

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP:
Alameda County Agricultural Advisory Committee

NAME: Amos White

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PRESENT OCCUPATION: Urban Agriculturist, Founder & Chief Planting Officer
100K Trees for Humanity

The following questions apply only to candidates for positions referenced in Section 2.122.040(B) of the attached ordinance (Categories of Regular Members Required to be Alameda County Residents).

Please specify the position chosen and respond to the following questions:

POSITION CHOSEN: Urban Agriculture

1) DESCRIBE THE ACTIVITY YOU OPERATE WHICH QUALIFIES YOU AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE, AND HOW THIS ACTIVITY, AND OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE, FULFILLS THE REQUIREMENTS LISTED IN THE ATTACHED ORDINANCE. INDICATE HOW MANY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE YOU HAVE IN THESE ACTIVITIES.

MY STORY IN URBAN AGRICULTURE AT 100KT

I have been in urban agriculture professionally for little more than 12 years.

Founder and Chief Planting Officer for 100K Trees for Humanity:

I lead our urban reforestation nonprofit to organize cities and communities to plant trees and other urban green infrastructure, of trees, gardens, and microforests, to accelerate city climate action plans to become carbon net negative by 2030. Our community organizing model inspires individuals, community organizations, schools and municipalities in the most impacted and vulnerable communities to become an part of the climate solution now-- to engage in direct actions in planting trees, school microforests, urban vegetable gardens, food forests and other green solutions for climate, equity and for public health.

I got my hands dirty in Italy back in 2010. I lived there with my in-laws for four years from 2010-2014. They call it "the old country" for a reason. There is a lot of knowledge, living knowledge in the land and in the seniors there. There is also the respect for the traditions and culture that holds on to doing things the way you are taught-- by hand-- by your elders to build a healthy, resilient community.

I had 2000 olive trees that produced 6000-8000 litres of premium Taggiasca olive oil. I was responsible for hand harvesting them every season, occasionally joined by my father-in-law. I also managed, maintained and worked a half-acre vineyard of French Burgundy, Montepulciano and Rossese. And mornings, I worked a quarter acre, five terraced biodynamic (organic/permaculture) vegetable garden and small orchard, year-round. I produced olive oil, cured olives and pepperoncini, and salted capers. I hold a deep admiration for the relationship of growing food as the root of one's culture and in bringing others into it as a tradition of community farming.

Now, with 3 years leading 100K Trees, I am responsible for the planning, development and execution of all programs in service to our mission. This includes, but is not limited to: urban reforestation, land acquisition for urban development goals, such as; developing community gardens and food forests, urban agriculture programs, urban carbon farming, community park and green space, microforests, and housing for the stewards of community gardens, parks and open spaces. And ensuring the teachings and the methods we use passes on our love and knowledge of the soil and the ecosystems that support it, as it in turn supports all life.

2) EDUCATION AND TRAINING (IF APPLICABLE), INCLUDING ANY RELEVANT CERTIFICATIONS:

I received my BA from a liberal arts university of Wittenberg University, BA Political Science, 1987 with a minor in English (Creative Writing).

* I was selected as a CORO Fellow - Fellows Program graduate in Leadership and Public Affairs. Los Angeles, '92.

FIELD TRAINING

I began my formal stewardship training serving as a two time Corps Member with the Ohio Youth Conservation Corps, 1982 & 1983.

CIVIC & COMMUNITY SERVICE

At the state level, I am an appointed Advisory Board Member to the California Urban Forestry Advisory Council.

Regionally, I serve as:

* Vice Chair, the Bay Area Climate Emergency Mobilization Task Force (2019-Present) advocating municipalities to fully fund climate action plans for equity and for climate;

* Environmental Justice Caucus Member, BCDC Bay Area Climate Adaptation Network (BAY ADAPT) working to strengthen equity and environmental justice in Bay Adapt implementation for how to adapt better, faster and more equitably to a rising San Francisco Bay; and

* Equity Workgroup Member, Bay Area Climate Adaptation Network (BAY CAN)

And, I serve at the local level working in climate emergency action and urban reforestation and sustainability policy development as a Member of CASA-Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda (environmental task force).

