

## **Application of Jojy Varghese**

*Your name: Jojy Varghese*

**Section 3. Questions for you to complete.** (If you need more space, you may attach additional pages.)

**A. Please review the following requirements from the Home Rule Charter for serving on the Commission on Parks and Recreation. How do you meet those qualifications?**

“Qualifications. The members shall have demonstrated experience or skills relevant to the powers and duties of the Commission including, but not limited to: sports, recreation and athletic programming; natural lands management, watershed management, and environmental protection; tourism, marketing and public relations; business and finance; neighborhood revitalization; community leadership; historical and architectural preservation; landscaping and horticulture; and fundraising. The Commission shall also be reflective of the geographic, racial, ethnic, and gender diversity within the City.”

Born and raised in Philadelphia, I have an ardent passion for my hometown and continually strive to find ways to promote the vitality of my city. Parks and Recreation is one of a handful of municipal departments that seems to “really get it” and I laud the efforts of Deputy Mayor DiBerardinis and his widely successful leadership team and will list my qualifications based on the Charter requirements.

My undergraduate degree is in Management Sciences & Information Systems from the Pennsylvania State University (PSU), where I championed intramural efforts across numerous sports both at the dormitory level and within the greek system’s sporting leagues, specific to athletic programming, field selection and maintenance. These diverse sporting options range from softball and football to roller hockey and badminton among others. I have a deep respect for the manner in which agricultural PSU upheld their dozens of sporting fields, and learned a great deal from Rec leadership in my 4 years there, especially when successfully championing for the creation of a roller hockey rink in the late 90s.

Last year, I earned my Masters in Public Administration from the Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania and sought to learn more about sustainability and watershed management with my elective choices. Upon graduation, I was chosen to be PA. State Representative Tony Payton Jr.’s Chief of Staff and have been actively working on a multitude of issues, many of which align closely with the stated requirements of this role. We are actively working to revitalize multiple neighborhoods in a number of ways, many of which are outside the box, innovative and most importantly, budget neutral or at a minimum, cost effective.

I lead or participate in several community events on a weekly basis, such as NE EPIC Stakeholders, Hunting Park EPIC Stakeholders, Frankford Civic Association, Tacony/Frankford Watershed Partnership, Hunting Park United, Olney High Partners Group, Tree Tenders and Frankford Community Development Corporation to name a few. I am passionate about the linkage between environment, recreation and health, and am active on the Board of the American Lung Association (Mid-Atlantic chapter). I also serve on the Aspira Advisory Board, Arts Rising Leadership Council, the Boys & Girls Club (Lauretha Vaird and Nicetown) and the Lighthouse, the latter of which owns a great deal of park space and recreational buildings in the city and has a very similar mission to that of Philadelphia's Parks & Rec. Urban planning is a big interest of mine and I take great pride in serving on the steering committee for the Lower NE District Plan for Philadelphia2035. I also work directly with both the Fairmount Park Conservancy and the PA Horticultural Society, through numerous projects currently in place here in our district, such as the recent opening of the Ryan Howard athletic fields. In addition, I work closely with the Community Design Collaborative, a group I refer many of our partners to and I'm quite proud of the work we've successfully taken on, such as the restoration of Hunting Park, redeveloping Olney High's Athletic Fields and beautification efforts for the Feltonville Dream Center.

I am a first time homeowner in Society Hill and this has given me an appreciation for historical and architectural preservation. I attend monthly meetings for the Society Hill Civic Association which has been informative as I work in a historic district in Frankford and am relentlessly advocating for the restoration of the character and detail that has historically lined our corridor along Frankford Avenue; we are actively working on many façade and streetscape improvements.

I have been engaged on the sustainability front as well, as we have numerous projects in our pipeline here in the 179<sup>th</sup> Legislative District that align nicely with Mayor Nutter and PWD's storm water management agenda. Projects such as the installation of rain gardens, the clearing and greening of vacant lots, parking parklet programs, the greening of the Market Frankford EL via the installation of "living walls" and many more. I currently work with Parks and Rec on several projects, such as the renovation of Womrath Park, the aerial tree survey which identified Frankford as a tree desert, the removal of dead or dying sidewalk tree pits, the restoration of the Shane Victorino Boys and Girls Club and of course Tree Philly, where I recently received my Eastern Red Bud and have 2 more arriving on behalf of my parents in the Far NE.

