



CITY OF FORT PIERCE

100 NORTH US HWY 1
FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA 34950
(772) 467-3065 FAX (772) 467-3841

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT *Committee*

Name of Board or Boards for which you are applying: *Affordable Housing Advisory*

Name: <i>Barbara Grace Nizioi</i>	Phone: <i>973-600-4449</i>
Home Address: <i>6 Harbour Isle Dr. East #306</i> City/Zip Code: <i>Fort Pierce, FL 34949</i>	How long at this address? <i>4 yrs.</i>
Are you a citizen of the United States? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Occupation: <i>Retired</i>	
Do you own a business that operates within the City of Fort Pierce? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, list the address and nature of said business:	
Do you now or in the future plan to do business with the City of Fort Pierce? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, in what capacity?	
Are you employed by a business that is located within the City of Fort Pierce? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, state the business and location:	
Do you have special training or knowledge in the area of: Architecture: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Engineering: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Real Estate Brokering: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Contracting: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Land Development: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Other: Describe your education, background, training and knowledge – (feel free to attach a resume): <i>See attached (I worked for the largest comprehensive non-profit social service agency in NJ for 18 years. Feeding, sheltering housing and addiction services. esp. opiates.</i>	
Are you currently a member of a Commission-appointed board/committee? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please specify: <i>opiates.</i>	
Have you ever been convicted of a felony? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, what was the nature of the crime(s) you were convicted of:	
Referred by: <i>E-mail</i>	Applicant Email Address: <i>bab2850@verizon.net</i>
Date: <i>10/24/22</i>	Applicant's Signature: <i>Barbara G. Nizioi</i>

My family had emigrated to the United States after fleeing from Poland in 1939 to southern France where my brother, who now resides in Vero Beach, was born. They moved to England after World War II, living in a displaced persons camp where I was born. After World War II, my family emigrated to the United States as the United Kingdom felt the burden of supporting and providing employment for all homeless Eastern Europeans became overwhelming. We travelled on the transatlantic voyage in steerage on the Queen Mary, were processed on the ship in New York Harbor, and I grew up in Newark, New Jersey.

I graduated, as a resident of New Jersey, from the University of Notre Dame of Maryland in Baltimore, Maryland with a B.A. degree in French education. I was also married at the time to a graduate of the School of Medicine of the University of Maryland located in the Harbor area of Baltimore. I did my student teaching at Frederick Douglass High School in Baltimore and also taught for one-year there.

At that time, we moved to Pittsburgh, PA, where I attended the University of Pittsburgh and completed two years studying Polish language, culture, literature, and history, becoming fluent. I also took and very much enjoyed a real estate course in Land Use at Pitt. Returning to New Jersey to be near our families, I had four children and became very involved in our parish church, (trustee: Immaculate Heart of Mary, Packanack Lake, NJ); our community (elected to our Board of Governors), and also took over my father's small manufacturing business (Alpha Tool and Mfg. in Newark, Livingston, and Kenilworth) after he was diagnosed with a very insidious brain tumor, a glioblastoma, in 1990 until I sold the business in 2000.

Shortly after Alpha Tool was sold, I began volunteering at the largest comprehensive anti-poverty agency in New Jersey, Eva's Village, a 501c3 in Paterson. I did everything from organizing files to learning how to write grants. I completed all the basic courses offered at the Foundation Center in NYC (7th Avenue and 15th Street), now known as the Grant Writing Center. I was also mentored by two members of Eva's staff, the head of the Dept. Of Human Services for Bergen County, NJ who came in once a week to oversee my progress and a regular staff member who also had done marketing, editing, and publicity for NBC-TV in NYC. and friend of our founder, Monsignor Vincent Puma. Monsignor had established "Where Hope Begins..." as our mission and motto.

I wrote grants for state, county, and municipal NOFAs, attended Bidders' conferences in Paterson and Trenton. I wrote for foundation and corporate funding monies available such as the Delta Dental Foundation, Newmans' Products, Hoffmann-LaRoche Pharmaceuticals and Diagnostics, Novartis, and Altria (formerly Philip Morris). The twelve programs at Eva's grew to twenty by the time I retired in 2018. We began expansion of our main building in Paterson with a state earmark of \$980,000 I had written and submitted in 2010. We then had a full and modern Medical and Dental Clinic where daily services were provided for the clients living on site in our sheltering and addiction treatment facilities as well as for the extremely underserved poor and homeless in our surrounding community.

Our next project was working in collaboration with Monarch Housing of Cranford, NJ and the Alpert Group LLC of Fort Lee, NJ to take the next logical step to provide services for the poor in Paterson. In 2010, we also began building a 50-unit affordable housing project for the formerly chronically homeless and disabled that were housed in our temporary programs and environs. The facility was completed and opened by the beginning of 2011. I worked with all of the applicants on their HUD applications, individuals, couples, and families to fill our studio, 1-, and 2- and 3-bedroom apartments available. We left 3,000 sq. feet at the front of our building to develop a social enterprise to aid in becoming self-sustaining. My office now was located in the lobby of our new Eva's Village Apartments

I was also touring people, church groups, and companies interested in donating and volunteering in our programs. Our Kitchen fed approximately 400 people a hot sit-down lunch daily. We had twenty-five mothers and children in our Family Shelter which became the most popular opportunity for volunteering. Our Job Readiness Program was manned by many companies who helped people prepare for interviews, obtain appropriate clothing, and offered employment to clients with skills that could be further developed within those companies.

The location of Eva's Village was several blocks away from the Passaic County Administration Building (housing different Family Courts, the Dept. Of Human Services), The Passaic County Social Security Offices, The Passaic County Board of Social Services, the Paterson Clinic (medication-assisted treatment), the Sheriff of Passaic County, Catholic Charities – all agencies we collaborated with. St. Joseph's Medical Center was also within a half mile of our campus. During my last year at Eva's, our Outpatient Clinic (behavioral treatment) began one of the first opioid programs nationally with St. Joe's services.

Eva's Village also opened Eva's Culinary School in the front of our building which provided on-site vocational training for graduates of our shelters and treatment programs. The children living in the apartments were even afforded the opportunity to learn about different foods and nutrition. They participated in summer breakfast and lunch projects to supplement their school year feeding programs.

I often accompanied tenants to medical visits and school meetings to learn about existing programs and opportunities. McKinney-Vento congressional funding and TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) helped with educational needs for homeless children and those living in poverty.

I also attended monthly meetings of the Passaic County Department of Human Services and our local FQHC, to work on the County 5-year Plan including the City of Paterson, the Annual Count of Homeless on the streets, and sponsoring on-site service fairs providing distribution of donations (food and clothing) received at all the non-profits in Paterson and even services such as haircuts, washing facilities, and voter registration. One year, I actually helped to supply our name for the affordable housing we all worked on H-O-P-E: "Housing Our People Everywhere". (in Passaic Co.)

I personally felt a tremendous sense of purpose and blessing being able to participate in these activities and experiences for the last twenty years. I truly learned true trust, generosity, and peace. I grew to love many of the people I worked with. Many still keep in touch with me.

Barbara G. Nijol