LEGISLATION & POLICY DEVELOPMENT

My policy development and legislative and advisoral training began early in my career. I have proudly served in government staff positions with the City of Berkeley, the City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors, and State of Ohio with Senator John Glenn. I also served on the political campaign staff of Barbara Boxer ('92) and Barbara Lee ('96).

Additional policy and whitepapers publications include:

* Co-Author: The City of Alameda Climate Emergency Declaration Resolution, 2019.

* Co-Author: Alameda County Climate Emergency Declaration Resolution, (Sup. K.Carson, 2019).

* Led and Co-authored the Alameda Master Street Tree RFP Draft Guidelines, 2021.

PUBLICATIONS

Published numerous articles, haiku and poems on the value of trees and urban green infrastructure as a public health benefit and, for community resilience.

"Water & Hydrology Strategy for Agencies - 100K Trees. 2021."

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IKL9Xv-vB8fi-GevA9TQo5s9xhm93MEjtBW-Aruli6M/edit?usp=sharing>

"Soil, Trees, Hydrology: Planting Trees for Microclimate & Climate Restoration. September 26, 2021."

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1k2lyYWjuu-MT0zxMxRzBZR9bJTsY66XmDAcU5l-6OxU/edit?usp=sharing>

"Planting for a Livable Future: There's always a silver lining. Alameda Sun, October 6, 2021."

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1epA1OD7lyqrh9AcGPstGJhj0x-8RkVtIT2UmOGX5u0/edit?usp=sharing>

3) NOTE ANY SPECIFIC REASONS WHY YOU WISH TO SERVE ON THIS COMMITTEE AND HOW YOUR EXPERIENCE WOULD BE VALUABLE TO THE COMMITTEE'S WORK.

I apply to serve on the Alameda County Agricultural Advisory Committee in order to advocate for greater policy guidelines and ordinances that promote and protect urban farming, urban ag, urban carbon farming, and urban-rural agroecosystems. To advise on the development of Urban Agriculture as it supports, develops and promotes restoring soil health for optimizing plant, nutrition, carbon sequestration and water retention and community health. I want to apply my policy experience to bring and represent the voice of the Black and BIPOC urban farmers who are at greatest risk due to the climate impacts of potential food production and supply disruptions and collapse. I want to advocate to support food sovereignty across urban-rural landscapes and communities. I want to advise on the development of converting vacant lots and tax deferred properties into working lands in communities that are community owned and run. I am currently working with Alameda County Treasurer-Tax Collector Hank Levy to

expedite such policy innovations to combat urban hunger, food deserts, and blight with restored urban lots growing trees and plants in nurseries, microforests for increased access to nature and increased biodiversity, and expanded urban agriculture programs.

Planting the right trees in the right place takes good science and an anthropological understanding and appreciation of communities. So does establishing urban ag programs. I will bring to the Committee the knowledge to advise on educating residents to steward their vacant lots of land to produce and to sell nutritious, accessible foods, increase soil health for greater, healthier yields, increased soil water storage and retention, and carbon sequestration. This supports community agriculture as an economic enterprise too. This urban agroecosystem education and knowledge, of the relationship of the soil and how it supports food production and increases a community member's contact with the environment, is the key to reducing and removing the urban stressors that create and perpetuate so much daily trauma in our urban communities, and in building the capacity for resilience as we combat climate change, planting towards a green new future.

4) LIST ONE OR MORE PEOPLE FAMILIAR WITH YOUR ACTIVITIES WHO CAN SERVE AS REFERENCES:

Margaret Gordon, Co-Director & Founding Member, West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project.
margaret.woeip@gmail.com

Hank Levy, Alameda County Treasurer-Tax Collector.
"Treasurer-Tax Collector (henry.levy@acgov.org)" <henry.levy@acgov.org>

Walter Passmore, State Urban Forester, Resource Protection & Improvement, CAL FIRE.
"Passmore, Walter@CALFIRE" <walter.passmore@fire.ca.gov>

Danner Daoud Martin, Associate Director International Business Development Program, Director of Haas Campus Sustainability.
dannerdm@haas.berkeley.edu

Arthur Boone, Founder Sierra Club Tree Team.
arboone3@gmail.com

Wanda Stewart, ED Common Vision.
wanda@commonvision.org

Christopher Buckley, City Planner / President of Alameda Architectural Preservation Society
cbuckleyaicp@att.net