor, as well as Ludlow City Council business and caucus meetings.

I am confident that my experience and proven track record have equipped me with the skills necessary to serve effectively as a Ludlow City Councilwoman. My service on Council would be grounded in fiscal responsibility and a commitment to ensuring that Ludlow not only preserves its unique history and character, but also thrives as a city that attracts and retains small businesses, residents, and a vibrant arts and culture community, making our river city an even more special place to live, work, and grow.

Thank you for your consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to further discuss how my experience and passion for community building could serve Ludlow in this role.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meagan Guthrie". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Meagan" and last name "Guthrie" clearly distinguishable.

Meagan Guthrie
Meanguthrie24@gmail.com | (859) 652-2440