

COLIN BAENZIGER  ASSOCIATES
EXECUTIVE RECRUITING

Section 8

Anne A. Fritz

*Gainesville City Manager
Candidate Report*

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Cover Letter and Resume

July 28, 2019

Dear Search Committee:

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and express my interest in your consideration for the City Manager position for the beautiful City of Gainesville. I have become more familiar with Gainesville each time I have visited – from many years ago when my niece was attending university there to the past several years when I was driving to Jacksonville and taking the scenic route through the City and enjoying the sites of a classic college community. It is truly a beautiful city where I could see myself living and working.

My extensive experience including my current position as Chief Financial Officer of the City of St Petersburg, FL, gives me the necessary Florida local government executive management credentials for your position. My education, including a master's of public administration and completion of the PhD Program (completed except dissertation) in Urban Affairs and Public Policy at Cleveland State University has given me the academic qualifications. Within the nationally ranked program at Cleveland State University (Number 1 at the time in the USA for local government management) I had coursework specifically in public administration, public finance, organizational and human resource management, public works management, human resource management that gives me the essential skills to expand my areas of administration to a citywide level. I am comfortable managing almost all areas of local government as I have actually practiced and been responsible in multiple disciplines as my experience in smaller cities allowed me to assist the Mayor/City Manager in nearly all aspects of running a local government, including areas traditionally outside of finance including labor negotiations, human resource management, procurement and contracts, budgeting and planning, and utility administration.

Your position announcement was very thorough in its discussion on the qualities for the next city manager, which I believe I possess, including professionalism and communications. In my position as Chief Financial Officer, I have had to present to city councils for twenty-nine years, with some very technical financial details having to be presented to the public and city officials without such technical backgrounds. I enjoy public speaking and have served as instructor for the Cleveland State Master's program, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and have been on the speaking panel for state and national governmental finance related associations for decades.

I believe my extensive experience and qualifications would give me the background necessary to be your city manager. My financial experience will assist in the long term planning for sustainability for the future of the City. The mission of professional public administration is very important to me and I would love to finish my career in city administration at the city manager level, which was my goal when I began my pursuit of my Master's in Public Administration (MPA).

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Please find attached my resume. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to further discussions with you as the selection continues.

Very truly yours,

Anne A. Fritz

annieafritz@yahoo.com

440-570-5454

▶ **Anne A. Fritz**

10923 79th St E
Parrish, FL 34219
Phone: 440-570-5454
E-mail: annieafritz@yahoo.com

Personal Statement

The combination of thirty years of experience in municipal administration makes me a unique candidate for a city manager.

- Advanced knowledge of local government administration
- Public investment management of \$900 million portfolio
- Extensive experience in debt issuance , reporting, and bond ratings
- Policy, technical, and academic writing
- Extensive public speaking experience
- Experience in instruction of undergraduate and graduate accounting, public finance, and public administration

Education

PhD Candidate (ABD), Cleveland State University Levin College of Urban Affairs.
Pursued Doctor of Philosophy in Urban Affairs and Public Policy.

Area of study: public administration/public finance/organizational theory. Coursework in statistical analysis, political philosophy, public finance, organizational theory, public administration theory. (Passed Comprehensive Examination, Dissertation not completed).

Master of Public Administration, Cleveland State University Levin College of Urban Affairs. 1998 (GPA 3.9+).

Area of study: public administration, public finance and budgeting, public works, and organizational and human resource management.

Bachelor of Arts (Business Administration (Accounting). Heidelberg University, Tiffin, OH 1987 (Cum Laude).

Area of study: business administration with emphasis on accounting and finance.

Related Professional Experience

Chief Financial Officer. City of Saint Petersburg, FL
June 2010 – current

Chief fiscal officer of large city (250K population). Areas of direct responsibility include the following:

- Accounting and financial reporting including preparation of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report
- Pension treasury management, accounting, actuarial studies review; Board member for ERS.
- Treasury management including In-house management of public funds portfolio of over \$900 million
- Coordinating citywide external audit
- Debt issuance administration, compliance, and full rating agency coordination (Moody's and Fitch)
- Finance functions of centralized accounts payable, payroll, pension accounting and reporting, asset management and reporting, project accounting and reporting.
- Oracle Enterprise Business Solutions (EBS) – general ledger, payroll, labor distribution, accounts payable, asset accounting; Kronos timekeeping for citywide payroll timekeeping system

Director of Finance. City of Westlake, OH
October 2000 – June 2010

Chief fiscal officer of full service suburb with duties including:

- All accounting, auditing, and financial reporting related activities
- Budget preparation and management
- In-house management of public funds portfolio of over \$75 million
- Debt management of AAA/Aaa rated city (Moody's, S&P, and Fitch)
- Information technology management and served as CIO.
- Utility billing and collection

Director of Finance and Taxation. City of Willard, OH
September 1990 - October 2000

Chief fiscal officer of small city with duties including:

- All budgeting, accounting, auditing, and financial reporting related activities
- Utility system management for water and sewer billings and collections
- Self-collected municipal income tax

Teaching and Instruction

Speaker, Florida Government Finance Officers' Association. 2011-2014
Speaker, Government Finance Officers' Association. 1999-2019
Instructor (part-time contract). American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. 2004-2012
Adjunct Instructor (part-time as needed). Cleveland State University Levin College of Urban Affairs -
Public Administration and Public Finance (Masters level). 2002 – 2009
Adjunct Instructor. Heidelberg University. 1999-2001. *Financial and Managerial Accounting*

Publications/Reviews

Author: "Use of Funds Policy". *Government Finance Review*.
Reviewer: The New Fund Balance Reporting. Government Finance Officers' Association.
Reviewer: *Governmental Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting* (2010 update).
Reviewer: *Implementation Guide*. Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

Certifications and Awards

Certified Public Funds Trustee. 2013. Florida Public Pension Trustees' Association.
Certified Public Finance Officer. 2001. Government Finance Officers' Association.
Certified Public Accountant Uniform Examination. Successfully completed 1988 (license not active).
Award for Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting. 1991 – Present year. GFOA.
Award for Popular Reporting. 2001 – 2010. 2015-2018.
Distinguished Budget Award. 2001-2010.
Auditors' Award. State of Ohio Auditors' Office. Various years.
"Making your Tax Dollars Count" Award. State of Ohio Auditor Mary Taylor. 2007-2009.
Finalist, NEOSA CIO of the Year 2009.

Professional Organizations and Boards

Committee member. Committee on Auditing, Accounting, and Financial Reporting. Government Finance Officers' Association.

Board of Trustees. Employees Retirement System (St. Petersburg, FL).

State of Ohio representative to Government Finance Officers' Association.

Technical Committee Chair. Florida Government Finance Officers' Association

Board of Trustees, Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA). 2005-2010.

Board of Trustees, Ohio GFOA. 1996-1998. 2009-2010.

Past President, North Central Ohio Municipal Finance Officers' Association.

Advisory Committee Member, Cleveland State University MPA program.

Task force member. Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

Candidate Introduction

Anne A. Fritz

EDUCATION

PhD Coursework completed (all but dissertation), Urban Affairs and Public Policy, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH.

Master of Public Administration, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH.

Bachelor of Arts, Business/Accounting, Heidelberg University, Tiffin OH

Certified Public Accountant – Examination/License not active

Certified Public Finance Officer, GFOA.

