

Planning Commission Application

02/06/2026 12:51 PM (MST)



Full Name	Maria Elvira Camargo
Are you an Erie resident?	Yes
Are you under the age of eighteen?	No
Are you currently serving on the commission you are applying for?	No
Home Address	1230 Sunrise Drive, Erie, CO 80516
Email	maria.camargo@summawork.com
Primary Phone Number	3057944603
Employer	SummaWork
Job Title/Occupation	Administrator/Owner
Have you ever been employed by the Town of Erie?	No
Do you work for or own a company that does business with the Town of Erie?	No
What is your highest level of education completed?	Masters Degree or Higher
Why are you interested in serving on the Planning Commission and what specific talents or expertise do you bring if appointed?	<p>I am interested in serving on the Planning Commission because I care deeply about the long-term health, livability, and cohesion of our community. As someone who lives in and is invested in this community, I value planning that reflects both current needs and future generations. I believe thoughtful planning plays a critical role in balancing growth, sustainability, and quality of life, and I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to that process in my hometown.</p> <p>Professionally, I bring over a decade of experience working in complex systems within healthcare and public service environments, where my role often involved analyzing information, listening to diverse stakeholders, and facilitating thoughtful, data-informed decision-making. I hold graduate degrees in public affairs and public health, which have given me a strong foundation in policy analysis, systems thinking, and the consideration of both short and long-term impacts of decisions.</p> <p>In addition to technical skills, I bring strengths in facilitation, collaboration, and clear communication. I genuinely enjoy connecting with people and supporting constructive dialogue, even when perspectives differ. I strive to help create environments where discussions are respectful, productive, and, when possible, positive and engaging for everyone involved. I approach decision-making with care, curiosity, and a commitment to serving the broader community rather than any single interest.</p>

I see service on the Planning Commission as an opportunity to contribute my skills in listening, synthesis, and stewardship to help support thoughtful, well-considered outcomes that benefit the town as a whole.

Have you served on another board/commission in an advisory capacity? If so, please describe the board and what made serving in that capacity a good experience? What were the major concerns or issues?

Yes, I have served in several advisory and governance roles across different contexts. I was a board member of my homeowners association in Miami, where the work focused on community operations, shared resources, and balancing individual concerns with collective responsibilities. I also served on the board of the Nassau Institute in the Bahamas, a public policy think tank, where discussions centered on research, policy perspectives, and long-term societal issues. In addition, I participated on the Maternal and Child Health advisory board at UC Berkeley, which brought together academic, public health, and community perspectives to inform programmatic and policy-related decisions.

Across these roles, what made serving in an advisory capacity a positive experience for me was the opportunity to listen to a wide range of viewpoints, contribute my own perspective, and work toward shared understanding and common ground. I value collaborative processes and thoughtful dialogue, particularly in settings where there are differing opinions and strong interests at play.

The primary challenges in each of these roles were navigating differences in priorities and perspectives. I found these situations constructive rather than discouraging, as they required careful listening, clear communication, and a focus on the broader purpose of the group. These experiences strengthened my ability to engage respectfully with disagreement, support productive discussion, and help groups move toward balanced, and effective results.

Please describe a situation where you were working with a small group and disagreed with the direction of the project, what did you do? What was the result?

In my role as a Performance Improvement consultant at Kaiser Permanente, I frequently facilitated small, multidisciplinary groups during rapid improvement events focused on healthcare operational issues. These events typically lasted five full days and brought together participants from diverse roles, including executives, managers, frontline clinical and non-clinical staff, administrative teams, and operations.

In several instances, some participants wanted to take a different direction based on their own personal perspectives, particularly when proposed solutions did not fully address root causes or align with the defined objectives of the improvement effort. Rather than advocating for what made sense to me, my role as facilitator was to focus on maintaining a clear, structured process grounded in Lean methodology.

