

From: [Alexander Cooke](#)
To: [CPC Applications](#)
Subject: Cleveland Community Police Commission Application
Date: Saturday, May 7, 2022 5:35:45 PM

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Submitted on Sat, 05/07/2022 - 17:35

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

First Name

Alexander

Last Name

Cooke

Are you a resident of Cleveland?

Yes

Home Address

City

CLEVELAND

State

Ohio

Zip Code

44113

Are you over 18 years of age?

Yes

What is your gender identity?

Male

What do you consider your race?

White

What do you consider your ethnicity?

White

Most recent place of work, job title, and address

Cleveland Institute of Music

Professor

11021 East Boulevard

Cleveland, OH 44113

Selection Criteria

1. I teach a class on contemporary issues in music, in which we examine the intersections of societal, cultural, and historical issues that have informed the creation and reception of music, including the history of race relations in the United States.

2. In 2012, my father's then-girlfriend was shot to death in a murder/suicide by her estranged husband.

Have you been employed as a law enforcement officer during the past five (5) years?

No

Have you ever been employed by the Cleveland Division of Police in any capacity?

No

Have you ever been employed by the Cleveland Department of Public Safety?

No

Do you understand the role of the Commission and the responsibilities of its members?

Yes

Do you acknowledge the potentially significant time commitment expected of each member?

Yes

Do you understand that applications for the Commission are public records, subject to disclosure upon request?

Yes

Do you understand that your social security number may be required to conduct a background check if you are selected as a finalist?

Yes

Do you speak any other languages?

No

Please state your reasons for desiring to serve on the Commission.

As a lifelong resident of the Cleveland and Greater Cleveland area, I am someone who is

deeply passionate about the city and the well-being of its citizens and larger community. It troubles me deeply to see the continuing issues between the Cleveland Police and citizens, often with deadly results, and as someone who believes in objectivity, empathy, awareness of how complex issues inform relations, and as someone who has seen continued degradation of the aforementioned relations, I think it is clear that the current model is ineffective and the need for independent oversight is stronger than ever.

Please describe any skills, life experiences, and expertise that would qualify you for an appointment.

As someone with a master's in math, I am extremely data-driven and logically oriented. On the other hand, as someone who teaches classes that examine complex interactions of culture, history, law, and societal norms, I am well-versed in how these complex mechanisms and systemic structures inform and influence individual events. Lastly, with a degree in psychology, I am well-versed in the behavior of individuals. I believe that my data-driven training, in combination with an understanding of broader history and culture and understanding of individual behavior help me to see these issues from all sides.

Please describe how you see the oversight role of the new Community Police Commission impacting policing in Cleveland.

I see the role of the new Commission as having two main aims. The first is at the level of individual incidents, in providing evaluation of and feedback on such incidents and related subsequent events, as well as recommendations regarding and ordering of action to correct inappropriate punishments, retaliation, decisions, and/or remediations, or lack thereof.

The second level is at the broader scale and takes a proactive stance as opposed to the reactive evaluation of individual incidents. This means engaging with disenfranchised communities, developing policies, increasing accountability, eliciting public feedback, improving training, and improving community relations. The ultimate goal is that individual incidents are greatly reduced or eliminated through the implementation of these broad-scale services and policies.

Please provide other information you consider pertinent: (i.e., civic and community group, memberships, related work experiences and professional groups).

As someone who has lived in the Cleveland area, earned his degrees in Cleveland, and currently works in Cleveland, I am both deeply passionate about the city and my fellow citizens and well-versed in its history. Much of my current academic work revolves around issues of racism and sexism and its intersections with culture, society, and history. My background in math and psychology also inform my ability to objectively evaluate data and understand human behavior. That being said, as a white man, I also understand my position of privilege and work tirelessly to learn the perspectives and experiences of others and to amplify disenfranchised voices.

I also serve on the Title IX Task Force at the Cleveland Institute of Music. I would love nothing more than to serve the city and its citizens. I see this as an opportunity to make a deeply meaningful contribution. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss my application further. Thank you for taking the time to consider me.