

Mayor and City Commission:

RE: Vacancy in the Office of City Commission

I am interested in serving on the Dania Beach City Commission until the November 4, 2014 Municipal Election.

I am a bona fide resident and citizen of the City of Dania Beach, resident of the State of Florida; and a citizen of the United States of America; I am duly qualified to vote at City, State and National Elections; I am over the age of twenty-one (21) years; and I have resided in the City of Dania Beach for at least one (1) year, as evidenced by voter's registration documentation.

Printed Name: Terry Preuss
Signature: Terry Preuss
Address: 221 SE Third Street
Dania Beach, FL. 33004
Phone Number: 954 665-5052
E-mail Address: terrypreuss@yahoo.com
Date: 7/11/13
Voter's Registration Number: 01664927
Registration Date: 10/26/98 ISSUE DATE
01/30/90 Registration Date

Terry Preuss, NBCT, Educator
221 Southeast Third Street
Dania Beach, Florida 33004
954-665-5052

terrypreuss@yahoo.com www.terrypreuss.com

Dear Esteemed Leaders of the Great City of Dania Beach,

Thank you for everything you do to keep Dania Beach the shining paradise it is.

Let me introduce myself...

I am Terry Preuss, which sounds like Rolls Royce. I always have to say that, because no one knows how to pronounce my name when they look at it!

Seventeen years ago, I stumbled upon a hidden treasure--Broward's oldest city--a charming, quiet family community adjacent to two schools, and nestled in a beach-side paradise. It is here, in Dania Beach, that my husband and I chose to raise our two boys.

We watched them walk half a block to Dania Elementary when they were little. As they got older, they rode their bikes through our neighborhood, or hitched a ride with mom to Olsen Middle School. I have taught there for 13 years and was Olsen's Teacher of the Year, and Broward County's Hispanic Teacher of the Year. At Frost Park, my husband and I sponsored and coached Dania Optimist sports teams for many years. And... it is here... that we have enjoyed the unusual pleasure of never having to water our overly lush lawn due to the rich soil that once grew famous tomatoes.

We've made Dania Beach our home, and we call it, "The Center of the Universe," because we rarely need to go far from it. It has everything we need in walking distance, including an International Airport that we can see, but do not hear.

Now comes the time that our great city is in a position to appoint a new commissioner. I'd like to offer my name for your consideration with my promise of fair-minded thought, level-headed communication, open-minded perspectives, unique resourcefulness, ethics, and integrity.

Let me tell you about myself...

I was born in Cuba, but when I was only two, I came to this country. My parents left behind them a life of ease and aristocracy and came to South Florida to escape communism. They worked at the Fontainebleau Hotel for tips 14 to 18 hours a day, while my grandmother watched over us. Eventually, my parents bought a home in our new country and my brother, sister, and I were raised in Hialeah. By watching my parents, I learned a genuine work ethic. Through them, I understood what the "land of opportunity" meant.

I witnessed my family rise out of poverty and into lower middle class as I was graduating from Hialeah-Miami Lakes High School. My parents toiled hard, and without complaint, to send all three of their children to college, never letting us take out a single loan. Today we are all civil servants. My brother is an FBI Agent, Profiler, and SWAT Commander. My sister works for the Department of Defense. I have been an educator for 25 years in Dade and Broward Counties.

My parents, Albert and Mariana Lopez, are my heroes! They also live in Dania Beach.

I have dedicated my life to teaching young people, and I truly love them. My two books, *Voices in the Hall*, and "F" Failing "YOU." are testaments to my love and dedication to the kids I serve, many of whom live right here in Dania. My earnest desire to help young people, and to make sure that no injustices are done to them under my watch has brought me to this place today.

In addition to the role of teacher, as the School Board of Broward County District Advisory Council Member where I served for two years, appointed by Ann Murray, and also as

the 6000.1 Sub Committee Chair, I was able to see my influence for good over the policies that came before our school board. I found my voice as one who seeks to understand and be understood. I've learned the great amount of time and dedication it takes to make wise and prudent decisions that will affect the people you are appointed to serve. It is with that understanding, and with much hope that my talents can well serve our city that I ask you to consider me as your Appointee for Commissioner of Dania Beach.

I'm new to you, but I bring with me valuable insights and creative initiative refined throughout my life. Twenty two years ago, my husband and I launched a fledgling art studio in 1400 square feet of rented space on the then desolate and dilapidated Harrison Street. Within four years, we occupied more than 6000 square feet and boasted the flagship gallery in Downtown Hollywood, called Thor Design. Our influence helped attract publicity and more than twenty artists that birthed an artists' colony in the nineties, and a park named after them, Arts Park. My husband's art and talent, along that of fellow artisans, brought investors and the redevelopment movement to Downtown Hollywood. We actually started the very first "Artwalk" with our meager client list, which later, the CRA funded, and then adopted as their own, continuing in the "Artwalk" tradition that we originally conceptualized. The rest is history! Our hard work, and legacy is evidenced as the go-to local hub for arts and entertainment that Downtown Hollywood is today.

