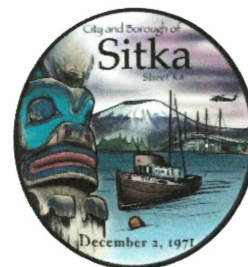


**APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS**



**Board/Commission/Committee:** Tourism Task Force

**Seat Applying For (select only ONE):**

- Sitka Tribe of Alaska Representative
- Ports and Harbors Commission Representative
- Sustainability Commission Representative
- Downtown Business Corridor
- Business in General
- Tours and Attractions
- Sitka Sound Cruise Terminal
- Community At-Large

**Name:** Cambria Holmes **Phone Number:** [REDACTED]

**Address:** [REDACTED]

**Email Address:** [REDACTED]

**Length of Residence in Sitka:** 3 years **Registered to vote in Sitka?**  Yes  No

**Employer:** Self Employed (Campfire Kitchen)

**Organizations you belong to or participate in:**  
Chamber of Commerce

**Explain your main reason for applying:**

I want to raise a family here and I want a prosperous economy, while also striking a balance for year-round residents. I lived in Haines for 10 years, and what I like about Sitka is that it has so far struck a balance between Skagway and Haines, and I want to see that balance maintained.

**What experience or credentials will you bring to the board, commission, or committee membership?**

I owned and operated two businesses in Haines and saw the opportunities there for beneficial tourism. Moving to Sitka in 2020, I now see the potential to swing too far in the other direction.

**Please disclose any potential conflicts of interest that may arise from your appointment. These may include but are not limited to:**

- A substantial financial interest of \$1000 annually that could be influenced by your appointment.
- An immediate family member employed within the scope of this appointment.

**To be considered, your application must be complete AND include a letter of interest, or a resume.**

**Date:** 4-18-23 **Signature:** [Signature]

Return your completed application and letter of interest or resume to the Municipal Clerk’s Office by noon on the Wednesday prior to an advertised Assembly meeting.

PLEASE NOTE: All information submitted is public and will be published online. Appointments are typically made during Assembly meeting open sessions. However, Assembly members may vote to discuss applicant(s) in closed executive session. In this case, do you wish to be present when your application is discussed?  Yes  No

**RETURN TO: Jess Earnshaw, Deputy Clerk/Records Specialist**  
**Municipal Clerk’s Office, 100 Lincoln Street, Floor 3 ~ Fax: 907-747-7403 ~ clerk@cityofsitka.org**

I have lived and worked in Alaska since 2008, first cooking in canneries before starting two successful businesses in Haines starting in 2014. During my time in Haines I saw the potential for tourism to benefit that community, but I also knew I didn't want it to turn into Skagway. I had spent a summer in Sitka in 2013 and my father has lived here since that time, so I always thought Sitka had struck a good balance in that regard. In 2020 Haines shut down for the pandemic and I was expecting my now 2-year-old daughter. So I decided to pack up my life and my businesses, move to Sitka and start Campfire Kitchen inside Harbor Mountain Brewery.

While I appreciated how much better for business the summer of '22 was compared to the summer of '21, my business was frankly maxed out - we couldn't have sold more pizzas if we wanted to. An additional hundred thousand tourists wouldn't benefit my business or my employees one bit. We are literally at maximum capacity. From my conversations with others in the community, I believe many other businesses are at or near their Summer capacity too.

I'm not anti-tourism and I don't support Panamax cruise ships every day either. I think Sitka needs a balanced approach, and if I were to join the Task Force I would be looking at three things. First, Sitka needs a plan to deal with the additional costs - on our roads, on our housing stock, on the character of our community - of having additional hundreds of thousands of visitors to our very small town. Second, Sitka needs to look at our options for maximizing the benefit of this tourism boom as widely across our community as possible, and make a plan to capitalize on those potential benefits. Finally, Sitka needs to think hard about how much is too much, and compare that with the tools we have available to potentially limit the number of visitors to this very small town.

I do believe that the future of Sitka depends on it. Once the snowball starts rolling, it can be very difficult to retain the character of our community. If we don't plan ahead it won't take much for us to end up like Ketchikan or Juneau or Skagway. I want to serve on this task force to make sure Sitka continues prospering while staying true to its roots.