

Brian Steele
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March 13, 2024

Ozark Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors
1471 W. South St
Ozark, MO 65721

Dear Board Members,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write to recommend Chris Russell for the position of President/CEO for the Ozark Chamber of Commerce. Having served as the Mayor of Nixa, I have had the privilege of witnessing Chris's remarkable contributions to our community, especially through his roles on the Nixa City Council, as President of the Nixa Chamber of Commerce, and his engagement with local businesses, non-profits, and regional partners.

Chris has demonstrated exceptional leadership and strategic vision in every role he has undertaken. His tenure on the Nixa City Council was marked by innovative approaches to governance and a deep commitment to the community's welfare. As President of the Nixa Chamber of Commerce, Chris led with distinction, fostering significant growth and strengthening our business community. His ability to cultivate partnerships across various sectors is unparalleled, making him an invaluable asset not only to our city but to our region.

His work with local businesses and non-profits reflects his adeptness at building relationships and his unwavering dedication to community service. Chris's efforts have not only contributed to the prosperity of Nixa but have also laid a strong foundation for future growth. His public speaking skills, fiscal responsibility, and strategic mindset align perfectly with the key competencies required for the President/CEO position.

Chris's visionary leadership and commitment to excellence have left a lasting impact on both of our communities. I am confident that he will bring the same level of dedication and innovation to the Ozark Chamber of Commerce, driving its mission and objectives forward. Chris possesses the experience, skills, and character to excel in this role and to contribute significantly to the Chamber's success.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information or insights into Chris's many qualifications.

Sincerely,



Brian Steele
Former Mayor, City of Nixa

To the Ozark Chamber of Commerce—

Recommendation for Chris Russell

I have known of Chris for a long time because he graduated from Nixa High School with my oldest son, but I never really got to “know” Chris until I worked with him on Nixa City Council and when he called and asked me to work for him when he was the director at the Nixa Chamber of Commerce.

When Chris coordinates an activity, he wants everything to be done correctly and as efficiently as possible. I had previously worked at the Nixa Chamber of Commerce and Chris had a pretty new staff who had never put together the Nixpo event that is held in March, so he called and asked me to step in and help as I had worked the Nixpo event many times when I worked at the Nixa Chamber.

Working with him, I discovered that he is a man of vision and someone who has boundless energy. Any event he coordinates is carefully thought out to make it as successful as it can be. He is good at assigning jobs to individuals according to their strengths and tirelessly works to keep everything running smoothly. I have worked many events under his leadership and can truly say they all could not have gone better.

Chris asks a lot of his staff because he asks a lot from himself. When he is employed by some organization, he gives himself fully to them. If Chris is chosen to be the new director of the Ozark Chamber of Commerce, I don’t think there would be any conflict with any other Chamber in the area because he would work to make the Ozark Chamber of Commerce the best representative of the Ozark business community. I know in the past he even mentioned wanting to have the Nixa and Ozark Chambers work together to make them the best Chambers in the region.

As I said, he is a man of vision, and I think he could help the Ozark Chamber come up with a vision for the future that it would make it a dynamic Chamber again, and he would do everything in his power to make this happen. Please consider hiring him as the new director for the Ozark Chamber of Commerce. It is a decision that you will not regret.

Sincerely,

Darlene Graham



From the Office of the Mayor

P.O. Box 395
715 W. Mt. Vernon St.
Nixa, MO 65714
Office: 417-725-3785

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to wholeheartedly recommend Chris Russell for the position of CEO at the Ozark Chamber of Commerce. I have had the privilege of knowing Chris for over twenty years, during which time I have witnessed his unwavering dedication and exceptional contributions to the community of Christian County.

Throughout his career, Chris has demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to serving others. His tireless efforts have significantly impacted countless businesses in Christian County, earning him widespread respect and admiration within the community. Chris possesses a profound understanding of economic development, coupled with a keen insight into business retention and expansion strategies. His extensive experience and wealth of knowledge in these areas make him an invaluable asset to any organization.

What truly sets Chris apart is his genuine passion for community development and his innate ability to inspire positive change. His leadership has been instrumental in fostering growth and prosperity in Nixa, and I have no doubt that he will bring the same level of dedication and vision to the Ozark community.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Chris is a person of integrity, compassion, and honesty. He approaches every endeavor with a sense of purpose and a genuine desire to make a difference in the lives of others. His integrity and strong moral compass make him someone you can trust to lead with honesty and transparency.

I wholeheartedly endorse Chris Russell for the position of CEO at the Ozark Chamber of Commerce. His track record of success, coupled with his unwavering commitment to community service, make him the ideal candidate to lead the chamber into a bright and prosperous future. I am confident that Chris will excel in this role and make a lasting impact on the Ozark community.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information regarding Chris's qualifications or suitability for the position.

Thank you for considering Chris Russell for this important role.