Certified Public Pension Trustee, Florida Public Pension Trustees’ Association

EXPERIENCE

Chief Financial Officer/Finance Director City of St. Petersburg FL 2010 – present

Finance Director, City of Westlake OH 2000 – 2010

Finance Director, City of Willard, OH 1990 – 2000

Adjunct Instructor, MPA Program, Cleveland State University 2004 – 2008

Instructor, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants 2000 – 2010

BACKGROUND

The City of St. Petersburg, FL is the fifth most populous city in the state with a population over 260 thousand, and an annual budget of over \$500 million. Currently, there are approximately 3,000 employees. As Chief Financial Officer I directly oversee a staff of over twenty professionals. I am responsible for indirect oversight of all citywide finance and accounting related staff of several hundred employees.

The City of St. Petersburg is governed by an elected City Council and administered by an elected Mayor. During the Great Recession, the City experienced a significant decline in revenues and growth, resulting in the decrease of various city services and initiatives. In 2009, William “Bill” Foster was elected Mayor, and his first major hire was to hire a new Finance Director to take over for a department that had many issues, including adapting to technology, late financial reports, and significant losses in investments from securities lending and short-term money funds. On June 14, 2010, I became the City’s Finance Director to assist in the financial recovery of the City. Mayor Rick Kriseman was elected Mayor in 2013, and under his tenure I remained and my excellence in the position was recognized and the title changed to Chief Financial Officer.

Today I look back at the success we have been able to achieve in St. Petersburg. Where I believe that all began to take place was back on my arrival in 2010 where I assisted in drafting the fiscal policies of the City, which set targeted fund balances and a fiscal management philosophy that

documented and required financial plans when any fund did not meet targets. In addition, the new fiscal policies included new the economic stability fund policies, which set forth a specific requirement for utilizing the fund and required a plan of repayment when the fund was used to offset any budget shortfalls. During this financial crisis, the City thus strengthened its fiscal policies, which proved to be a catalyst for economic recovery and the current economic success within the City.

Having the strong fiscal policies not only drafted but institutionalized within the City has enabled St. Petersburg to become a model city for the state and the entire nation.

Prior to my tenure at the City of St. Petersburg, I was the Finance Director for two smaller cities in Ohio for ten years each.

While achieving great success, the City also has challenges including the following:

- 1.) Balancing citywide needs versus resources available.
- 2.) Managing redevelopment and enhancing affordable housing.
- 3.) Improving city infrastructure.

GENERAL, MANAGEMENT STYLE AND EXPERIENCE

The position in Gainesville interests me to complete my professional career in a city manager position in a City that has the unique qualities of a large Florida city along with the academic environment of a small college town home to a major well-known university such as the University of Florida.

My general management style has been to be a professional administrator to serve the City and to form a specialized team that serves the City like an accounting firm. My technical ability in public finance is significant with thirty years of hands-on experience in public finance and technology. My area of personal expertise includes extensive experience in budgeting, financial reporting, public portfolio management, debt issuance and management, public pensions, human resources, labor negotiations, payroll, procurement and accounts payable, grant administration and reporting, utility billing, tax collection, and technology management. With this valuable experience brings the necessary qualifications to oversee the general operations of the City of Gainesville in a professional capacity. Just like Gainesville has a “Department of Doing”, I have become uniquely qualified for the City Manager position by being a “Manager of Doing”. The functions I have overseen the administrative and financial backbone of my cities, and personally performed most functions given my prior experience in smaller cities. Having such an opportunity would allow me to be a better city manager.

Anne A. Fritz

Even during my long tenure, I learn new management skills each day. Being beside very impressive Mayors in St. Petersburg and Westlake, I learned from the best from each side of the political spectrum. My first position was as Finance Director of the City of Willard, Oh, where I was able to learn city management from a long tenured city manager with significant experience in Ohio and Alabama. His mentorship was very important to me and allowed me to learn the skills that a city manager must possess. Taking those skills to Westlake, OH, I was able to assist the Mayor in most areas of administration, and we still stay in contact today. When I moved to Florida to become Finance Director of St. Petersburg, those foundations gave me the skills required to help transform the City of St. Petersburg into one of the most recognized cities in Florida and throughout the nation.

My Finance team at St. Petersburg has been transformed under my leadership. When I arrived at the City, many members of the Finance Department refused to look at me during staff meetings and would turn their chairs the other direction. Instead of calling them out on it, I performed the meeting without acknowledging their disruptive behavior. After not getting any response, the behavior quickly ended, and those employees eventually left the city by choice or were dismissed by me as necessary. While it took time, the department was replaced by professional degreed accountants with the necessary education to perform their job in the highest capacity. Currently, nearly all my staff have advanced degrees. The result to the City has been phenomenal, with six years straight of “perfect” audits (no findings and no management letter comments); last year we had findings relating to issues we (Finance) found ourselves and corrected before the audit. It is without a doubt the abilities of the Finance Department of the City of St. Petersburg is one of the best in the state.

I could not do the transformation myself. Upon my arrival, I teamed with the Treasurer, who also had been recently hired, to change all aspects of the department into a professional office. We had to work nearly twelve hours per day seven days per week to prepare the CAFR ourselves after dismissing a staff member who held such responsibility. After that, we hired our Controller, who now holds the skills to take over as a large city CFO. The hiring philosophy I use is to choose “stars”. Each hire should not only possess the skills for the position but needs to have that extra “it” factor. What “it” is may not be quantifiable but is important to choose a team representing all citizens within the community.

How I have achieved diversity through inclusion in my team building has been essential to my success. For a small department, my hires have included men and women including those with special needs, diverse race and sexual orientations. While diversity may be a goal, it is inclusion that is the most effective methodology to achieve diversity. My leadership has been to embrace the differences and to build a team with the same goal – to provide highly professional finance, accounting, reconciliation and reporting to the City.

The elected officials I have served would likely say that I am “TIMELY” – trustworthy, innovative, mature, enthusiastic, likeable, innovative; and yet youthful. Staff would say they

Anne A. Fritz

appreciated my expertise, high standards, team approach, and recognition of accomplishments. Both groups would see me as someone who looks at every issue, transaction and report from a “citywide” perspective, with excellent public speaking and communication abilities.

My greatest strength is my wealth of experience and knowledge built over a thirty-year career in municipal government. Building the foundation at a very small city, to taking that experience to a suburb known for financial excellence, and finally to a big city has allowed me to learn almost every area that I would need to be successful in a city manager position. I have walked the walls and been in meetings on almost every area and situation encountered in city government.

The financial management of my cities has also been recognized by the bond rating agencies, and I have been the lead in managing the ratings process for my cities. While in Westlake, we achieved Aaa/AAA/AAA ratings from all three national rating agencies, who rated the strong financial management as a strong factor in the highest ratings achievements. In St. Petersburg, I also manage the bond ratings for the City, where we have been able to maintain a Moody’s AA2 rating throughout the financial crisis as well as with the city’s challenges with the water and sewer infrastructure for its Public Utility. In addition, we were able to achieve a AA+ from Fitch for our Public Utility Tax issue used to finance the City’s new Pier and Pier approach project.

In terms of weaknesses, I recognize that not all others share my passion for compliance with existing policies and procedures in city government. If the State Legislature or City Council passes legislation that relate in any way to Finance, I will do my best to ensure it is enacted or the city manager or administrator will know that we are not in compliance and I will prepare a plan to get us into compliance.