As a student and graduate intern, I worked throughout numerous agencies within City Hall in the past decade, including Mayor Rendell's Internship Program, the Inspector General's Office, the Municipal Energy Office and most recently Commerce, where I was fortunate to work on a development project that allowed me to interface with numerous city leaders within Parks and Rec, Historical Commission, Arts, L&I, Streets, PWD and the Planning Commission.

On a personal front, I am deeply committed to Fairmount Park and have touted its benefits to numerous friends or anyone willing to listen, both inside the city and especially outside. I grew up along the Pennypack Creek and have spent hundreds of hours biking through the vast park system. I have played in numerous sporting leagues in

the past decade and have enjoyed dozens of playing surfaces throughout the city, ranging from southwest Philly through Belmont and all throughout East and West Fairmount. Of more importance however is an annual softball tournament I host every year for 30 - 40 friends all along the NE corridor; I am very familiar with the application process, field selection and the few ups and downs that go with that process. From a constituent standpoint, I assist members in our community with their field registration and recreational planning for events.

While earning my MPA at the University of Pennsylvania, I was formally trained in courses that cover the last of your requirements, such as Public Sector Fundraising, Budgeting for the Municipal Sector, Marketing for Non-Profits, Public Financial Management and more. Lastly, as a first generation Indian American in this country, I find it disappointing that more of my fellow Indian Americans are not actively engaged in this respect across the public sector, and I am excited for the opportunity to turn that around. I believe in the importance of a multicultural approach to managing the resources of our parks, and feel that it is critical to attracting an engaged and active community base. I do hope this is the beginning of a fulfilling relationship for the both of us, and thank you in advance for your consideration.

*Your name: Jojy Varghese*

**B. In these difficult economic times, what do you think the Commission on Parks and Recreation should do to support, promote, and invest in the City's park and recreation system? As a member of the Commission, what would you do to assist the Commission in achieving these goals?**

As a board member, I will work hard advocating to procure more sources of funding and resources for our Department. Fundraising and identifying potential partners or making optimal connections is something I do on a weekly basis for the other Boards I serve on, some of which have a very similar stated mission as that of Parks and Rec. I have a track record in getting things done during trying economic times. I seek ways to make direct impact with minimal investment. It is an especially difficult economic period here in the lower NE and I'm proud of the various ways in which we sought new development and the ribbon cuttings I've been proud to attend in the past year. Even with little to no funding, we get things done here in the district through the use of innovative, high impact projects that may seem small in nature but go a long way in changing the hearts and minds of both the development community and especially our constituents.

I believe Parks and Recreation can deliver similar impact during these trying budgetary times. It certainly takes funding to manage such a vast parks system but the beauty is that it will always be free or quite cheap to the park goer and enthusiast. I believe some portions of Fairmount Park are still hidden gems and we need more of our citizenry to learn of these features and benefits. Some sections of the park seem to be underutilized and this should be analyzed as well. I certainly think many recreational activities should be taking place at the park and only a very small minority knows of these and thus community outreach is integral. The fact of the matter is, a lot can be done with a little within this department specifically when vision, mission, flawless execution and measurable objectives come together, and I look forward to being a part of this confluence.

**C. Please review the role and responsibilities of the Commission, which are set forth in Part I of this application. Then, please attach a statement of no more than 500 words explaining why you want to serve on the Commission Parks and Recreation and why you believe you should be nominated to do so.**

As I've mentioned before, I am a huge supporter of my hometown and have spent the bulk of my life from a very early age promoting the greatness and potential of Philadelphia. I firmly believe Fairmount Park is a world-class resource and we are immensely blessed to have such visionary planning devoted to it, dating back beyond a century in fact. I have been engaged in local civic service since my high school years and I have great pride in witnessing the many progressive advancements our city has witnessed these past few years. One department specifically showcasing these "wins" is

Philadelphia's Parks and Recreation under Deputy Mayor & Commissioner DiBerardinis and it would be an honor to serve on his Board to the best of my ability.

