

# First applicant for vacant council seat

Betty Kesovia Bobeda, a lifelong Watsonville resident, is the first person to apply for the Watsonville City Council seat vacated by the death of Johnny Kacsmaryk. She filed a resume and letter with the City Clerk's office yesterday afternoon.

Kacsmaryk had indicated when he became ill that he would prefer Bobeda, his appointee to the Human Relations Committee, as his successor on the council.

Bobeda, 55, a wife and the

mother of two grown children, works as a shipping clerk at RomaKool Berry Cooling.

Besides the Human Relations Committee, she also served on the 1990 Census Committee and was recently named to the advisory group for redrawing the city's district boundaries.

Bobeda has been involved with a number of community groups, including serving as chairman of the Apple Annual Parade.

A 1954 graduate of Watsonville's

Notre Dame High School, she later earned a bachelor's degree in biology at the College of Notre Dame in Belmont.

Bobeda said in her letter that her goals on the council would include supporting downtown businesses; providing affordable housing for young families; supporting programs for senior citizens; and preserving agricultural land and the food processing industry.

With 60 percent of the city's population being Hispanic, she

said, it is important that Hispanic voices be heard and that the Hispanic community's needs are met.

Bobeda said she hasn't been able to attend many Human Relations Committee meetings because of work responsibilities. But her employer has recently hired extra help, so she would be able to attend council meetings, she said.

Applications for the post will be accepted through Wednesday, City

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Clerk Lorraine Washington said. Applicants must live in District 7, which is bounded by the city limits, East Lake Avenue, Blackburn Street, Beach Street, Lincoln Street and Riverside Drive.

The City Council will interview candidates in an open forum scheduled for April 16. Whoever the council appoints will have to run for election in November if he or she wants to remain on the council.