One of my best (and first) accomplishment at St. Petersburg other than the strong fiscal policies was upon taking office, my first task was to review the investment portfolio to ensure compliance with the City’s Investment Policy. The City’s portfolio at the time was heavily concentrated in callable “step-up” agency securities. Having experience in managing a public portfolio in my prior experience, although for a much smaller government, as well as my education and certification as a Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO), I personally made recommendations to change the investment policy to ensure the policy set stated diversification limits by portfolio, which were reviewed by the City’s Investment Oversight Committee, and was passed by City Council. As securities were called or matured, the new diversification methodology as well as competitive solicitation of investment bids have allowed the City to utilize a diversified laddered portfolio methodology ensuring investment in the highest rated securities with known maturities to ensure proper cash flow forecasting and analysis for the City. Currently, I am responsible for all investment selections for the City’s \$900 million portfolio. During the last year, over \$16 million in investment earnings have been received by the City in the City’s General Policy.

Anne A. Fritz

The challenges I see facing the City of Gainesville are:

- Having the needs of the community in excess of the available revenues to deliver all services and projects.
- Ensuing public safety is adequately staffed and equipped to provide essential services.
- Improving city infrastructure including roads, bridges, buildings and equipment.
- Reviewing current economic development efforts, accomplishments, and citywide goals and objectives.
- Utilizing technology in a cost effective and efficient manner to communicate and deliver public services to the community.
- Ensuring effective communication and partnership with the University and other community partners.
- Establish with city commission citywide organizational mission, values, and goals to achieve thereof.
- Analyzing, reviewing organizational structure and staffing to effectively communicate and report departmental performance standards and results.

During the first six months my efforts will involve:

- Meet with staff, elected officials, university officials, citizen groups, and others to assess the city's perceptions, needs, and expectations.
- Learning the Council's goals and perspectives
- Reviewing all aspects of the city's current and projected financial position; investment, debt and fiscal policies; determine budget goals, including all revenue sources, prepare or update annual budget, five-year CIP, and long-term financial forecasts.
- Review all technological plans and cybersecurity reports to ensure safeguards are in place to protect the City's data.
- Make recommendations to incorporate best practices into the City's policies.
- Review any comprehensive plans in place; report thereof; make recommendations for updating any outdated plans.
- Further familiarization with relevant laws and the City's codes prior to my start date
- Enhance citizen communication utilizing social media enhancements to improve citywide technologies, communications, and marketing.
- Part of my effort is designed to help the media keep up to date on the City's operations and programs. My personal appearances in the media can range from occasional to frequent, as I defer to the Mayor and elected officials as they prefer

My relationship with the media has been very professional where I answer any financial questions about the City as appropriate. My answers are thought out and if I am not certain of a number, I request that I be able to review my records and call back to confirm before they write any story.

I have also attended editorial boards along with the Mayor to assist him as necessary.

Anne A. Fritz

I do not anticipate any community activist contacting the City with negative contacts about me.

In my spare time, I enjoy attending a local boot camp after work each day. My weekend passion is bargain shopping. During vacations, I enjoy traveling throughout the world

SIX ADJECTIVES OR PHRASES I WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE MYSELF

Since “I” am answering I will use adjectives starting with an “I:

- Intelligent
- Innovative
- Imaginative
- Impactful
- Impressive
- Improving

REASON FOR DEPARTING CURRENT POSITION

I have no reason to depart my current position other than to recognize I have done what I was hired to do, and how my efforts have been institutionalized within the City. The one area I always wanted to try but didn’t because I was “too good” in Finance is that of City Manager.

In the event I am successful in being selected for this position, I am very pleased to share that I have my current staff well trained to take over if I do leave.

CURRENT / MOST RECENT SALARY

My current compensation at St. Petersburg is \$170,640 with an additional 11% being contributed to the City’s 401A plan.

Section 8

CB&A Background Checks

**Background Check Summary for
ANNE A. FRITZ**

Criminal Records Checks:

Nationwide Criminal Records Search	No Records Found
County	
Manatee County, FL	No Records Found
Pinellas County, FL	No Records Found
Cuyahoga County, OH	No Records Found
State	
Florida	No Records Found
Ohio	<i>Records maintained by County. See above</i>

Civil Records Checks:

County	
Manatee County, FL	No Records Found
Pinellas County, FL	No Records Found
Cuyahoga County, OH	No Records Found
Federal	
Florida	No Records Found
Ohio	No Records Found

Motor Vehicle

Florida	No Records Found
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Credit

Excellent

Bankruptcy

No Records Found

Education

Confirmed

Employment

Confirmed

Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. 1681-1681Y, credit and bankruptcy information are very sensitive and should not be used in the consideration of hiring. The information is included for each candidate because we do not want you to be surprised if third parties raise what they consider to be a concern.

**Background Check Summary for
ANNE A. FRITZ
Personal Disclosure**

Personal Disclosure Questionnaire

Name of Applicant: Anne A. Fritz

The following questions are designed so that we will be able to make full disclosure to our client concerning your background. Please answer them honestly. Cutting corners or misrepresenting your past will result in you being eliminated from all further searches conducted by this firm. We understand that frivolous charges are sometimes made and that charges do not mean you were guilty. We also understand that you may have been wronged and needed to seek compensation. The bottom line is that we want to be certain that our client is fully informed. If you have any questions, please contact us for clarification.

Please explain any yes answers on a separate sheet of paper.

- 1. Have you ever been charged or convicted of a felony?
Yes No
- 2. Have you ever been accused of or have been involved in a domestic violence or abuse incident?
Yes No
- 3. Have you ever declared bankruptcy or been an owner in a business that did so?
Yes No
- 4. Have you ever been the subject of a civil rights violation complaint that was investigated or resulted in a lawsuit?
Yes No
- 5. Have you ever been the subject of a sexual harassment complaint that was investigated or resulted in a lawsuit?
Yes No
- 6. Have you ever been convicted of driving while intoxicated?
Yes No
- 7. Have you ever sued a current or former employer?
Yes No
- 8. Do you have a personal My Space, Face Book or other type of Web Page?
Yes No
- 9. Do you have a personal Twitter Account?
Yes No
- 10. Is there anything else in your background that, if made public, would cause you, our client or our firm embarrassment if it came to light through the press or any other mechanism?
Yes No

11. Please provide a list of any lawsuits in which you are or have been a party either as plaintiff or defendant.
*Defendant - early 1990's related to City of Willard from former employee
 Challenging leave pay-out - related to position.
 Plaintiff as Plaintiff for 2 rental property to evict tenant (personal).*

Attested to: *Anne A. Fritz*
 Signature of Applicant

Please email this form via PDF DOCUMENT to Lynelle@cb-asso.com or via fax to (888) 539-6531 no later than 5:00 PM PST 08/22/19.

(Note: Please be sure to sign the form with your actual signature if you are sending Fax or PDF Document)

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CB&A Reference Notes

Reference Notes
Anne A. Fritz

Jacqueline Kovilarich – City Attorney, City of Saint Petersburg, FL 727-776-1918

Ms. Kovilarich met Ms. Fritz in 2010. They work closely together as Ms. Kovilarich is responsible for finance and other finance issues. Ms. Fritz has an excellent relationship with every person in the legal department and she is proactive in bringing items to their attention and considering what the legal issues might be.

Excellent is too light of a word for Ms. Fritz, she is one of the smartest people that Ms. Kovilarich knows. Ms. Fritz adapts when her audience has less understanding in financial matters and puts the information in layman's terms. The number of hours that she works without complaint is impressive. She is always willing to consider a new finance option and has saved the city significant sums of money.

The top two individuals in the finance department were hired by Ms. Fritz and they are excellent employees and a cohesive team. Her decisions in general are always good. She is a leader who takes the organization's vision and rallies the employees around it.

