

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Council,

My name is Allie Mayberry and I am a Guelph resident and small business owner living within Ward 2. This letter is to express my support for the appointment of Michelle Bowman as Councillor for Ward 6.

While I have not known Michelle personally for long, it is clear to me that she is the right candidate for the job based on her background in environmental sciences, her strong understanding of political systems, and her aptitude for connecting a community that holds diverse interests.

We are living in a time where provincial and federal governments feel it is appropriate to forgo environmental safeguards in favour of fast-tracked land and resource development, making it all the more important for municipalities to be diligent in land use planning and policy. Having someone like Michelle, with her strong knowledge of the intersections between environmental health and socially/economically prosperous communities, is in my opinion essential for Guelph's municipal council.

Michelle also has a strong understanding of political systems and how they can best work for the communities and people they're intended to serve. This is one of the many reasons why she garnered an admirable level of community support in past elections. I believe this speaks to her job readiness for the Ward 6 Councillor position, and her appointment would give me confidence that the community's interests are at the front and centre of council decision-making.

Last but certainly not least, Michelle has a knack for making community connections. I have witnessed and admired how she engages in respectful dialogue with community members oftentimes on polarizing subject matter. I have also benefited from Michelle introducing me to other members of the community. It is important for a city councillor to exemplify and foster relationship building amongst its constituents and I believe that Michelle fits this bill.

Thank you kindly for considering this letter of support and best of luck with the Ward 6 Councillor appointment process.

Allie

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**Allie Mayberry, M.A., B.Sc**

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