

# Spencer Winkle

Palm Desert, California | 760-574-3311 | spencerbwinkle@gmail.com

May 10, 2019

Fran Mancía  
Vice President of Government Relations, Western Region  
1400 K Ste, Ste 301  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Dear Mr. Mancía:**

I am excited to apply to the Wes McClure Scholarship.

I am continuing my academic development by pursuing a Master's in Public Administration through the University of Southern California's (USC) Sol Price School of Public Policy. I chose to enroll in the online setting because it affords me the flexibility to further my education while continuing to work and grow professionally. Currently, I have completed six units with a 4.0 GPA.

Previously, I attended California State University, San Bernardino for my undergraduate studies and graduated cum laude, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Administration with a concentration in Management.

I look forward to discussing my experiences with you more in detail. I can be contacted by email at spencerbwinkle@gmail.com or over the phone at 760-574-3311.

**Respectfully,**



**Spencer Winkle**

My aspirations to be a public administrator stemmed from an early age. When I was younger, I would go to various city halls with my father, a roofing contractor, to obtain building permits. To this day, he advises me not to be a contractor, but to be on the other side of the counter - issuing permits. I am pursuing a Master of Public Administration at USC Sol Price School of Public Policy because my goal is to mentor future public administrators. Graduate school is an opportunity for me to develop leadership skills that extend beyond merely managerial abilities, and this experience will help to establish my credibility as a public servant. The Wes McClure Scholarship will help me undertake this opportunity.

Being diagnosed with cerebral palsy encouraged me to help others. Working for the City of Indian Wells taught me that local government is an outlet for accomplishing this. I admire municipalities' ability to enact public policy with a direct and visible impact. During my undergraduate studies, I have also been able to apply skills from the workplace in the classroom. My professional experience taught me how to resolve issues from a broader perspective. Similarly, my academic experience has taught me how to manage my time more wisely. The combination of these experiences has prepared me for larger challenges that lie ahead.

In the short-term future, I see myself holding a position where I would utilize my generalist skill set. This will allow me to work in multiple departments within an organization. One of my career goals is to be in a position that does not limit me to a specific department. I want to spend the first few years of my career not limited to one specific department, so I can build a well-rounded skillset that will allow me to make informed decisions involved in any aspect of local government. For the long-term, I want to take a role that is responsible for public policy formation and promotion of organizational development. Public policy provides possible solutions to problems facing society. Promoting organizational development increases agencies' efficiency and productivity. I want to implement public policy because I hope to strengthen communities' trust in local government. I want to promote organizational development because increasing productivity will help change peoples' perception of government. More specifically, I want to work at a municipality because I want to be able to see a direct visible impact of my work in both areas. Working at the local level will also mean my work will not get tied up in bureaucracy.

Throughout my life, I have received assistance and accommodations for my cerebral palsy and this has inspired me to want to help others. The United Cerebral Palsy Foundation's tagline is "Life without Limits." This statement resonates with me in everything I do in my life, ranging from taking exams in college to completing various projects in my internship. Having cerebral palsy has taught me to accept situations that are out of my control and inspired me to change the ones I can. I have also learned that the choices I make, and not my disability, define me. When I was younger, I wanted to join the military because I knew I wanted to make a difference. Eager to learn more about career possibilities, I spoke to a recruiter and learned that cerebral palsy was a disqualification. Instead of letting this discourage me, I shifted my focus to working for the government where I still have an opportunity to achieve my goal of making a difference.



April 30, 2019

**Subject: Referral Letter for Spencer Winkle for the Wes McClure Scholarship**

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great excitement and honor that I recommend Spencer Winkle for the Wes McClure Scholarship. I have had the pleasure of knowing Spencer for over three years when he was hired into the intern program established through the Executive Management at the City of Indian Wells, California.