Encouraging open discussion, ensuring all perspectives were heard respectfully, and guiding the group back to shared goals, data, and agreed-upon decision criteria when opinions diverged. By adhering to the improvement process, the group was able to evaluate options objectively and select solutions that were both effective and broadly supported.

The results of this approach were measurable improvements in both process and outcomes. Teams achieved clearer workflows, reduced inefficiencies, and improved operational metrics such as turnaround times, error reduction, or service reliability, depending on the project focus. Just as importantly, the process led to strong participant buy-in, with stakeholders understanding not only what decision was made, but why it was made.

These experiences reinforced for me the importance of structured process, data-informed decision-making, and respectful dialogue when navigating disagreement within a group.

If you were appointed, what goals would you like to see

If appointed, my primary goal would be to support a Planning Commission that functions as a cohesive, respectful, and effective team in service of the community. I

accomplished on this board or commission?

believe the quality of the process and working relationships within the commission directly affects the quality of its decisions.

I would like to contribute to an environment where members feel comfortable sharing their perspectives, where discussions are thoughtful and well-facilitated, and where disagreements can be addressed constructively. A collegial and collaborative dynamic not only makes the work more productive, but also strengthens public trust in the commission's work.

In addition, I would hope to contribute to the Commission's decision-making process that includes careful consideration of data, policy guidance, and public input, as well as a shared commitment to transparency and fairness.

Overall, my goal would be to be a part of a commission that works well together, communicates clearly, and produces decisions that are both practical and aligned with the long-term interests of the town.

What do you think are the most important planning and land use issues facing Erie? What insights could you bring to the Commission's deliberations and recommendations?

Erie is experiencing rapid growth, which brings both opportunity and responsibility. One of the most important planning and land use issues facing the town is ensuring that growth is thoughtful, well-paced, and aligned with the community's long-term capacity and values. This includes careful consideration of how new development impacts infrastructure, schools, traffic, public services, and overall quality of life.

As the town continues to grow, I believe it is important to avoid development patterns that prioritize short-term building activity without sufficient attention to supporting systems. Planning that integrates housing, transportation, schools, utilities, open space, and community services will help Erie grow in a way that remains welcoming, connected, and functional for both current and future residents.

Another important consideration is maintaining a balance between growth and preservation, protecting community character, open spaces, and environmental resources while accommodating new residents and economic development. Clear planning standards and thoughtful land use decisions can help achieve this balance and provide predictability for both residents and developers.

In terms of the insights I could bring to the Commission's deliberations, my background in public affairs, public health, and systems-focused work allows me to view planning decisions through a holistic lens. I am accustomed to considering downstream impacts, asking how individual decisions affect the broader system, and supporting data-informed, collaborative discussions. I would aim to contribute a perspective that emphasizes long-term thinking, cross-sector impacts, and decision-making that serves the overall health and resilience of the community.

Upload resume and additional documents (optional)



Maria E Camargo resume .pdf

Please read and agree with the following statement

I certify that the facts and statements contained in this Board and Commission Application are true and correct.

I further understand that false statements shall be sufficient cause for rejection of this application.

I further certify that I have not been convicted of a felony under the laws of the State of Colorado or in another jurisdiction.

I understand that falsification, omission or misrepresentation will result in a rejection of this application. Any falsification, omission or misrepresentation is evidence of perjury in the second degree.

If I become a Board or Commission member with the Town, this form is valid for the period of my term with the Town and the crime records may be updated periodically at the discretion of the Town.

I understand that this application is considered a public record and subject to the Colorado Open Records Act.

I Agree Yes

If appointed to the Planning Commission, I agree to follow the Erie Municipal Code, the Comprehensive Plan, and other applicable laws. Yes

All board and commission members must follow the rules and regulations in the Erie Municipal Code as well as the Town's policies related to harassment, anti-violence, and technology use. Yes

Acknowledgement Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Darrigo".

