

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY BOARD

APPLICATION DATE:

10/24/2025

BOARD NAME:

Marion Advisory Board

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name:

Donna Cress

Occupation:

Chief People and Culture Officer at HDG Legacy

If Retired, previous occupation:

(Hotel Mgt + Development)

Address:

713 SE 2nd St

City:

Ocala

State:

FL

ZIP:

34470

Phone#:

352-572-1648

E-mail Address:

donna.cress@hdghotels.com

MAILING ADDRESS (If different from residence):

Address:

same

City:

State:

ZIP:

Is your address or any other personal information exempt under Florida Statute 119.70? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, please submit a signed Marion County Public Records Act Exempt Form (available upon request).

What is your preferred form of communication? Phone ☐ Mail ☐ Email ☒

The following data is collected in accordance with Florida Statute, Section 760.80, for the purpose of statistical reporting and ensuring compliance with diversity and inclusion guidelines. Your responses will be kept confidential and will not affect your application.

Gender: Male ☐ Female ☒ Prefer not to disclose ☐

Physically Disabled: Yes ☐ No ☒ Prefer not to disclose ☐

Race: African-American ☐ Native-American ☐ Caucasian ☒ Other ☐
Hispanic/Latino ☐ Asian -American ☐ Prefer not to disclose ☐

Are you a registered voter? Yes ☒ No ☐

Do you own homestead property in Marion County? Yes ☒ No ☐

Are you employed by Marion County or have relatives that are Marion County employees? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, please provide position, department and/or relationship to County employee and their position/department

Do you currently work for an entity or agency that either receives funding from, or has a contract with the County to perform services? Yes ___ No ☒

Are you, your spouse, or children, currently an officer, director, or partner in any entity or agency that receives funding from, or has a contract with the county? Yes ___ No ☒

If yes, please submit a signed FORM 4a - Disclosure of Business Transaction, Relationship, or Interest. (Available upon request).

Have you been convicted (including a withholding of adjudication), pled guilty or pled to a Nolo Contendere (no contest) to a misdemeanor or felony (including a criminal traffic violation)? Yes ___ No ☒

A 'YES' answer will not automatically disqualify you from serving on an advisory board. The nature, severity, and date of the offense will be considered in relation to the position. If unsure about the details of a criminal case, contact the relevant agency to ensure accuracy when reporting your history. Failure to do so may result in removal from the board. If you answered 'YES,' please provide details. You may use an additional sheet if needed.

WHY DO YOU DESIRE TO SERVE ON THIS/THESE BOARDS?

(Include current or previous work experience; community involvement; interests/activities)

As a lifelong resident of Marion County and serving in the capacity of Chief People & Culture Officer for HDG Legacy, it would be an honor to serve my community as an advisor. I believe through my experiences and skills, I may provide additional value in the decision making process.

SERVING ON OTHER BOARDS

Do you currently serve on any other boards in Florida, or are you an elected or appointed state, county (Marion County or other county) or municipal ("city") office holder? Yes ☒ No ___

If yes, which board? Marion County Public Education Foundation, Boys & Girls Club of Marion County
(Important: You may not serve on more than one (1) Substantive Board: Board of Adjustment; Code Enforcement Board; License Review Board; Land Development Regulation Commission; Historical Commission; Hospital District Board of Trustees; Housing Finance Authority; Industrial Development Authority; Tourist Development Council; Parks and Recreation Advisory Council)

Have you ever served on a City or County advisory board? Yes ___ No ☒

If yes, when, where and which board(s)? _____

REFERENCES - Please list three (3) personal and/or business references

(PLEASE DO NOT USE COMMISSIONERS or COUNTY ADMINISTRATION STAFF as REFERENCES)

Name: Navroz Saju
Phone Number: 352-286-1669 Email: navroz.saju@hdghotels.com

Name: Meghan Magamall
Phone Number: 352-572-7470 Email: meghan.magamall@marion.k12.fl.us

Name: Nick Blaser
Phone Number: 352-312-0207 Email: nblaser@coagentbank.net

INITIAL: DC I authorize Marion County to contact my references and I understand that all statements made on this application may be verified by Marion County.