Sincerely,

Jarad Giddens | Mayor of Nixa
jgiddens@nixa.com | 417-725-3785

To whom it may concern,

I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Chris Russell on several occasions. My involvement with Sertoma Clubs in our community, as a local business owner working with The Nixa Chamber, and my recent roles assisting City Government have given me more opportunities through the years to work alongside Chris. His commitment to the Ozarks is second to none. As a leader, he is strong and dedicated to success. As a public speaker, he commands your attention with an enthusiasm that simply can't be matched. As a project planner or event organizer, he puts his entire soul into every aspect of the process. His knowledge of video production and editing software along with his experience in Radio and Public Presentation gives him an edge over many candidates. The countless hours this man has spent alongside me to help support amazing and charitable causes for the betterment of our community can't even be quantified. I truly respect Chris Russell and I am proud to endorse and recommend him for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Hartsock, President (30 years)

Innovative Sound, Inc.

120 S. Main St., Nixa, MO 65714

Direct: 417.840.9191

CCCC Sertoma Club

Director / Event Coordinator (12 years)

4CSertoma.com

Nixa Downtown Revitalization Committee / Co-Founder, Vice President (8 years)

<https://downtownnixa.com>

City of Nixa

-District III Home Rule Charter Commissioner (2019)

-Home Rule Charter Commissioner / Chairman (2022)

-Board of Adjustments / Chairman (2022 – Present)

March 12, 2024

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to recommend Chris Russel.

I have known Chris for 10 plus years and have nothing but positive things to say. His work as a Team Leader in Keller Williams helping his team achieve and his work as the CEO of Nixa Chamber of Commerce helping Nixa to thrive was outstanding. He is collobative, personable, innovative, and a strong leader.

He was responsible for many great results in the time he led the Nixa Chamber by increasing the membership, leading the way for the Chamber to purchase their own building, and changing the Sucker Day Celebration to a large community event just to name a few. As a small business leader in the Nixa Chamber he was always available and willing to help our business grow by offering special training, networking, and events that showcased our businesses in the community.

I believe he would be a great addition to any team and wholeheartedly recommend him.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Best Regards,



Linda Daugherty
Chief Operating Officer
Academy of Hair Design & BeVelle Barber School
417-425-8500

315 Trout Road
Ozark, MO 65721
Csnyder.ozark@gmail.com

RE: Chris Russell Reference

To Whom it may concern:

This letter is in support of Chris Russel. I met Chris Russell when I was a cadet with the Nixa Fire Department around 1992. I was reacquainted with Chris when he served on the Nixa City council, while serving as President of the Ozark Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. I have known Chris for many years and had the pleasure to collaborate with him on multiple projects that have benefited the Christian County community. Chris has many key marketing skills and a sincere desire to enhance and enrich the communities in Christian County and southwest Missouri. During Chris tenure as CEO and President of the Nixa Chamber I served on the Show Me Christian County executive board and watched him develop the marketing and media relations for the Nixa Chamber while launching new innovative programs, expanding local events, and contributing to Nixa downtown revitalization. Chris would be a great asset to any organization bringing an extensive background of leadership skills, media relations, community development and true passion to succeed in any endeavor in which he is involved.

Ozark Chamber Board of Directors Past President

Ozark City Council Alderman

Show Me Christian County Executive Board

Ozark Booster Club Board Member

LRS – Director Municipal and Governmental affairs

Jason Massengale 201 Village Center Nixa Mo. 65714. Jmassengale@kw.com 417-830-7951
3/12/2024

Dear Ozark Chamber Board,

I am writing to offer my strongest endorsement for Chris Russell as he pursues the position of Director of the Ozark Chamber of Commerce. Having had the privilege of working closely with Chris both at Keller Williams, where he served as CEO/Team Leader, and at the Nixa Chamber of Commerce, I can attest to his exceptional leadership qualities, business acumen, and unwavering commitment to success.

Throughout our professional collaboration, I have consistently been impressed by Chris's drive to excel in every endeavor. His relentless determination to win and succeed sets them apart as a standout leader in any capacity. He approaches challenges with a strategic mindset, always seeking innovative solutions and pushing boundaries to achieve extraordinary results.

One of Chris's greatest strengths is his keen intelligence and deep understanding of business dynamics. He possesses a remarkable ability to analyze complex situations, identify opportunities for growth, and implement effective strategies that drive organizational success. His proven track record of growing organizations speaks volumes about his capability to lead with vision and foresight.

In addition to Chris's impressive professional achievements, he is also an exceptional collaborator and team player. He fosters a culture of inclusivity, respect, and innovation, empowering those around him to thrive and contribute their best efforts. He leads by example, inspiring others with his unwavering dedication, integrity, and passion for excellence.

