



“I like knowing what’s going on in my city and making a difference in my community.”

Lori Lavorato
Civil Service Commission

Meet Lori Lavorato! She is a retired Des Moines police officer who brings a unique perspective to the West Des Moines Civil Service Commission. As a second term Commissioner, Lori’s commitment to equality and fairness makes her one of our standout volunteers. Thank you, Lori, for making our city government more transparent and a better place to work for our employees and staff.

When did you move here?

Lori: My husband and I moved here in 2005.

As a volunteer Civil Service Commissioner, what is the most important part of your job?

Transparency and fairness.

What is the purpose of the Civil Service Commission?

To provide a harmonious and efficient public service which protects the interests of the City of West Des Moines as well as its employees and to ensure the city is following all federal and state laws. We meet twice a month with the City Human Resources Department making sure that personnel management and policies and procedures are conducted fairly.

Do you also meet with city employees?

If a city employee would like to meet with the Civil Service Commission, we meet with them as well. We want to engender a positive workplace environment for everyone, which makes for happier employees and a more efficient government.

As a Civil Service Commissioner, do you ever get involved in hiring specific city employees?

We do participate in hiring some positions, such as the Fire Chief and the Police Chief, to ensure that the process is open, fair and in compliance with the law.

Why do you volunteer for the Civil Service Commission?

I want to make sure the hiring and management practices of the city are fair and that they comply with anti-discrimination laws. I like contributing to my community.

Are there any specific skills you need to serve on the Civil Service Commission?

A strong belief in justice and anti-discrimination, a commitment to donate your time, and some experience in government is helpful.

How do you apply to become a Civil Service Commissioner?

Go on the city website and [apply](#). When there is an opening, you will be contacted. It’s a Mayor-appointed volunteer position.

Do you volunteer in other organizations?

Yes. My husband, Nick, and I have two daughters – Talia and Giana – and I coach their softball teams.

Do you have a job?

After retiring as a police officer, I became a realtor and teach Criminal Justice at Des Moines Area Community College.

What's your guilty pleasure?

Watching “Forensic Files” and University of Iowa football, and treasure hunting at thrift stores.

What's on your bucket list?

Visiting all the different Civil War battlefields.

What is something most people don’t know about you?

I can juggle and I can ride a unicycle.