Spencer began his internship under the City Manager and City Clerk performing various clerical and administrative duties. It soon became apparent that Spencer possessed abilities far exceeding the tasks assigned and had a natural progression and appetite towards research. His intuitive thought process aided him when the City Engineer tasked him to map and capture the City's Capital Assets throughout the City using GPS Trimble Geo7x and document data into the Terrasync program.

Spencer's desire to expand his knowledge, his genuine willingness to help in any capacity, and his can-do attitude have opened opportunities for him to work in different departments and vastly exposed his knowledge to City government operations. He worked under my purview in the Building and Safety Department where he was tasked to create a log of all archived plans and documents in preparation for third party scanning and retention to electronic media. Spencer's technical and organization skills were instrumental in coming up with an appropriate method to log and track the plans and documents for records retention. In addition, Spencer is a quick learner and his attention to detail has allowed him to learn and apply the permitting aspects in the Building Department where he is trusted to work in a Permit Technician capacity assessing fees and issuing permits for construction.

Spencer has a tremendous interest in local government operations, and I believe that his abilities and experience make him a good candidate for the Wes McClure Scholarship. Spencer works well with other City staff and has gained the respect of the management staff.

I'm available to answer any questions you may have, or further discuss Spencer's abilities and qualifications. I can be reached at (760) 776-0230 or at [cdegroot@indianwells.com](mailto:cdegroot@indianwells.com).

Sincerely,

Craig DeGroot  
Building Official  
City of Indian Wells

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C DeGroot", is written over the typed name.

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La Quinta, May 10, 2019

**CALIFORNIA CITY MANAGEMENT FOUNDATION**  
P.O. Box 221537, Newhall, CA 91322

**RE: Letter of Recommendation:** Mr. Spencer Winkle

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is my great pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Mr. Spencer Winkle as I am in the position to provide a holistic perspective of his professional and academic aptitude. I had the pleasure of knowing and observing Mr. Winkle in my capacity as a Professor at California State University San Bernardino - Palm Desert Campus and in my capacity as Mayor Pro Tem for the City of La Quinta.

Mr. Winkle attended a course I teach every fall quarter titled Business & Society which explores the nature of business ethics, corporate social responsibilities and intersection of business and government in the context of public policy. I was very impressed by Mr. Winkle passion for Public Administration, his understanding of local and state government and his ability to analyze and dissect complex issues in society at the highest level of the Bloom's Taxonomy. I view Mr. Winkle as an individual that is not only eager to learn and contribute to his community, but also as someone seeking to turn challenges into opportunities.

While students can be successful in my class in most assignments, there are two written assignment requiring a higher level of critical reasoning. I was very impressed by Mr. Winkle presentation of his final paper concerning PEPRA. He was able to deliver a critical assessment of a very complex issue to an audience that was not well versed on the topic. While I was ready to chime in to support him in his delivery, he didn't need any assistance. He presented with authority, with an exquisite logical flow while showcasing the implications of PEPRA in the context of the course's subject matter. Mr. Winkle is an outstanding student, hard-working, thoughtful and insightful.

Mr. Winkle's has exhibited robust academic aptitude. I find him to be an individual of integrity with intellectual honesty and intellectual curiosity worthy of someone earnestly pursuing higher education. He was always an active participant in classes, exhibiting high level of engagement, and the ability to raise appropriate questions with impeccable timing.

Mr. Winkle refuses to be daunted by challenging coursework; rather, when confronted with complex issues, he simply devotes himself and seeks further clarification until he has a firm understanding.

**ROBERT RADI, PhD, MBA**  
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Additionally, Mr. Winkle has made good use of his time by gaining substantive practical experience. He has qualified as an intern at the City of Indian Wells and he has gained experience working in the public sector. I was also well impressed by his involvement with the University, through his participation at advancement events and volunteering.

As an elected official, I can attest that local governments need individuals like Mr. Winkle. If you need any further information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Robert Radi, Ph.D., MBA  
Adjunct Professor of Business and Management  
California State University San Bernardino  
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