I believe I am uniquely positioned to effectively serve the Board due to my formal undergraduate and graduate coursework, my many diverse municipal work experiences and in particular, my numerous pet passions which I am lucky enough to fulfill in my daily work activities. These passions and interests include proper land use effectiveness, storm water management issues, open transparency in civic government, the preservation of green spaces either large or small, helping make Philadelphia the greenest city in the country and the usage of better and advanced technologies within municipalities to drive outreach, effectiveness, transparency, etc. My private sector experiences as a management consultant also helps round out my background. I was a senior consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton in DC and also here locally at Accenture and thus have a sense of what works in both private and public environments and what ideas can be effectively shared. With Booz Allen Hamilton, I was engaged on high profile public sector initiatives to drive broad change in federal Government. I think the diversity of my experiences will serve the Board well.

I serve on a few like-minded boards as stated above and work directly with similar non-profits such as the Fairmount Park Conservancy and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. As State Rep. Tony Payton Jr.'s Chief of Staff, I have learned a great deal on the job and believe I have a firm grasp on the requirements and responsibilities to serve this board effectively. I have numerous ideas that could expand the scope and reach of the Parks Department and hope to have the proper forum to brainstorm such initiatives.

Above all, I have an ardent love for my hometown and firmly believe we are on the tipping point across many different levels and using my experiences, passion and civic service to serve this board would be a joyous experience.

**Section 4. Resume:** Please attach to this application an up-to-date resume. Include your name, but do **not** include any personal contact information (street address, phone number, e-mail address) that you do not wish to be publicly available. On the resume, please provide the following information:

- Your employment history – employers, job titles and responsibilities, and dates of employment. If you have been self-employed, include that information.
- Your education or training – schools attended, degrees attained, and dates.
- Your community and professional organizations, affiliations, and activities.
- Optional: Any additional information that you consider relevant to this application.

# JOY VARGHESE

• PHILADELPHIA, PA XXXXX • 215.300.XXXX •

## OBJECTIVE

Energetic, well-rounded senior consultant seeking a full time position that would allow for leveraging skills and experience in the public policy, business or health environment; particularly interested in opportunities to make an impact in urban initiatives or Health Information Technology issues in the greater Philadelphia area.

## EDUCATION

<b>University of Pennsylvania, Fels Institute of Government</b> <i>Masters of Public Administration</i>	Philadelphia, PA May 2011
<b>The Pennsylvania State University</b> <i>Bachelor of Science Degree, Management Sciences &amp; Information Systems</i>	University Park, PA August 2001
<b>Central High School of Philadelphia</b> <i>Bachelor of Arts Degree</i>	Philadelphia, PA June 1997

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

<b>Pennsylvania House of Representatives</b> <b>Chief of Staff, PA State Rep. Tony Payton Jr</b> <i>(See attached writeup)</i>	Philadelphia, PA 9/2011 - present
--	--------------------------------------

<b>Accenture</b> <b>Consultant, Public Service/Systems Integration</b> <i>Applying strong organizational competencies and analytic skills, Mr. Varghese served both public sector and commercial clients for leading global consulting firm. Within Accenture's Public Service and Systems Integration Team, Mr. Varghese focused on program support for large scale transformational projects, project management expertise, proposal assistance, and risk management for clients in Telecommunications, Federal, State and Municipal sectors.</i>	Philadelphia, PA 6/2007 - 3/2009
---	-------------------------------------

- For top telecommunications company, served as the lead project management consultant for the Program Management Office responsible for management of client's \$75mm Wireless Spectrum Clearing Effort. In this role, Mr. Varghese was on client site, routinely reporting to Senior VP of Strategy and Director of Wireless Business Development, responsible for the following:
- For a global pharmaceutical client, Mr. Varghese served as the sole resource supporting Accenture's Senior Manager to lead overall Program Management of 5 distinct initiatives across 2 large work streams.
- For the Commonwealth of Kentucky (KY), Mr. Varghese supported KY's newly formed Medicaid Operational Support Services (MOSS), responsible for privatizing Kentucky's Cabinet for Health and Family Services' contract monitoring process. In doing so, Mr. Varghese provided analytic and management services to review and seek out efficiencies in KY's largest federal health program, coordinating KY Medicaid's contracts with various key provider organizations in the state.

