Joanne M. Roush
409 Cleveland Street
Menasha, Wisconsin 54952

Ms. Deborah Galeazzi
City of Menasha Clerk
Third Floor, City Hall
140 Main Street
Menasha, Wisconsin 54952

September 14, 2009

Dear Debbie,

This letter is to declare my interest in representing Menasha's First District on the Common Council. My résumé is attached.

I understand the Council will hear from all candidates on September 21 at a special meeting. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend as I have a longstanding commitment to be out of town for business reasons during that entire week. I apologize to the council if this causes any inconvenience, and I still hope to be considered for this appointment.

For several years I have attended most meetings of the Common Council as well as most of the meetings of the Utility Commission, as I became concerned about our difficulties with the steam plant. I have read all of the publicly available documents in this matter, along with many of the depositions in the PCI litigation in order to understand how we arrived at this point. Having attended so many meetings to learn about this topic, I've developed an appreciation for the work done by council members and an understanding of how city government functions. Though I have never served in public office, I feel able to make a contribution. I'll work hard to represent the interests of the people in my district and the city as a whole, as one member of a diverse body charged with making decisions that impact the daily lives of every resident.

I believe my work experience gives me some insight that could be useful. I've held a variety of jobs from waitress to small business owner to truck driver, and have worked with people from all walks of life from the shop floor to the executive suite. I've learned to listen, ask questions, and synthesize what I've learned. In every job I've had a tendency to be a problem-solver and enjoy exploring different options and approaches in searching for solutions.

As a homeowner, I am a taxpayer in Menasha, so the financial challenges confronting us are of great concern to me. We've lived in the First District for nine years and are very happy in here. My husband and I are committed to doing what we can to keep Menasha a great place to live and work.

I realize I will not be the only qualified member of our community to request the consideration of the council, and as a citizen, I hope your choice will not be an easy one. That will mean that you had a number of good choices, and that's a sign of a healthy community and a thriving democracy. I appreciate the council's consideration of my qualifications and fitness for the position of First District Alderman.

Sincerely,

Joanne Roush

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Résumé

Joanne M. Roush
409 Cleveland Street
Menasha, WI 54952

Phone: 920-886-0022
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Education:

1971	Graduated Wabeno High School, Wabeno, Wisconsin
1971 – 1976	Independent Major: Communications Research, UW-Madison.
2002	Completed Fox Valley Technical College truck driver training program.
Other:	Food Safety Certification, FVTC, 2003

Employment:

1971 – 1975	Various student jobs; waitress; summer employment as proprietor of my gift shop, The Red Shed, on Highway 10 in Dale.
1975 – 1978	Office manager, BDC Camera Repair, Madison, WI
1978 – 1984	Self-employed designer/seamstress/fabricator, Los Angeles, CA
1984 – 2001	Founding partner, The Display Shop, Inc., Greenville, WI
2002 – 2003	OTR team driver, Ecklund, Inc., Neenah, Wisconsin
2004 – Present	Research/Writer/Consultant, Unit7, New York, NY (telecommuting)

Community:

1984 – Present	I have served on the boards of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Fox Valley (2 years), League of Women Voters (2 years), Advertising Association of the Fox River Valley (5 years), and Doty Island Development Council (2 years).

Personal:	Born in Chicago, Illinois; have lived in Wisconsin for a total of 32 years, nine of those in Menasha at my current address. I am married and have no children.

References available on request.