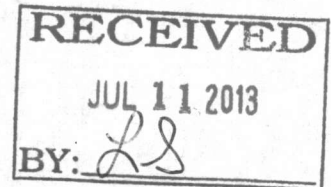
We eventually left the street we helped create when rents became high, proudly purchasing a brand new warehouse in Dania Beach, and relocated as an art furniture studio to Phippen Waiters Road.

Through the years we've often walked along the storefronts on US 1, imagining how magnificently the quaint street would appear with just a bit more artist's flair. We see bright colors, outdoor café's, artist's studios, youth centers, restaurants, and people bustling. We see a vision of what it could be. And if that's what the city of Dania Beach wants, we know how to make it happen.

I'd love to be allowed to participate in making that vision come to fruition. If a seat on the city commission is a way to help influence policies that will bring that vision and other visions for Dania Beach's good forward, please consider me.

Sincerely,

Jerry Francis, NBCT



Terry Preuss, NBCT, Educator
221 Southeast Third Street
Dania Beach, Florida 33004

954-665-5052 **terrypreuss@yahoo.com** **www.terrypreuss.com**

EDUCATION HISTORY

Hialeah Miami Lakes High School - Graduate 1977
Brigham Young University - 1977-1979
Miami Dade Community College – AA Degree 1980
California State University - Graduate BS Degree 1986
Florida International University – Post Grad – Exercise Physiology and Creative Writing

WORK EXPERIENCE

1976-Present – Sales – Presenter/ Workshop Facilitator/ Freelance Speaker – Human Resources, Business Groups, Youth and Adult Interest Groups, Dade & Broward Schools, Girl Scouts of America, Romance Writers of America, SFWP- South Florida Writing Project, Burdines, ZCMI, Camp Pocono Trails, Pocono Valley Resorts, EWEV, JNForensics Success Consulting.
1980-Present – Sales, Direct Sales, Real Estate, Publicist, Business Owner, Local News Writer, Author, Educator.
1985-1987 – Los Angeles County Schools Substitute Teacher
1987-2000- Dade County Public Schools PE Teacher/ Language Arts Teacher / Magnet Program Activities Director/ Focus on Fitness Newsletter Publisher/ Department Lead / Grant Recipient/ Presenter / School Based Management Decision-Making Cadre Chair
1991-1999 - Gallery Director/Furniture Design Firm Owner/Director/Presenter/Publicist/ *The Hollywood* staff writer.
2000-Present- Broward County Public Schools / NSU/SFWP Presenter / AES, L.A. DOP Teacher / District Advisory Council South Area Appointee by Ann Murray/ BTU Elected Executive Board Member 2013-2016 term.
2004-2006 – Hispanic Unity Hollywood Substitute Teacher
2006-2008 – Realtor Associate – Top Producer – Keyes Real Estate

ACHIEVEMENTS

High School, University and College Speech and Debate Scholarship and Honors
Published Writer: Books, Newspaper, Magazine, Poetry, Short Story
Romance Writer's of America Convention Presenter
Literary Awards: FIU Short Fiction Award/ Miami Herald Personal Narrative Award
Citibank Grant – OLE – Opportunities for Leadership Education (At-Risk Leadership Program)
Olsen Middle School Teacher of the Year 2002
Broward County Hispanic Teacher of the Year 2003
Nova University (NSU)/South Florida Writing Project (SFWP) Presenter / Teacher Consultant
Presenter Nova University/ Rock Island/ SFWP/ Dade and Broward Schools
Presenter/ Speaker - Business/ Sales/ Education/ Real Estate Groups
National Board Certified Teacher / Mentor Teacher 2004 – Present
Keys Real Estate Top Producer Award/ Realtor 2006-2007/Presenter
Center for Modern Languages School Based Management Decision-Making Cadre (DADE)

SBBC District Advisory Council Appointee – South Area – for Ann Murray
BTU – Broward Teachers Union Executive Board 2013-2016

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

1981-1983- Full-Time Los Angeles County Based Volunteer Religious Presenter/ Speaker
1989-1997– Downtown Hollywood Community Arts Programs/ Artwalks / CRA
2005-Present- Speaker/Presenter Free Local Workshops in G.U.T.S. and Yogaesque
2004-2008 – Dania Optimist Youth Sports Sponsor/ Coach to Dania Optimist Club & Member

BOOKS, SHORT STORIES, ARTICLES

Voices in the Hall, Amazon, "F" Failing "YOU," Kindle, Cat Soup, FIU Literary Award Winning Short Story. A Helping Hand, Miami Herald Contest Winning Essay,

Recent Article Publications: *Sun Sentinel*

Previous Publications and Publicity: Miami Herald, Sun Sentinel, New Times, Dallas Morning News, Chicago Sun-Times, Ocean Drive Magazine,

ORIGINAL WORKSHOPS

GUTS - Grand Unified Theory of Success, Yogaesque, NSU/SFWP Magical Wonderful Journals, Voices in the Hall , Power Journaling, Positive Mental Visioning Techniques.

AFFILIATIONS

NBPTS- National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, NSU/SFWP, BTU, NEA, AFT.