Maria E. Camargo

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Public Health Institute at Denver Health, Denver, CO

Manager, Performance Planning

October 2024 – October 2025

- Led strategic planning, quality improvement, and performance management initiatives that streamline patient intake processes and optimize staff workflows.
- Implemented a data-driven system to match patients' social determinants of health needs with community resources, enhancing overall care delivery.
- Coordinated targeted training and coaching programs to build leadership capacity and foster a culture of continuous improvement.
- Managed cross-functional projects, including clinical workflows and strategic committee facilitation, within Denver Health's Public Health Institute, collaborating closely with clinical areas to drive operational excellence

SummaWork, Danville, CA

Consultant

August 2022 – October 2024

- Implemented Lean-based performance improvement systems at hospitals in the San Francisco Bay Area, enhancing operations in perioperative, med-surg, and ICU departments.
- Collaborated with executive leadership and department managers to institutionalize daily huddles that improved patient care, workflow efficiency, and staff satisfaction.
- Developed and administered a Care Experience assessment for Northern California medical centers to drive regional quality improvements.
- Provided consulting services to small medical practices in the Bay Area, streamlining operations, improving patient care, and empowering staff with tailored performance improvement solutions.

Kaiser Permanente, Walnut Creek, CA

Service Unit Manager, Optometry

August 2021 – August 2022

- Managed day-to-day operations across six clinics and an eyecare call center, ensuring high-quality, patient-focused services.
- Improved the Diabetic Retinal Screening rate from 27% to 40% in 3 months and to 56% within 6 months through process optimization.
- Oversaw and resolved human resources, labor relations, and safety concerns, while developing and managing departmental budgets and fostering continuous staff development initiatives.

Kaiser Permanente (Various Roles)

November 2016 – August 2021

- **Administrative Manager / Senior Consultant:** Directed KP's first drive-through COVID vaccination clinic, leading planning and operations across three sites and

administering 15,000+ doses. Developed alternative care strategies, including in-facility screening and disaster preparedness using Lean and design tools.

- **Senior Consultant, Performance Improvement:** Facilitated daily huddles and Lean improvement events for the Ambulatory Surgical Unit and associated departments, enhancing process efficiency and overall patient experience during facility transitions.

Earlier Roles:

- **Nurse-Family Partnership (California Lead, Business Development Manager; March 2014 – June 2016):** Leveraged strategic alliances to expand service capacity by 20% and secure a \$750K budget increase, enabling the recruitment of four additional nurse consultants and advancing statewide nurse home visit programs.
- **Program Manager, CalHIPSO (Oakland, CA; June 2012 – November 2013):** Oversaw EHR implementation at Local Extension Centers and assisted in managing a \$7M program budget.
- **Contract Compliance Roles (Miami-Dade County & City of Miami, FL; 2006–2010):** Ensured compliance with federal, state, and local regulations for community service agencies and city departments.
- **Owner, Educacion Inteligente (Miami, FL; September 2004 – May 2006):** Led a consulting team in designing educational programs for pregnant mothers and young children.

EDUCATION

Enric Corbera Institute – Barcelona, Spain

Master in Bioneuroemotion, August 2025

Accredited by Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico

- Focused on the relationship between emotional processes, personal perception, and health outcomes. Applied integrative methodologies from neuroscience, psychology, and emotional well-being to support individual and organizational transformation.

University of California, Berkeley, School of Public Health – Berkeley, CA

Master in Public Health, Maternal and Child Health, May 2012 | GPA: 3.91 • Graduate

Student Instructor, Policy and Practice in Public Health

Indiana University, School of Public and Environmental Affairs – Bloomington, IN

Master in Public Affairs, Policy Analysis, May 2002 | GPA: 3.75 • Teacher Assistant, Public Health Administration

Universidad Catolica Andres Bello – Caracas, Venezuela

Bachelor of Science, Major: Economics, July 2000

SKILLS & INTERESTS

- **Technical & Analytical:** Proficient in Epic; advanced skills in MS Excel, Word, and PowerPoint, AI fluent
- **Languages:** Bilingual in English and Spanish
- **Interests:** Avid reader, hiker, marathon runner, and cyclist