The City had challenges with aging infrastructure and needed to make many improvements in a very short amount of time. They were trying to fast track the process while making a plan to deal with the unexpected financing. Ms. Fritz is very creative. She adapted and got the job done. She is always timely in completing her work.

While Ms. Fritz works countless hours at times, like during the CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) when they are in the office at night and on the weekend for weeks at a time, the stress never affected her professionally. She manages it all without breaking a sweat.

Ms. Fritz is ethical to a fault and her conduct is beyond reproach. Ms. Kovilarich would hire Ms. Fritz. Her skillset would translate to a municipal management position. She likes to learn new things and embraces every challenge. She has exposure to all city operations in her current role and she is very intelligent. The learning curve would not be as steep with her as it would be for other CFOs. She will be extremely successful if given the opportunity to manage a community.

Words or phrases used to describe Anne Fritz:

- Intelligent,
- Proactive,
- Creative,
- Respectful,
- Diligent, and
- Dedicated.

Reference Notes
Anne A. Fritz

Strengths: You cannot find a harder worker, extremely detail oriented, proactive, envisions what the legal issues might be, very creative, saved the city a great deal of money, open minded and forward thinking, always looking to improve.

Weaknesses: She is so careful and it must make her job more difficult, but she never shows any signs of stress.

Tom Hoffman – Treasurer, City of Saint Petersburg, FL 727-893-4170

Mr. Hoffman has reported to Ms. Fritz since 2010. He came to Saint Petersburg from Chicago and walked into a department that was not producing. Ms. Fritz was hired 10 months later and currently they have a well-functioning team. She has a great ability to find and attract talent.

Ms. Fritz is very knowledgeable and she knows how everything operates and functions. She is innovative and brought in technology to increase efficiency. She is fair, pleasant, and enjoyable to work with. Her decisions are good.

Ms. Fritz is innovative and a change agent but all of her changes create a very efficient organization. She periodically meets with the public and is always very polite and engaging. She listens to what they have to say and is respectful of their opinions. She keeps everyone informed and communicates well.

In terms of leadership Ms. Fritz brings the employees on board, whether they are automating accounts payable or implementing a better time management system. She is always looking to improve the organization. She wants to increase the knowledge and skillset of everyone within the organization.

The Finance department deals with problems on a daily basis. Ms. Fritz was the leader in a city wide initiative to automate the City and implement a new system. She led every aspect and did well. She has top notch financial skills and can pick up a document and analyze it for errors on the spot.

Ms. Fritz accomplishes tasks in a timely manner and she handles stress well. She never shows how she is feeling. When she is under pressure she continues to be pleasant, which is not always the case in the workplace.

The organization has had some controversy and Ms. Fritz was involved due to her position. They wanted to build a police station and did not have the available funds. She negotiated \$20 million dollars from the County, in the midst of the controversy, to fund the project.

They have worked together for many years and Mr. Hoffman has never seen anything in Ms. Fritz's conduct or in her background that was negative. A City Administrator did not want to follow the

Reference Notes
Anne A. Fritz

rules. Ms. Fritz was tenacious and he was let go after she brought his actions to light. This Administrator does not care for Ms. Fritz.

Mr. Hoffman would absolutely hire Ms. Fritz. She is intellectual and will move a community in the direction they need to go. She can absolutely lead a municipality because she is well rounded in her skillset and her forte is finance. She keeps an eye on the finances in the decision making process. She is involved in every aspect of city government in Saint Petersburg. They work hard and have long days at times but working with her has been a great experience.

Words or phrases used to describe Anne Fritz:

- Very intelligent,
- Very pleasant,
- Quick learner,
- Knowledgeable,
- Overall nice person,
- Innovator, and
- Educator.

Strengths: Smartest in government accounting, analytical, looks at something and quickly figures it out.

Weaknesses: While she has always been fair, there have been some times when she came to a conclusion without fully investigating the issue.

Tom Green – Assistant City Administrator, City of Saint Petersburg, FL 727-893-7032

Mr. Green has worked with Ms. Fritz since 2012. He was initially the Budget Director, and as such he was her colleague and did not report to her in this role.

Ms. Fritz's job performance is stellar. One of her strengths is navigating the landscape of financial reporting and keeping the ship running straight.

Hiring quality personnel is one of her strengths, Ms. Fritz has a good ability to identify talent. Other departments commonly hire her employees out from under her. She also knows how to put the team together. She makes good decisions.

While there is not much room for innovation in financial reporting and accounting, Ms. Fritz has been innovative in managing the debt portfolio. She maintains operations at a high level. She interacts with the elected officials regularly and has developed a relationship of trust with them. One Councilmember recently remarked that he would turn his wallet over to her. They have complete and total confidence in her. She always keeps everyone informed.

Reference Notes
Anne A. Fritz

One situation where Ms. Fritz led a team to solve a problem is changing the way they report and capture the hours worked during a natural disaster. She led the team to rework how they account for the hours and are building processes to streamline the reporting process and be reimbursed more quickly. She has had to work with various departments in the process. Also, they had inventory issues during the audit and she coordinated with the departments to address the concerns of the external auditor. On numerous and frequent occasions, she had led all the departments in the city to accomplish a goal.

In terms of financial skills Ms. Fritz is equal to anyone in the country. She meets deadlines and manages stress well. During a big upgrade of the oracle system it was down for two weeks. They had to run payroll immediately after they restarted the system and the process was a little bumpy. The situation was stressful as employees wanted to be paid as expected. She was in the office in the evenings leading up to payday working with the team members to make sure payroll happened on schedule. She was part of the solution and was a leader throughout the process. The audits have always been on time during her tenure, which was not the case before she was hired. She has made significant improvements to the department.

While situations within the city have been controversial and Ms. Fritz has been involved due to her position, nothing related to her personally has occurred. Her conduct is clear of any incident that would concern a reasonable person. There have been some disagreements on how computer applications should be implemented between the Ms. Fritz and the Chief Intelligence Officer but nothing out of the ordinary for an organization of their size. However, Ms. Fritz is typically on the right side of the issue in these disagreements.

Mr. Greene would absolutely hire Ms. Fritz and he believes she would be a good Municipal Manager.

Words or phrases used to describe Anne Fritz:

- Trustworthy,
- Solution oriented,
- Doer,
- Smart,
- Reliable, and
- Detail oriented.

Strengths: She is the very best in understanding how government operates and what they need to do to be in compliance with the ever-changing landscape of government reporting. Meticulous.

Weaknesses: When she is trying to accomplish a task there are some situations where everyone is not on board and getting people to the point where they are on board can be challenging for her. She always wants to go in the right direction but changing the culture can be challenging.

Reference Notes
Anne A. Fritz

Chris Guella – HR Director, City of Saint Petersburg, FL 727-893-7419

Mr. Guella met Ms. Fritz in 2010. She is outstanding in both her technical knowledge and how she has turned the finances around. The City was woefully inadequate prior to her arrival and now it is world class.

Ms. Fritz has hired quality accountants and her decisions in general have been spot on. She led some technology upgrades and was instrumental in her analysis and decisions. She is a change agent in bringing an organization to a high level and then she maintains that level. She overhauled how they conduct their financial business.

The nature of Ms. Fritz's job is an internal service, she does not really face the public. She handles herself well when speaking in Council meetings and working with the administration, elected officials, and employees. She keeps others informed by scheduling meetings when multiple parties are involved, and initiates phone and email conversations on a regular basis.

Ms. Fritz has a strong vision and manages towards the goals of the elected officials. Numerous changes in GASB (Governmental Accounting Standards Board) standards have overhauled how governments need to account for certain things. Ms. Fritz immediately responds to any changes. She organized her staff, kept the appropriate parties involved in what the changes meant, and implemented them to make sure the City was in compliance.

