



County of Monterey
Valerie Ralph
CLERK OF THE BOARD
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Commission on Disabilities Application

Jennifer Williams

District: 3
Initialed Application: Yes

Applicant

First Name: **Jennifer**
Middle Initial:
Last Name: **Williams**

Employment

Occupation: **Nonprofit Leader**
Job Title: **President & CEO**
Employer: **Natividad Medical Foundation**

Interests and Experiences

Able to attend meetings regularly and devote the time necessary to fulfill duties as a member?

Yes

Currently serving on a County of Monterey Board, Commission, Committee or other Community Advisory Group?

No

Has served on an advisory group before?

No

Please tell us about yourself and why you want serve:

Serving on the Monterey County Commission on Disabilities would allow me to turn a lifetime of lived experience into practical, community driven change. I have lived with multiple sclerosis for more than 30 years, and that journey has taught me how quickly a barrier - an inaccessible entrance, a lack of seating and elevators, uneven sidewalks and floors - can become a wall that keeps people from health care, work, school, and civic life. I currently serve on the Accessibility Committee at Natividad Medical Center, where I work with staff and fellow advocates to identify gaps and recommend and find funding for solutions that improve access with dignity. I also previously served on the board of the Central Coast Center for Independent Living, which strengthened my commitment to independent living, peer support, and systems change. On the Commission, I would bring a collaborative approach partnering with County departments, service providers, and community members to advance inclusive policies, accessible communications, and meaningful opportunities for public participation. I am passionate about

ensuring civic engagement and societal access are available for everyone, because access is not a special accommodation. It is belonging for everyone. I will listen, learn, and help translate concerns into action.

Please state the reason you would like to be a member of this board committee/commission/district:

I would like to serve on the Commission because I believe I can help connect people, ideas, and resources to move disability access from good intentions to measurable outcomes. Over the years, I've built a strong network of business and community leaders across Monterey County, and I'm comfortable convening partners who don't always share the same perspective but do share a desire to serve the public well. I see that network as a practical tool for the Commission that can open doors, strengthen collaboration, and accelerate solutions. I'm also transparent about my medical condition and the realities that come with it. That openness has helped me build trust, reduce stigma, and keep conversations grounded in what residents actually experience day to day. For decades, I've helped raise funds and awareness through the annual MS Walk, which has reinforced my commitment to community organizing, persistence, and accountable follow-through. I will bring a solutions-oriented approach: listen carefully, identify the barrier, find the workable fix, and build support to implement it. I want to be on the Commission to help create improvements people can feel in their everyday lives.

How did you hear about the position?:

Facebook

Please identify any specialized accommodations needed for equal participation:

None