



## CITIZEN BOARD AND COMMISSION EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

Please indicate with an "X" all that meet your interest:

AUG 10 2008

<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Adjustments	<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Health
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civil Service Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
<input type="checkbox"/> Library Advisory Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Personnel Board
<input type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> Citizen Advisory Review Committee (for Economic Development)

Special instructions:

1. Please print in black ink or type, if possible. Please do not write on the back of this form, use another sheet of paper if necessary.
2. Please return to City Clerk's Office, 8116 Park View Blvd La Vista, NE 68128
3. Please Note- All information provided by you on this form is subject to Nebraska Open Public Record Statutes. As public information, it may be requested by new media representatives or discussed in public meeting.

Name Paul Christensen

Home Address 8010 S. 93rd Street

Telephone (Home) 597-6260 (Business) — (Fax) —

Number of years you have lived in La Vista 15 years

Occupation Retired Employer —

Business Address —

Education (highest school year, degree, etc.) BS - Criminal Justice, History & Industrial Administration

Political Party Affiliation (Civil Service only) Independent

Prior Appointed or Elected Offices Held (if any) None

Present/Past Community Volunteer Activities YMCA Youth Coach - Baseball & Soccer;  
Youth coach - wrestling; President Southwind Homeowner's Association

Why would you like to serve? (Please note specific interests, experience and qualifications which would make you an effective commission member).

See attached sheet

Date 8/8/08 Signature Paul Christensen

This interest form will be kept on file for two (2) years.

FOR CITY USE ONLY

Appointed to \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Term \_\_\_\_\_

Civil Service Commission Application – Paul Christensen – August 8, 2008

Why would you like to serve?

I believe that any government agency or business is only as effective and successful as its employees. There are three things that I believe an agency must do to be effective and successful. First, an agency must have a fair and impartial recruiting and hiring process that will identify honest, objective, intelligent individuals who have a positive work ethic. Second, the agency must have a promotion process that is fair and impartial that will identify those individuals who have demonstrated the ability to lead. Third, to retain the best employees, the management of the agency must create and maintain a work environment where all employees are convinced that they will always be treated fairly and equally.

As I understand it, the Police Department and Fire Chief are the only employees of La Vista subject to the Civil Service Rules.

One of the primary responsibilities of government at all levels in our society is to provide security for its citizens. That security is based on our laws and backed by our military, law enforcement and courts.

I would like to serve on the Civil Service Commission because I believe security is the basis for a free and successful society. The Commission is an integral part of providing that security by helping maintain a highly professional police force.

I would bring to the Commission over thirty years of experience directly related to the purpose and objectives of the Commission.

As I have stated, I have Bachelor of Science Degrees with three majors – Criminal Justice from the University of Houston and History and Industrial Administration from Iowa State University.

I served three years as a commissioned officer in the United States Marine Corps, with service in Viet Nam as an artillery officer.

After leaving military service, I worked as a Police Officer in Overland Park, Kansas for a year and a half.

I left Overland Park to take a job with the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, where I worked for twenty-six years. During my career, I served as a United States Border Patrol Agent, Criminal Investigator, Supervisor Detention and Deportation Officer, Supervisory Criminal Investigator and when required as a Trial Attorney in administrative deportation hearings (that was before you had to be an attorney). I had extensive experience in dealing with news agencies.

I spent seventeen years of my career as a supervisor/manager, sixteen of those as the head of the Criminal Investigations Unit in Omaha with jurisdiction over Nebraska and Iowa.

I understand the every day operations of police work from my experience in patrol, detention, and conducting investigations. I also understand the supervisory/management operations of law enforcement involving unions, budgets, training, contracts, etc.

I have extensive experience with criminal, civil, and administrative statutes and the regulations governing those statutes. Additionally, as a supervisor/manager, I had extensive experience with personnel regulations as the Federal Government employees are covered by Civil Service Regulations.

During my career, I interviewed job applicants and recommended hiring, promotions, awards, and disciplinary actions governed by the Civil Service Regulations.

I know from my experience that for any police department to be successful, it needs the support and assistance of the citizens in the community. This means that we require our police officers to be more than just law enforcement officers. They must be able to communicate and interact with citizens outside of strict law enforcement. They must be able to demonstrate by word and action that they are fair, impartial and compassionate. Sometimes a police officer is required to be more of a psychologist/sociologist than a law enforcement officer.

The Civil Service Commission is an important part of assuring that individuals recruited and hired are the most likely to be successful in performing the varied and difficult job requirements of a police officer. It is equally important that the best-qualified individuals are selected for promotion as supervisors and managers. And, the Commission is a very important in demonstrating to all employees that they will be treated fairly and impartially.

I believe that I can provide insight to the Commission through my experiences to help make the difficult decisions in hiring, promoting and disciplining employees in the effort to maintain a professional, effective and successful police force.