In terms of financial skills Ms. Fritz is outstanding. GASB invited her to be a member because she had such a strong skillset in the field. She accomplishes tasks in a timely manner and was always even keeled when trying to meet a deadline or working in a stressful situation.

During implementations Ms. Fritz did not always agree with the Chief Intelligence Officer in the technical group. They clashed a little at times but Ms. Fritz was right. During these issues she never acted in a way that was detrimental to the organization. Her background is clear of anything that would concern an employer.

Mr. Guella would hire Ms. Fritz and he believes she would be a good Manager. She would be a great asset to any organization that needs to turn their City around from a financial standpoint.

Words or phrases used to describe Anne Fritz:

- Driven,
- Dedicated,
- Intelligent,
- Knowledgeable,
- Experienced, and
- Hard worker.

Reference Notes
Anne A. Fritz

Strengths: Knowledge of accounting principles to keep the government in compliance.

Weaknesses: Hard charger and not all employees are the same. Some might find her overbearing because they cannot keep up the pace.

Dennis Clough – Mayor, City of Westlake, OH 440-781-3300

Mr. Clough has known Ms. Fritz since 2000. He was the Mayor while she was the Finance Director in Westlake. Her job performance was excellent. She was ahead of the curve and implemented what needed to be in place.

They spoke all the time, Ms. Fritz was Mr. Clough’s right hand. They made decisions together as Mr. Clough is a Certified Public Accountant.

Implementing one of the GASB rules was challenging. Ms. Fritz not only implemented the requirement early, she prepared and taught others at the state and national level how to early implement the changes. She was a leader and an innovator in the process.

When Ms. Fritz was hired, they needed to move the organization from a manual operation to a digital one. She led the entire process and did very well. Everyone looked to her for guidance. She always met deadlines by working harder or coming in on the weekends when up against a deadline. She responds very well to stress and never let anything bother her.

Mr. Clough is not aware of anything controversial involving Ms. Fritz. She was very successful because she implemented the change that was desired. However, people do not always like change or being told no, so she may have some detractors but Mr. Clough does not personally know anyone who has a negative opinion of Ms. Fritz.

Mr. Clough would hire Ms. Fritz any time and was disappointed when she left. If she were interested in coming back to Westlake, he would be the first to recommend that they hire her. She will be a good Municipal Manager because she surrounds herself with quality employees. She will be a great asset to any organization.

Words or phrases used to describe Anne Fritz:

- Very intelligent,
- Goal oriented,
- Somewhat of a perfectionist,
- Great right hand person,
- Great advisor, and
- Has a good sense of humor.

Reference Notes
Anne A. Fritz

Strengths: Organization, intelligence.

Weaknesses: Dealing with people at times, she was very adamant about doing things correctly. People do not always like change and she could have led them along a little bit more.

Rob Dispirito – City Manager, City of Rockville, MD 240-314-8102 727-638-4140

Mr. Dispirito has known Ms. Fritz since 1996 when he became the City Manager for Overland and she was the Finance Director for Willard and then for Westlake. She did good work in Willard and excellent work in Westlake. She has worked on the GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association) Board and is known throughout the nation in her field.

Ms. Fritz sees everything in 360 degrees and as such she considers the different elements at play. She keeps herself abreast of current trends because she is intellectually curious and is very engaged at the forefront of knowledge in her field. Not much surprises her because she is well read and well studied. She expertly managed complex financial matters and has given terrific advice in many areas.

Ms. Fritz is on top of everything that she is responsible for, and she is very prompt and responsive. She is very devoted to her work and is heavily invested in her work. Her leadership and management ability will translate well to a municipal management position. She has broad experience and has worked in various types of government including large and small municipalities. She has worked in both a strong Mayor and City Manager form of government. She is flexible, successful, and able to adjust to different structures.

Mr. Dispirito is not aware of any controversies involving Ms. Fritz. She is a great family person and her life has been stable without any unusual or alarming circumstances. She is well regarded by everyone that he knows.

Mr. Dispirito would love to hire Ms. Fritz as his Finance Director but the position has not been open. She is a very loyal and a warm hearted person. She is very interested in what she does and manages her responsibilities well.

Words or phrases used to describe Anne Fritz:

- Experienced,
- Intelligent,
- Professionally creative,
- Good interpersonal skills,
- Resourceful, and
- Great sense of humor.

Reference Notes
Anne A. Fritz

Strengths: Extremely technically proficient, creative in finding legitimate ways to accomplish the goals of the policy makers, nationally known as a professional, brilliant in many areas besides finance, has great experience, works effectively with others, really upbeat friendly and engaging personality, has long tenures with employers, accomplished much, well regarded.

Weaknesses: None identified.

Prepared by: Lynelle Klein
Colin Baenziger & Associates

Section 8

CB&A Internet Research

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Anne Fritz***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Tampa Bay Times (FL)
April 13, 2018

BUCKHORN WANTS NO INVESTMENTS IN GUNS

Author: CHARLIE FRAGO

Mayor Bob Buckhorn announced Thursday he is seeking to shed companies that manufacture weapons or ammunition from the city's nearly \$1 billion employee pension portfolio. The request will be made formally Tuesday at a meeting of the pension board. It comes after a staff review Buckhorn ordered found that these manufacturers account for about \$300,000 of Tampa's approximately \$800 million general employees retirement fund, said mayor's spokeswoman Ashley Bauman.

Buckhorn ordered the staff review weeks ago, she said. The mayor is in Mexico on a trade mission. Buckhorn's announcement comes a day after St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman directed his city attorney to join 10 other cities in suing the state over laws that bar cities from enacting gun-control ordinances. Buckhorn is still pondering whether to join that lawsuit.

Kriseman also announced in late March that he's directed the finance staff to ask for City Council approval of a new investment policy. The change would remove gun-related investments from the \$700 million city-controlled investment fund. Chief financial officer **Anne Fritz** said an initial review has turned up no assault weapons-related investments, except for about \$20 million invested in index funds difficult to track. The change would prohibit future investments, **Fritz** said.

Similarly, Kriseman has asked Morgan Stanley, which invests about \$15 million in holdings in the city's Weeki Wachee fund, to remove a pawn brokerage investment because of its gun-related holdings. That amount is also unknown and subject to council approval, as well, **Fritz** said.

In Tampa, the city's seven-member pension board has a Buckhorn-appointed majority. On Tuesday, they'll take up the mayor's request to rid the fund of the \$300,000 connected to assault weapons and ammunition. Three members are appointed by the mayor. Three more are elected by city employees and the mayor's chief financial officer, Sonya Little, is the seventh member.

Bauman said the mayor believes the time is ripe for "commonsense gun policy" on assault weapons. "Like a majority of gun owners, he recognizes the glaring difference between guns used for hunting or self-defense and those weapons whose only purpose is the killing of human beings," Bauman said. Buckhorn believes Tampa city employees want to stand with the families and victims of Parkland, Sandy Hook, Columbine and other American cities affected by gun violence, Bauman said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Anne Fritz***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Tampa Bay Times (FL)
January 19, 2018

CITY HALL JOB SHUFFLE TAKES SHAPE

Author: CHARLIE FRAGO

Mayor Rick Kriseman's second term has begun with a swirl of retirements and promotions at City Hall. A dozen key staffers were promoted and given raises. A half-dozen high-level officials retired. The changes were announced late Jan. 12 in a news release praising the mayor's hand-picked team for its expertise and thanking the departing veterans for their service. "My congratulations to those being promoted and my best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement to those leaving," Kriseman said in the statement.