INITIAL: DC I understand the responsibilities associated with being a board member, and I have adequate time to serve if appointed.

INITIAL: DC I agree to complete training within six (6) months from the date of my appointment.

INITIAL: DC I understand that submitting this application makes all provided information public record, subject to disclosure under applicable laws unless exempt under Florida Statute 119.071. I confirm the accuracy of all details provided and their suitability for public release.

By signing this application, I certify that the information I provided in this application is true and correct, and that any misstatements or material omissions on my application may result in my removal from my appointed position.

SIGN: Donna Cress

DATE: 10/24/2025

PRINT: Donna Cress

RECEIVED BY BCC:

This application will be kept on file for a period of one year from date of receipt by the Board of County Commissioners.

RETURN FORM TO:

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS 601 SE 25th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471

Or via email to: Commissionadmin@marionfl.org

PLEASE CALL THE COMMISSION OFFICE AT (352) 438-2323 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUR APPLICATION.

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC RECORDS ACT EXEMPT FORM

The Florida Public Records Act (PRA) exempts from disclosure the home addresses, home telephone numbers of certain public employees, and social security numbers of all public employees. Below are the categories of PRA exempt public employees. Please check the appropriate box below.

- ☐ Current and former Law Enforcement personnel and their spouses and children.
- ☐ Certified Firefighters, Single Cert Paramedics, EMT's and their spouses and children.
- ☐ Current and former Justices of the Supreme Court, District Court of Appeal Judges, Circuit Court Judges, County Court Judges and their spouses and children.
- ☐ Current and former State Attorneys, Assistant State Attorneys, statewide prosecutors or assistant statewide prosecutors and their spouses and children.
- ☒ Current and former Human Resource, Labor Relations or Employee Relations directors, Assistant directors, Managers or Assistant Managers of any local government or water management district and their spouses and children.
- ☐ Current and former Code Enforcement Officers and their spouses and children.
- ☐ Current and former Correctional Officers and their spouses and children.
- ☐ Current and former Correctional Probation Officers and their spouses and children.
- ☐ General magistrates, special magistrates, judges of compensation claims, administrative law judges of the Division of Administrative Hearings, and child support enforcement hearing officers.
- ☐ Current and former Department of Children and Family Services personnel and their spouses and children.
- ☐ Current and former Department of Health personnel and their spouses and children.
- ☐ Current and former Guardians Ad Litem and their spouses and children.
- ☐ Current and former non investigative personnel of the Department of Financial Services and their spouses and children.
- ☐ Current and former public defenders, assistant public defenders, criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, and assistant criminal conflict and civil regional counsel and their spouses and children.
- ☐ Current and former juvenile probation officers, juvenile probation supervisors, detention superintendents, assistant detention superintendents, juvenile justice detention officers I and II, juvenile justice detention officer supervisors, juvenile justice residential officers, juvenile justice residential officer supervisors I and II, juvenile justice counselors, juvenile justice counselor supervisors, human services counselor administrators, senior human services counselor administrators, rehabilitation therapists, and social services counselors of the Department of Juvenile Justice and their spouses and children.
- ☐ Current and former investigators or inspectors of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation and their spouses and children.
- ☐ Department of Revenue or local government personnel and their spouses and children.

- ☐ Current and former service members (Armed Forces of the U.S., a reserve unit, or the National Guard, who served after September 11, 2001) and their spouses and children.
- ☐ Current and former impaired practitioner consultants and their spouses and children.
- ☐ Current and former personnel employed in an agency office of inspector general or internal audit department, state financial services investigators and their spouses and children.
- ☐ County tax collector.
- ☐ None of the above.

Donna Cress

Signature

10/24/2025

Date

Donna Cress

Print Name