



ELECTION OF SHERIFFS FOR THE CITY OF LONDON - 24TH JUNE 2021

CANDIDATURE OF ALDERMAN ALISON GOWMAN

To the members of the Livery of the City of London

My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am honoured to have been nominated by the Court of Aldermen to take on the role of Sheriff and am writing to elicit your support on 24th June at Common Hall. With your encouragement, I will employ all my time in working to bolster this great City, to enhance its global reach and champion its financial excellence.

The past year has had an indelible impact on everyone and my thoughts and prayers are with all of you who have suffered through Covid 19 or related difficulties and are still uncertain of your future direction.

I was born in Essex, the daughter of a Methodist Minister, and my father's vocation led to some childhood itinerancy including a year in California. However I always had my sights on working in the City and the buzz and excitement that this would bring and which still thrills me after 40 years. Solicitors' articles in EC3 were the starting block for a professional career as a real estate lawyer with the firm that is now DLA Piper UK LLP – one of the largest international law firms in the world. My senior experience of commercial work gives me the knowledge to be able to influence the sustainable recovery of the City as businesses now re-plan and repurpose their property needs.

For the last 30 years I have been an elected member of the City of London Corporation – first as a member of Common Council and now as an Alderman since 2002 – in both roles representing the great Ward of Dowgate. I have served on many committees including as Chair of the City Bridge Trust (the City's charity) and member of the Police Authority Board. I bring a wealth of knowledge as to how the City Corporation works and want to ensure that these links and networks are used to the best advantage in my role at the Old Bailey, as well as in championing the City's good purpose and relevance.

With a legal background I am well briefed to work with the Recorder and Judges at the Old Bailey and see the engagement with them and the wider legal world as a key component of my work. I sit as a Magistrate and have a good working knowledge of the criminal justice system, matched with my experience on the City Police Authority Board and my professional career. The Rule of Law can trip off the tongue but its outworkings and importance to the City and UK business is immeasurable. I want to enhance that understanding and reach.

I have been an early adopter and champion of many issues but none closer to my heart than that of sustainability. Green Finance is key and as Vice Chair of the Green Finance Institute I can now represent further the importance of this to the City in the run up to COP26 and thereafter. Businesses are addressing their carbon footprint ahead of regulatory compliance but this is an issue for us all. I am glad to have pioneered the Livery Climate Action Group that is now planning to help the Livery understand and act where needed – whilst showcasing the existing good practices.

I am a Past Master of the Glovers and the Plaisterers and have their full support as I step up to this role. I am also a Court member of the Chartered Surveyors, a Solicitor and Honorary Upholder and Fueller. I am also a Past President of the City Livery Club and Vice President of the Royal Society of St George (City of London branch). Whilst living in the City I still find time for my love of cross country skiing, visiting Norway annually. Walking at pace around the City will be my main exercise in the coming year and this will keep me grounded in the City's many green spaces. A love of the theatre and especially Shakespeare is marked with my own paving slab at Shakespeare's Globe. I have commissioned a special tweed for my year in office, designed by Romney Tweed CIC and made from excellent Romney wool.

I am excited at the thought of the challenges and opportunities that lie in the year ahead and how much can be achieved through the strength of our collaboration.

I have the honour to be, my Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, your obedient servant

Alderman Alison Gowman

www.alisongowman.org

Published and promoted by Henry Pollard of The Garden Cottage, Milland Lane, Liphook, Hampshire GU30 7JN
on behalf of Alison Gowman of 382 Shakespeare Tower, Barbican, London EC2Y 8NJ.