Deputy Mayor Kanika Tomalin will become city administrator pending the approval of the City Council. Tomalin will also retain her title of deputy mayor under Kriseman's new lineup. The council is expected to vote Feb. 1, said mayoral spokesman Ben Kirby. City Council chair Lisa Wheeler-Bowman said she thought Tomalin was up to the challenge of holding both positions. "I think she will do a great job with the background she has," said Wheeler-Bowman, who noted that Tomalin has been attending more council and committee meetings in the past few months.

If approved by the council, Tomalin's annual salary will increase by nearly \$4,000 to \$185,000. Gary Cornwell will leave the position of city administrator after four years, capping a 38-year career. He makes \$181,033 a year.

In a memo to the council, Kriseman said he was grateful for Cornwell's "steady leadership and wise counsel" through his first term. Rumors that Tomalin would replace Cornwell have been circulating for weeks. Cornwell told a Tampa Bay Times reporter on Dec. 14 that he had no plans to leave "any time soon." The mayor also announced these other personnel moves:

- Chief of staff Kevin King has a new title: chief of policy and public engagement. He will not receive a raise, however.
- Budget director Tom Greene will take on the role of assistant city administrator, a newly created position. He will make \$162,000 annually.
- Liz Makofske will become budget director. She will make \$117,500.
- Longtime senior city staffer Mike Dove is retiring as neighborhood affairs administrator. He'll stay on until May in a part-time capacity earning about \$16,000.
- Dove is being replaced by Codes Compliance Director Rob Gerdes, who will make \$140,000.
- James Corbett will become Codes Compliance director with a salary of \$112,000.
- Leisure Services Administrator Sherry McBee is retiring.
- Parks and Recreation Director Mike Jefferis will replace her at a salary of \$145,000. Jefferis will continue overseeing the Parks and Recreation Department. No replacement for that department's director slot is planned, Kirby said.
- Nina Mahmoudi will become the marketing director. She will make \$96,509.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Anne Fritz

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

- Chris Ballestra will become interim enterprise facilities director replacing recently retired Clay Smith. Ballestra's salary will not change.
- John Palenchar loses the interim part of his title. He is now the Water Resources director. His new salary will be \$130,000.
- **Anne Fritz** has been named chief financial officer. She had been city finance director. Her salary won't change, either.
- New hire John Rodriguez will become government affairs director replacing recently retired Sally Everett. Rodriguez will make \$90,000.
- Sharon Wright becomes the sustainability and resiliency director. She'll now make \$90,000.
- Walter Miller, marina and port manager, also recently retired.

With so many high-earners retiring, Kirby said the promotions still save the city money: \$101,042 for the balance of the current fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30. Wheeler-Bowman said she'll miss the expertise of the retiring longtime administrators. "Watching Gary(Cornwell) in council meetings.... He knows everything. He was Johnny-on-the-spot. I'm going to miss that," she said, "and I could call Mike (Dove) or Sherry(McBee) with any question and they would know."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Anne Fritz

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Tampa Bay Times (FL)

May 26, 2017

SEWAGE DEBT COULD HARM CITY'S CREDIT

Author: CHARLIE FRAGO

The city needs a lot of money - \$435 million over the next five years - most of it to fix its leaky sewer pipes and aging sewer plants. Without that cash, St. Petersburg could face steep fines for violating a soon-to-be-finalized consent order with the state forcing the city to fix its sewage problems. But the huge price tag comes with financial repercussions: It would effectively double St. Petersburg's overall utility debt, threatening the city's utility bond rating - which is used as a measure of a municipality's credit-worthiness.

That revelation appeared to surprise the St. Petersburg City Council on Thursday. Then the council learned of a Hail Mary plan to try to raise the funds without endangering the city's credit: An obscure state law passed in 2016 allows cities and counties to band together to form an independent bonding authority that would issue a "utility cost containment bond." Those bonds wouldn't be paid back by the city, but by residents directly to the bonding authority from a charge levied to consumers' monthly bill.

Finance director **Anne Fritz** and a consultant laid out the plan, which she said has been done in California but has never been implemented in Florida. Such a solution would preserve the city's utility bond rating - currently a respectable Aa2 - and prevent higher interest rates, which would otherwise be passed along to residents. "We want to do anything we can to protect our ratepayers," **Fritz** said after the meeting, where the council discussed the budget of the beleaguered Water Resources Department, which is at the heart of St. Petersburg's 2-year, 200-million gallon sewage crisis.

Protecting the city's bond rating will save taxpayers some money on lower interest rates, council member Karl Nurse said, but it also functions to keep it off the city's books, giving the appearance of a healthier financial bottom line for the city. "I'm not instinctively in favor of something so complicated that is essentially a maneuver to avoid having the \$400 million that we will owe showing up on our debt load," Nurse said.

Nurse compared it to private sector companies that lease equipment as a way to disguise the capital costs of purchasing it: "It's really an effort to hide that debt." **Fritz** said the city hasn't talked with any other cities or counties yet to see if there is any interest in joining forces with St. Petersburg to form this bonding authority. "It's very, very preliminary," she said. But plenty of Florida utilities should be interested, she said. "Believe me, we are not unique," **Fritz** said of the city's ballooning debt burden.

The bonding authority would likely get a AAA bond rating because of its structure, she said, which would save taxpayer money through reduced interest rates. One possible path to salvation? The Penny for Pinellas.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Anne Fritz

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

If voters approve the next decade of the county's 1-cent sales tax in November, the city would have a big chunk of that debt reduced thanks to revenues generated by the city's share. "Part of what makes this obviously complicated is a \$90 million question mark with the Penny," Nurse said.

That's why the city won't approach bonding agencies this year. There's too much uncertainty surrounding such a large bonding request, the pending state consent order to worry about and the Penny vote. That makes taking out a \$120 million bank loan the preferable option for the upcoming fiscal year, said City Administrator Gary Cornwell, which starts Oct. 1. "It's essentially a bridge loan," Cornwell said.

The hope is that the bank loan will give the city a year to set up the bonding authority, which has to be approved by the City Council and the decisionmakers for whichever other municipalities join in - assuming any do so. **Fritz** said it's uncharted territory: "Nobody has done it yet."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Anne Fritz

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Tampa Bay Times: Web Edition Articles (FL)
December 10, 2015

Group to protest St. Petersburg's investments in fossil fuels

Author: Times staff

ST. PETERSBURG — As diplomats try to reach an agreement in Paris about how to limit the adverse effects of climate change, a St. Petersburg activist group will gather at City Hall on Friday to protest the city's investment in fossil fuels.

Awake Pinellas will hold a demonstration at the steps of City Hall at noon asking the city to divest in any investment in fossil fuels, said organizer Kofi Hunt. State Rep. Dwight Dudley is scheduled to speak.

Anne Fritz, the city's finance director, said the city's \$450 million investment portfolio has about \$5.6 million in energy-related bonds — or about 1 percent. Those bonds will mature by 2017, meaning unless the city buys more fossil fuel-related bonds, it will be divested in two years.

