



MEMORANDUM

To: South Salt Lake City Council

From: Mayor Cherie Wood

Date: November 9, 2016

Subj: Recommendation for South Salt Lake Justice Court Judge

I request that the City Council ratify the appointment of Anna Lisa Rossi Anderson to be the City's Justice Court Judge.

Ms. Anderson's biography and legal experience are attached.

The Salt Lake County Judicial Nominating Commission forwarded to me the names of five candidates for the position of Justice Court Judge. The five candidates participated in a thorough vetting process. They were interviewed by three separate panels consisting of City executives and an outside human resources specialist. The three panels asked the candidates questions about judicial demeanor, court administration, and the role of the justice court in the City of South Salt Lake. After these interviews, each of the panel members gave me their suggestions regarding the five candidates.

We also invited the five candidates to attend an informal reception with all appointed City officers. Four candidates attended this reception. At the reception, the candidates had an opportunity to get to know the City and we had another opportunity to interact with the candidates. I then asked the appointed officers to give me their thoughts about the candidates.

After receiving information from the interviews and the reception, I met separately with two candidates. After these interviews, I determined the best person to serve as our Justice Court Judge would be Anna Lisa Rossi Anderson. I was very impressed with Ms. Anderson's understanding of the City and her professionalism.

I then asked our Police Department to complete a background review of Ms. Anderson. They interviewed those who have worked with her, and those who have known her. The Police Department's report was very positive.

I welcome each Council member to get to know Ms. Rossi Anderson. Please meet with her in the next few days. You may obtain her contact information from Craig Burton.

You are also invited to an informal reception for Ms. Anderson prior to the Council meetings next week.

Attachment

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Anna Lisa Rossi Anderson Bio

Anna Rossi Anderson is an attorney who is currently employed by the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office. She has lived and worked in the Salt Lake area since 2012, and practiced law for nine years in the Midwest before relocating to Salt Lake City.

Anna began her legal career in 1999 with an internship at the United States Attorney's Office in Washington, D.C. While there she was assigned to the homicide unit, which was responsible for the prosecution of all homicides occurring within the city limits of Washington, D.C. It was there that Anna developed her desire to pursue a career in criminal justice, and focused her studies through law school on criminal prosecution. During law school she was awarded an internship at the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office in Detroit, Michigan, where she participated in her first criminal trials as a prosecuting attorney. Anna's first job upon completing law school was with the Tazewell County State's Attorney's Office in central Illinois as a prosecuting attorney. She spent three and a half years in Tazewell County, managing a caseload consisting mainly of domestic violence offenses, and eventually acting as supervising attorney for new misdemeanor prosecutors. In 2007 Anna moved to Joliet, Illinois to work for the Will County State's Attorney's Office. The five years she spent in that office involved the prosecution of an array of offenses including everything from misdemeanor DUI to murder.

Anna is currently employed as a Deputy District Attorney with the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office, where she has worked for the past four years. Her first assignment in the DA's Office was with the Violent Felonies Unit, where she was responsible for a caseload consisting of domestic violence crimes and other serious offenses. She then spent three years with Organized Gang Prosecution, and the past year with the Special Victims Unit. In addition to her Special Victims caseload, she is assigned several homicide cases and is one of the members of the Automobile Homicide Team. Anna has also participated in dozens of training sessions with law enforcement officers and prosecuting attorneys, where she has instructed those members of the criminal justice community in subject matters including strangulation, elder abuse, and homicide prosecutions. She was recently invited to and participated in the annual homicide training conference organized by the National District Attorneys Association, which took place in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 2015.

Anna was born in Chicago and raised in central Illinois from the age of two. She and her four siblings were raised in her father's hometown of Hopedale, Illinois (population 800), where they were taught the importance of small town values and pride in their community. After graduating high school as the valedictorian of her class, Anna attended the University of Illinois where she graduated with honors with a bachelor's degree in Sociology. Anna then attended law school at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. After spending four years on a large college campus, Anna enjoyed returning to a smaller community at Notre Dame, finding the small close-knit campus more reflective of her upbringing in rural Illinois. She initially returned to her home county after law school to work as a prosecutor, but followed her desire to work on more complex cases to the Chicago area. While the work she did in Will County was rewarding, her desire to move to the Mountain West took over, and she moved to Park City in 2012. One week after moving to Utah, she was hired by the Salt Lake County DA's Office, and continued her prosecutorial career.

Anna has very much enjoyed her time as a prosecutor, but has noticed her focus shifting in the more recent years of her career. Her focus as a young prosecutor was to gain trial experience that would lead to the opportunity to try tougher, more complex cases. When her experience allowed her to work difficult, high-level felonies, she did so with an aim to secure a conviction, and sentence the offender to the appropriate prison term. As the years passed, Anna was increasingly in a position where the only question regarding an offender was the amount of prison time he or she would receive, as opposed whether there was any sentence available that would serve society in a different way. Anna feels strongly that the justice system can operate to both make the victim of a crime whole, and address the needs of an individual defendant in a manner that will ensure the person does not reoffend. In striking this balance, those involved can work toward a result that both serves the parties in an individual case, and serves society as a whole. Anna understands that many of the offenders appearing in South Salt Lake Justice Court are not career criminals, but individuals charged with minor offenses, and who may be appearing in court for the first time. She strongly believes that if the Court

can address each case on an individual basis, and take the time to understand the factors that led a particular individual to commit the crime with which he or she is charged, a disposition may be reached that will not only address the needs of any victims, but also those of the offender. By addressing those needs, it is possible to not only improve the lives of the victim and the offender, but to keep the community of South Salt Lake safer and save taxpayer dollars in the long term. Anna looks forward to having the opportunity to address the needs of the South Salt Lake community by examining diverse sentencing alternatives for offenders such as community service and treatment programs – alternatives that will serve both the individual and the community of South Salt Lake.

Anna and her husband Dan reside in Salt Lake City. Dan relocated to Salt Lake City from the east coast in 2012, and was also raised in a small community. He has volunteered for several organizations in the Salt Lake valley since moving to the area, and looks forward to becoming involved with the various programs developed and instituted by the South Salt Lake government. Anna and Dan recently welcomed their first child, Wyatt, and they are excited to become active members of the South Salt Lake community, and to instill the same civic-mindedness in their son.