<b>Booz Allen Hamilton</b> <b>Senior Consultant, Global Health Team</b> <i>Mr. Varghese served as a contributing member of the Global Health team for a top-tier international management and strategy consulting firm. Mr. Varghese provided analytic support services on the development of strategies for Federal government clients, in addition to providing implementation support for transformational government initiatives that have been instrumental in reforming</i>	Washington, DC 1/2006 - 6/2007
---	-----------------------------------

# JOJY VARGHESE

• PHILADELPHIA, PA XXXXX • 215.300.XXXX •

*healthcare and government. Mr. Varghese's focus was primarily in the areas of health information technology (HIT) strategy, consumer empowerment, and e-government initiatives,*

*earning him various Performance Recognition awards as well as promotion to Senior Consultant within span of one calendar year.*

- For The Department of Labor, served as lead tester of innovative government initiative to develop a virtual clearinghouse of government information for citizens. This IT initiative, govbenefits.gov, is a portal that serves as a one-stop shop for all American citizens seeking information on federal and state benefits. Mr. Varghese worked to ensure that business needs, client processes and system requirements aligned for successful delivery of initiative. For his work on this effort, Mr. Varghese earned two performance awards from Booz Allen's Senior Leadership.
- Independently led industry research and environmental scans in support of the development of client deliverables, proposals and marketing efforts, and development of intellectual capital; Subject matter included identifying leading best practices in healthcare information exchange networks, pros and cons of consumer directed health plans and health savings accounts, innovative methods for health payment reform, and adoption of electronic and personal health record technology.
- Active member of Booz Allen's mentoring circle; routine contributor to larger team's people development and community service efforts.

## **Towers Perrin / EDS**

**Client Delivery Associate, Health and Welfare**

Philadelphia, PA

8/2002 – 12/2005

*Integral member of internal client delivery team focused on management of external Fortune 500 client files requiring management of vast data sets including employee benefits and pension data.*

## **INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE**

**Office of the Inspector General, Philadelphia Office**

*Consultant to the Chief Investigator*

Philadelphia, PA

7/2010 - present

**Deputy Mayor's Office for Planning and Economic Development**

*Consultant to the Deputy Chief of Staff*

Philadelphia, PA

6/2009 - 11/2009

**Global Sports Interactive (Now GSI Commerce)**

*Online Product Management Intern, Product Development*

King of Prussia, PA

6/2000 – 8/2000

**Philadelphia City Hall, Municipal Energy Office**

*Mayor's Internship Program, Mayoral Energy Correspondent*

Philadelphia, PA

6/1998 – 8/1998

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

TPAS All Star Recognition, Towers Perrin

10/2005

Performance Recognition Award, Booz Allen Hamilton

05/2007

Performance Recognition Award, Booz Allen Hamilton

12/2006

\$4,000 annual scholarship from the Fels Institute of Government

9/2009

## **ACTIVITIES**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Big Brother

10/2007

Society Hill Civic Association, Headhouse Square Development Committee

11/2008

*Your name: Jojy Varghese*

**Section 5. Optional supporting materials.** You are invited to submit up to three letters of recommendation. You may submit them along with your application or separately. If you have not submitted them by the time that Council holds its public hearing for applicants, please bring the letters with you and submit them when your name is called.

**Letters of Support forthcoming from:**

**Kathryn Ott Lovell – Executive Director, Fairmount Park Commission**

**Paul Levy – CEO, Center City District**

**Hon. Tony Payton Jr – State Representative, PA’s 179<sup>th</sup> Legislative District**

**Section 6. Signature.** Please sign on the line immediately below. If you are submitting your application by e-mail directly from your computer, type your name instead.

*Jojy Varghese*

**Section 7. Date.** Indicate the date that you are submitting this application:

**May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

If you are selected to serve on the Commission on Parks and Recreation, you will be required to file the City’s annual financial disclosure form. You will also be subject to ethics laws applicable to City boards and commissions (and to the jurisdiction of the Philadelphia Board of Ethics). In addition, the Mayor’s Executive Order No. 3-10 requires that appointees to City boards and commissions be in compliance with tax laws and all City fines and fees; in that connection, you will be required to complete a “Tax Clearance Application,” which will authorize the City’s Department of Revenue to confirm that you are in compliance (or have entered into a voluntary payment agreement).

If you have questions about the application process, please contact  
Theresa Brunson at 215-686-3424 or  
Hal Fichandler at 215-686-7667.