That total doesn't include the city's pension fund, which is controlled by a separate board, or about \$20 million in index funds, which track broad trends in the market, **Fritz** said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Anne Fritz

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Tampa Bay Times (FL)
September 26, 2014

ST. PETERSBURG CLOSER TO UNIVERSAL CURBSIDE RECYCLING

Author: CHARLIE FRAGO

Curbside recycling moved closer to reality Thursday as City Council members advanced a proposal to buy new trucks and containers using a \$6 million loan. The money would buy seven trucks and 80,000 recycling containers, but the details of when the program will start and how much it will cost remained unanswered. Some council members said they were uneasy about approving the loan before hearing the details of the program - still being finalized. But City Administrator Gary Cornwell promised to deliver at least an outline of how the city plans to provide the service at next Thursday's council meeting.

Meanwhile, the city needs to move quickly to lock down a bargain bank loan, said **Anne Fritz**, city finance director. Hancock Bank's \$6,075,000 loan at 1.44 percent interest over eight years was a great deal for the city, she said. In the end, the City Council's Budget, Finance and Taxation Committee unanimously approved going ahead with the loan - the latest twist in a delayed campaign promise of Mayor Rick Kriseman.

In February, the administration rolled out a plan to get recycling bins to all of the city's 76,000 households, removing the dubious honor of being the last large city in Florida not to offer universal curbside recycling. A few months later, the mayor shifted from his position of outsourcing the collection of recycling bins when sanitation workers said they could do the job more cheaply than an outside contractor.

Then in July, no companies responded to a city request for a contractor to sort and process the recyclables. The city is still negotiating to hire a contractor, Cornwell said. Still unclear is how much residents will be charged for the service. That is still being finalized too, Cornwell said. Earlier in the year, Kriseman proposed \$3 a month for the service, but that was when an outside contractor would have handled the collection and processing. Collection would be every other week as the city assesses the demand for the service, Cornwell said.

Council member Karl Nurse asked why the city needs to borrow money when it has plenty of cash in reserves. **Fritz** said the interest rate on the loan was so low she was confident she could buy bonds that would earn more money for the city. Other council members said they would advance the plan, but wanted more details before they formally approve the loan next week. City officials should provide a timeline on when they plan to move to weekly pickups and reach certain tonnage amounts, said council member Darden Rice.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Anne Fritz***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Tampa Tribune, The (FL)
August 22, 2014

**Council may put city money in stock market
Officials want to invest in funds with higher yield, but also more risk**

Author: CHRISTOPHER O'DONNELL

Frustrated at small returns on low-risk investments in U.S. treasury bonds and fixed-income securities, some City Council members have been pushing for the city to invest a portion of some long-term funds into shares of well-established corporations with a track record of paying large dividends.

ST. PETERSBURG — City officials are getting ready to play the stock market.

Frustrated at small returns on low-risk investments in U.S. treasury bonds and fixed-income securities, some city council members have been pushing the city to invest some funds in well-established corporations with a track record of paying large dividends. The first step is likely to be an investment of \$20 million from the city's water stabilization fund, an endowment-like fund established from the proceeds of a sale of well fields to Tampa Bay Water. The \$80 million principal in the fund earns an average rate of interest of 1.27 percent, a return that effectively means the city is losing money once inflation is taken into account, Councilman Karl Nurse said. "We have a policy that guarantees that, after inflation, we will always lose money," Nurse said. "There are high-quality dividends that will pay at least three times what we're earning."

Returns on investment would go toward reducing the cost of residents' water bills. The city likely would use mutual funds to spread investments over a number of companies. Investment decisions would be made by an investment consultant. Guidelines for investments are being reviewed by the city's investment oversight committee and must still be approved by city council. Of course, as the oft-used disclaimer has it, the value of investments can go down as well as up. St. Petersburg was one of thousands of investors that took a hit when Lehman Brothers crashed in 2008. The city initially lost about \$15 million that was invested in Lehman corporate bonds. The city sued its then-financial adviser Wachovia Bank and Wachovia owner Wells Fargo in 2010, claiming it was misled to invest in Lehman and that Wachovia took no action to protect the city even after Lehman bonds were downgraded. The city agreed to an \$11 million settlement with Wells Fargo in 2013.

City Finance Director **Anne Fritz** stressed it would be only a small portion of the more than \$400 million that the city has tied in low risk investments that would be transferred into higher-yield mutual funds. "We don't want to put the city at risk if there was some kind of market correction," she said. Another concern is that future councils may pull the plug on investments and sell their portfolio if share prices take a dive and they receive negative publicity as a result. "This policy is being adopted knowing that day will come, but hoping a future city council doesn't panic and sell low," Councilman Jim Kennedy said. The city already invests the principal from its Weeki Wachee fund in equities. Proceeds from the investment are used to pay for

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Anne Fritz***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

enhancements to city parks. Other funds that could be considered for higher-return investments include the city's insurance fund, which is used for worker's compensation claims. "We're trying to do it very selectively," **Fritz** said.

ST. PETERSBURG — City officials are getting ready to play the stock market.

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Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Anne Fritz

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

St. Petersburg Times: Blogs (FL)
May 14, 2010

St. Petersburg names new finance director

Author: Times Editor

ST. PETERSBURG -- **Anne Fritz**, the director of finance for Westlake, Ohio, has been named the city's new director of finance.

City Administrator Tish Elston announced the appointment today, which is also the last day for Jeff Spies, who resigns after 23 years with the city. Although lauded by Elston as a top financial adviser "who contributed greatly to the financial leadership and fiscal well-being of the city," Spies oversaw a controversial securities lending program that drained roughly \$15.8 million from city coffers. Last month, the city filed suit against Wachovia Bank in an attempt to recoup the lost revenue.

Elston conducted a national search and interviewed seven candidates for Spies' replacement. Since 2000, **Fritz** has been Westlake's finance director, overseeing that city's investments, accounting and financial reporting, budgeting, labor negotiations, auditing and debt management. She starts on June 14. Thomas Hoffman, the city's controller, will serve as interim finance director.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Anne Fritz

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Plain Dealer, The (Cleveland, OH)
December 15, 2005

With raise on agenda, Westlake reveals mayor's pay

Author: V. David Sartin

Mayor Dennis Clough was paid \$116,812 last year — about \$4,800 above his base pay.

City Council is considering legislation to increase the pay of non-union city workers, including top administration officials, by 4 percent, retroactive to Jan. 1, 2005. The amount of the raise for Clough is left blank in the current legislation. Current pay for the mayors in neighboring Avon, Bay Village, North Olmsted and Rocky River ranges from \$70,000 to \$89,000. Westlake Finance Director **Anne Fritz** declined to release Clough's current pay when The Plain Dealer reported Dec. 3 on the proposal for a pay raise. Clough and **Fritz** have not returned telephone inquiries regarding Clough's pay. However, **Fritz** on Wednesday released documents in response to a request under Ohio's public records law.

Clough, who took office in 1986, apparently earned \$4,812 in longevity pay because he has continuous employment with the city, the records showed. The documents also indicate he accumulated as much as a year's pay in unused sick leave by the end of 2004, and eight weeks in vacation pay. The documents were released after a third records request, made to the city on Monday. In response to a records request filed Dec. 2 for wages reported to the IRS, **Fritz** said Clough's federal W-2 was not a public record. In response to a Dec. 5 request for documentation of all wages or salaries paid in any form to Clough, **Fritz** said wages reported to the IRS were \$92,640, without producing a document. On Wednesday, she did not explain the discrepancy.