I am confident that Chris possesses the skills, experience, and leadership qualities needed to excel in the role of Director of the Ozark Chamber of Commerce. His unique blend of drive, intelligence, and proven success make him an invaluable asset to any organization, and I have no doubt that he will make a significant and positive impact on the Ozark Chamber of Commerce and the broader community.

Thank you for considering Chris Russell for this important position. Should you require any further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jason Massengale

ROBERTS & EASLEY, LLC

Attorneys at Law

Attorneys
Joshua K. Roberts
Kevin A. Easley

2202 West Chesterfield Blvd., Ste. 100
Springfield, Missouri 65807
417-881-1076
417-881-3273 fax

Sender's Email: jroberts@robertsandeasley.com
Website: www.robertsandeasley.com

Paralegals
Candice C. Huett
Rachel Underwood
Shana M. Moraga

March 11, 2024

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of Stephen Christopher "Chris" Russell. I have known Chris my entire life as we are both lifelong residents of Nixa. There are few people that I have ever known with as much passion for Southwest Missouri as Chris Russell. His time with the Nixa Chamber of Commerce was marked by excellent advancement of the businesses in the Nixa community. As the President of Nixa Public School Board, I had the privilege of meeting with him on a monthly basis in a group that consisted of the mayor, superintendent of public schools, city administrator, fire chief, and other community leaders as we worked together to make Nixa the best it could be.

Specifically, Chris was primarily responsible for the resurrection of Nixa Sucker Day activities, as he turned what was an event slated for cancellation into a thriving arts and crafts event the community could rally around. Truly a remarkable achievement that Chris Russell was unquestionably primarily responsible for. Frankly, I was saddened to see the loss of Chris Russell in his role with the Nixa Chamber of Commerce and would be quite jealous if Ozark were able to procure his services for their own. Be that as it may, I can unquestionably recommend Christopher Russell for any Chamber of Commerce position he would apply for in any community. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

ROBERTS & EASLEY, LLC



Joshua K. Roberts

JKR/ch



March 13, 2024

To Whom It May Concern;

Please accept this as my personal and professional recommendation of Chris Russell for the Chief Executive Officer position with the Ozark Chamber of Commerce. I have known Chris both personally and professionally for many years. Through this time, he has stood out as a leader in the community. I have watched him work diligently in his past role with Nixa Chamber of Commerce and have worked with him in two arenas – Nixa Chamber of Commerce and community involvement.

Chris Russell assisted me with site selection on a couple of projects in Nixa and facilitated meetings with City of Nixa personnel. Because of his direct involvement, Morelock Builders is making a \$75 million investment in the City of Nixa. His active participation was meaningful and appreciated. While I was initially skeptical of Nixa's capacity to embrace these projects, Chris encouraged both parties to come together for the mutual benefit of the community.

Chris has repeatedly reached out to keep me engaged in a variety of community initiatives. From invitations to Sucker Days to a roundtable in women's leadership, Chris' work at keeping business leaders engaged has been evident over my years of working directly with him.

As an active community member myself, I am confident that Chris Russell meets the high standards this position requires. If I can answer any further inquiries in support of Chris' candidacy, please reach out. 417-849-8834

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Crystal Webster', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Crystal Webster
Chief Executive Officer



WISEBUILT
CUSTOM HOMES BY AUSTIN MILLER

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this letter of recommendation for Chris Russell in any professional setting.

I have had the pleasure of working directly with Chris for 8 years. At the Chamber of Commerce, I was under his leadership as he launched a committee for Nixa Young Professionals. Again while on the steering committee for the Nixa men's group, XMIN, I worked closely with Chris on weekly basis. Before that, while he was leading Keller Williams, I held my real estate license there and was always impressed with his ability to elevate agents to be their best.

Chris has the leadership, mind, and energy to be at the forefront of any organization. He puts others first, and is a man of high integrity. He has lead well the business setting, community setting, and business development setting. He is a high quality individual that will not let you down.

I highly recommend him and endorse Chris Russell.

Austin Miller,
Wise Built Homes, Owner
President, Home Builders Association of Greater Springfield

LENDING **DONE RIGHT**

307 S West Street, Suite 200
Nixa, MO 65714
Office: (417) 300-8844
Fax: (818) 304-7141
CA DRE 02161431 NMLS 2179063

March 1, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to recommend Chris Russell. I have known Mr. Russell since 2020, and I have always been impressed with his professionalism, dedication, and positive attitude.

He has been a dedicated member of the community and has shown himself to be an important asset to any team he is on.

He has always been dedicated to serving our community, especially through their work with Nixa Chamber of Commerce as well as so many other local community organizations.

During his time there, he was able to bring in new members and increase attendance at events.

He is a great leader who can motivate others through his enthusiasm and kindness.

Chris Russell would be an excellent addition to any team! Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding this recommendation letter.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Anderson

Broker and Mortgage Loan Specialist

(818) 564-8333 cell {accepts texts}

NMLS 398706

CA DRE 01930271

