

[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

I, Celia M Rodriguez, would like to express my interest in becoming a member of the Aurora Veteran's Advisory Council.

I was born and raised in Aurora, attended Gates Elementary, Waldo Middle School, and graduated a Tomcat from East Aurora High School in 2004. I participated in the Marching Band, NJROTC, and Theatre my entire high school years.

While a Junior, I enlisted in the Illinois Army National Guard after my 17th birthday and served actively for 12 years. During my enlistment, I was a Chemical Operations Specialist and a Signal Support Systems Specialist. I earned the rank of E5 Sergeant, participated in numerous state and federal training exercises, and deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan with the 135th Chemical Company under the 33rd Infantry Brigade in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (Joint Task Force Phoenix VIII, 2008-2009,) where I was the Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge of the Mobil Vehicle And Cargo Inspection System (MVACIS) Team stationed at Camp Phoenix, Kabul.

In 2014, I returned to my alma mater as a secretary in East Aurora School District 131 for the Supplemental Programs Department and the East Aurora Extension Campus for two years. In 2016, I became the Principal's Secretary at Krug Elementary school where I stayed for one year. In June of 2017 I became an office assistant with Aurora Township's Highway Department where I am currently employed.

My unique experiences as a Soldier, a mother, and as a professional have taught me many things. One of those important skills is how to relate and speak to people from different backgrounds and cultures. I thrive when I am able to work with the community as part of a team or as an individual to make a positive difference wherever I find myself. I care about my community and its future. This is due to the values instilled in me by my parents' nurturing, my teachers throughout my school years, and the Army's leadership training.

If I am chosen to be a part of this prestigious group, I hope to apply my skills and dedicate my time to contributing to my community, my city, and my fellow Veterans and their families in order to better the quality of life for those who reside in the City of Aurora.

If you wish to contact me directly with any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me directly at [REDACTED] or email at [REDACTED]

Thank you for what you do for our community and for your consideration.

Very Respectfully,

Celia M. Rodriguez