



ST. CHARLES
SINCE 1834

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Title: Motion to Approve a Recommendation by Mayor Rogina to Appoint Mr. Michael Cohen to the St. Charles 708 Mental Health Board

Presenter: Mayor Rogina

Please check appropriate box:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Government Operations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government Services
<input type="checkbox"/>	Planning & Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	City Council (2/18/14)

Estimated Cost:	N/A	Budgeted:	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
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If NO, please explain how item will be funded:

Executive Summary:

By virtue of this memorandum I request your favorable consideration to appoint the following recommendation to the St. Charles 708 Mental Health Board.

Mr. Michael Cohen, 1242 S 11th Street, St. Charles, IL who will fill the vacancy on the 708 Mental Health Board with a term expiration of 4/30/16.

Attachments: *(please list)*

Letter of Request

Recommendation / Suggested Action *(briefly explain):*

Motion to approve a recommendation by Mayor Rogina to appoint to Mr. Michael Cohen to the St. Charles 708 Mental Health Board.

For office use only: Agenda Item Number: IB

February 6, 2014

Mayor Rogina & Chair Gacic,

RE: Vacancy on City of St. Charles 708 Community Mental Health Board

After attending the St. Charles 708 Community Mental Health Board meeting on January 29, I am honored to be considered for the Mental Health Board. My educational background and my extensive experience working with at-risk youth and teens make me an ideal candidate to fill one of the vacancies on the Mental Health Board.

My bachelors degree is in Social Work (Southern Illinois University) and my masters degree is in Community Development (North Park University). After working in the inner city, I took a job at Hanover Township in May 1996 where I am still employed. I started out as an outreach worker and three years ago I was promoted to Prevention and Outreach Services Manager, currently supervising three full time workers and seven part time workers. For my first 15 years at Hanover Township, I spent my days working in township elementary, middle and high schools working with at-risk youth and teens. My other main role was overseeing the township's Open Gym Program, a free program for youth ages 5-18 during the spring, summer and winter breaks. In 2009, Open Gym expanded to beyond the school breaks, taking place every day after school until 6 p.m. Two years' ago, we expanded Open Gym to nine sites after school. Open Gym has always been a free program.

When working with youth, I use a Positive Youth Development (PYD) model. PYD is all about giving youth a voice, choices, a safe place, challenges where they can have success, options, but most important PYD is all about how adults talk with youth: giving them respect without ever raising your voice to them. This is how I train and develop everyone working with youth.

Besides my educational and work experience, my knowledge of nonprofits and community and being relationship driven make me a good fit for the Mental Health Board. Thank you for considering me for the Mental Health Board.

Sincerely,

Michael Cohen