

*Please complete the following candidate profile and question form.*

**Sawa Kamara**

***Candidate Profile***

1) Education (degrees held, schools attended, any relevant coursework)

Montgomery College

In-Progress: Urban Planning and Community Development

2) Present Occupation:

Institute for Public Health Innovation: Community Health Worker

3) Community Involvement (include volunteer service, outreach, etc.):

President of the Takoma Branch Civic Association that governs Chillum, MD and Takoma Park, PG County.

Please check the following areas in which you have experience:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Group process and/or group decision-making
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Meeting facilitation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public speaking
<input type="checkbox"/>	Writing newsletter articles
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Strategic planning
<input type="checkbox"/>	Accounting and/or finance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project management
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Online file sharing and calendars (Google) or website editing or management
<input type="checkbox"/>	Volunteer programs
<input type="checkbox"/>	Past and/or present participation on a board of directors
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Retail and/or Other Business experience
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Legal training and/or experience
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____

***Candidate Questions:***

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Board?

I am interested in serving on the Board because I see a lot of potential for the co-op. I would like to keep the option open to people in and outside the neighborhood to have access to healthy produces. I am passionate about Urban Planning and Community Development and having a

healthier food options is the first step.

2. What experience or involvement have you had with the TPSS Food Co-op or other cooperative enterprises or Boards of Directors?

First, I am a member of TPSS Co-op, this is my only involvement currently and would like to play an integral role in reviving or sustaining the co-op.

Secondly, I occasionally volunteer at the Glut Food Co-op in Mt. Rainier. I stock shelves, bag groceries, ring customers and greet everyone that walk through the door.

3. What skills, qualities, formal training, education, or professional or volunteer experience would you bring that directly contribute to the mission of the TPSS Food Co-op?

I am a natural communal individual. I thrive being a team player, focusing on making positive changes and galvanizing people. As president of my civic association nominated and recognized by the councilwoman for my commitment for social change and environment this makes me a key partner. I am a community Leader, I encourage others to practice self-advocacy, advised landlords to be better owners and to be culturally competent. I am dedicated, self-driven and willing to pioneer paths in the pursuit of justice. I intend to bring these skills with me. I am also partners with NDC to revitalize my neighborhood. These experience will help me be a better board member.

4. What is your favorite Co-operative Principle and why?

My favorite Co-operative Principle is Education, Training and Information. The idea of educating and training members, elected representatives, managers, and employees will enable each individual to indeed contribute effectively to the development of their co-operative. With this, you have the autonomy to engage all kinds of people to teach the benefit of co-operation. This may paved the road for many young individuals to become future leaders with the information and skills obtain.

5. Is there anything else you'd like to share or address?

I will be an addition to this board. I see that I can bring many things to the table such as my

experiences, perspective and skills as a local leader.