City Council may discuss the pay ordinance, proposed by the Clough administration, tonight. The initial proposal could grant a retroactive pay raise for 2005 and another in 2006 for the mayor. Council President Michael Killeen said the matter will be discussed in January. A city charter provision allows pay raises for the mayor, but blocks decreases. City spending and budgets became an issue in the election this year after challenger Joe O'Malley suggested Westlake has too much money. He argued that an accounting system set up by the Clough administration set aside as much as \$75 million in special accounts. Clough contended the system is smart management, allowing the city to borrow money for only a few projects. Westlake has one of the highest bond ratings of any city in Ohio and Clough was recently named a top administrator in Northeast Ohio by a magazine publisher.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Anne Fritz

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Plain Dealer, The (Cleveland, OH)

June 21, 2005

Charter amendment sought to cut Westlake taxes

Author: Patrick O'Donnell

Westlake – Voters might have the chance to cut their city taxes this fall. School Board member and mayoral candidate Joseph O'Malley has started a petition drive to change the city charter and reduce the taxes that the city can charge. The proposal would amount to cutting taxes \$86 for a \$100,000 home. But O'Malley says he does not intend the charter amendment as a tax cut. He wants it to clear the way for voters to pass school taxes without seeing an increase in their overall tax bills. Voters defeated a school tax in the May election, and the school board has not decided whether it will seek a tax in November or wait until next year. "The city collects too much money in property taxes," O'Malley said. "That is essentially taking money from the schools because the schools rely on the property tax."

The proposed cut would cost the city \$3.8 million a year, according to Finance Director **Anne Fritz**. She and Mayor Dennis Clough said the loss would force the city to cut services or dig into money it has saved to avoid borrowing for long-range projects and equipment purchases. "I would hope that it does not have a chance of passing," Clough said. "It would devastate the finances of the city." O'Malley said he seeks to collect 538 signatures from registered voters to force the issue onto the November ballot.

City Council candidates Carol Corpus and Joe Kilbane are working with O'Malley on the proposal, which was announced last week. O'Malley has stirred controversy in Westlake the last few months with his repeated claims that the city should use its sizable reserves to help the schools. O'Malley campaigned against the proposed school tax increase in May, saying that tax-sharing between the city and schools would solve much of the problem. Last month, O'Malley also discovered that the district has failed to collect a small amount of property tax it was entitled to for at least 40 years. His latest proposal would reduce the taxes allowed under the city charter from a rate of 8.7 mills to 5.9 mills. Taxes collected under the charter are exempt from inflationary caps that the state has for most other taxes. Westlake also collect taxes outside the charter millage.

Clough and **Fritz** disputed O'Malley's claims that the city has \$75 million in reserves. **Fritz** said that the city has \$53 million in reserves and that most is restricted by law to specific uses. Less than \$7 million is available for general use. For example, she said, about \$10 million is from sewer fees and can only be used on sewer projects. Almost \$6 million, she said, comes from impact fees paid by developers and can be used only for storm drainage and park improvements.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Anne Fritz***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Plain Dealer, The (Cleveland, OH)

June 3, 2005

Westlake schools losing thousands in tax oversight

Author: Patrick O'Donnell

The school district has failed to collect millions of dollars in taxes over the last 40 years apparently because officials did not understand they were entitled to the money. Just this year, the oversight cost the district \$130,000, or more than half of a projected \$220,000 deficit for the next school year, officials said. School board member Joseph O'Malley, who earlier this year set off a controversy by saying the city could give up taxes to help the schools, found the discrepancy and brought it to the board last week. "Nobody knew this was going on," said O'Malley. "It's not going to solve all the problems, but it can help."

The district has not yet decided if it will collect the money for next school year. A public hearing on charging the higher amount will be at 7 p.m. June 22 at board offices, 27200 Hilliard Blvd. The oversight involves millage, the unit of measurement used in Ohio to determine property tax bills. For homeowners, 1 mill equals \$30.63 per \$100,000 of property value. In Westlake, the state guaranteed the district a property tax of 5.9 mills in the 1930s, but the district has collected that tax at a 5.8-mill rate since at least 1962. The 0.1-mill difference is a fraction of the 27.41 mills the district collects and amounts to \$3.06 for the owner of a \$100,000 home.

District Treasurer Mark Pepera said he found no record back to 1962 of the district intentionally lowering its tax rate. Pepera said he will continue to search for an explanation. "Nobody was aware of this," he said. "Not the schools. Not the county Budget Commission. . . . We're thankful Mr. O'Malley brought this to our attention." Lawyers for the district and Cuyahoga County have not yet determined whether the city may have been collecting the 0.1 mills from a pool of taxes the city and district share. O'Malley, who is running for mayor against incumbent Dennis Clough, said the schools should get back years of that tax from the city. Shelley Wilson, administrator of property tax for the Ohio Department of Taxation, said recovering the money would be unlikely. State law allows only one month to appeal such errors.

City Finance Director **Anne Fritz** said the city charges the property taxes set in the city charter. The city would have charged residents the same amount, whether from the school portion of the pool or not, she said. If the city or some other taxing authority is improperly receiving the money, the district will likely take it back, Pepera said. If not, the district must decide whether to collect the additional money. To do so would amount to raising taxes without voter approval.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Anne Fritz

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Plain Dealer, The (Cleveland, OH)

July 22, 2003

Westlake developer wants help with bonds Crocker Park plan poses a measure of risk for the city

Author: Sarah Treffinger

Westlake - A private developer wants the city's help in obtaining about \$74 million in bonds for the Crocker Park development. A proposal being considered by City Council could cost the city money if construction plans fall apart. Some council members are wary, but other officials have described the risk as minimal. Council could vote on the issue July 30. Mayor Dennis Clough told council last week that the administration has done all that it can to "pretty much eliminate the risk to any taxpayer dollars." Crocker Park, LLC - led by Robert L. Stark and John J. Carney - proposes to create a downtown center with offices, restaurants, shops and residences on 75 acres on Crocker Road, south of Detroit Road. Under the agreement, negotiated over four months, the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority would issue the 32-year bonds and construct parking garages, streets and utilities to serve the development.

Law Director David Harbarger and Finance Director **Anne Fritz** said the deal would work like this: Money from special assessments imposed by the city would be collected from the developer and be paid to the port authority. The assessments, estimated at \$4.5 million to \$5 million a year, would pay off the bonds. If the developer failed to complete the first phase of the project by Dec. 31, 2005, and the city collected no money from the developer, two reserve funds would provide enough money to make bond payments for 3½ years.

A trustee would administer the funds, one containing money from bond proceeds and the other covered by a surety bond from the developer. A letter of credit from the developer would cover another year of payments. The city would be asked to appropriate money if the reserves fall short, the developer fails to pay assessments and efforts to foreclose on the property yield no proceeds, said Virginia Benjamin, bond counsel to the port authority. If the city refused to contribute, its Aaa bond rating would be lowered, said Matt Stuczynski of NatCity Investments, Inc. At a meeting last Tuesday, Council President Michael Killeen said that only a "strange set of circumstances" would lead to the use of public money for the project.

Fritz said the city's obligation would end when the developer completes the first phase. At that point, the bond holders would remain at risk.

Benjamin said the developer must satisfy several conditions for the bonds to be issued. They include getting tenants to commit to at least 60 percent of the leasable ground-floor retail space, investing \$50 million in the project and getting bank financing.

Councilman Ken Brady said the deal is good for the developer, who would benefit from a lower interest rate on the bonds. But he questioned why the city would agree to the deal. "We're risking taxpayers' money, we're risking the city's Aaa bond rating and there's no advantage to the

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Anne Fritz

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city," he said. Brady also said he worried about setting a precedent for dealing with other private developers and questioned whether Crocker Park will live up to residents' expectations, especially in terms of retail. Christopher Noble, vice president of development for Stark Enterprises, said the developer "will not cheapen the standards of quality one iota."

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