

From: [Gregory Wheeler](#)
To: [CPC Applications](#)
Subject: Cleveland Community Police Commission Application
Date: Tuesday, April 5, 2022 10:56:11 PM

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Submitted on Tue, 04/05/2022 - 22:56

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

First Name

Gregory

Last Name

Wheeler

Are you a resident of Cleveland?

Yes

Home Address

City Cleveland

State

Ohio

Zip Code

44108

Are you over 18 years of age?

Yes

What is your gender identity?

Male

What do you consider your race?

Black

What do you consider your ethnicity?

African American

Most recent place of work, job title, and address

Sunbeam School

11800 Mt. Overlook

Cleveland, Ohio 44120

Planning Center Instructional Aide/Social Emotional Learning Coordinator

&

Collinwood High School

15210 St. Clair Ave.

Cleveland, Ohio 44110

Head Football Coach

Selection Criteria

I am African American.

I have experience working with distressed families as a former Social Service Worker for the Cuyahoga County Division of Children & Family Services. We engaged families in various form of crisis including mental health, abuses, neglect, dependency and drug related issues. I also teach Social Emotional Learning for distressed youth for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. Those students and their families often have similar backgrounds of those whom I serviced at CCDCFS.

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?

Yes

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.

I believe that the commission needs to have persons who understand the concerns of the constituency of the city of Cleveland. I've known people who feel they have been mistreated by police, but I've also seen the police misunderstood and maligned by the public and the media. We need objective, fair and open minded people who can apply laws and standards with a common sense approach. It is something I am passionate about because it is imperative that police and community relations improve so our city can prosper.

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

I am a former Institutional Guard for the Cleveland Division of Police (1996-2000). I was trained for the position at the Cleveland Police Academy. I had to follow the rules and General Police Orders while employed at CPD.

I come from a law enforcement family. My father and uncle are retired Cleveland Police detectives and several cousins also served on CPD. Police policy and application was a regular discussion among relatives. Even though they were police officers they could empathize with the fairness presented to suspects. They were also aware of the negative culture among some officers within CPD toward minorities and other groups.

I am used to working with various segments of the public. For the last 17 years I have worked with CMSD students and their families. Some have had the misfortune of being involved in the criminal justice system. The mental health and social skills of many of these young people and their families are often a barrier to having positive relations with their neighbors, law enforcement and other community entities.

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

I believe that the board has a clear mandate by the citizens of Cleveland to bring fairness to investigations and hold law enforcement accountable when warranted. The Community Police Commission must instill public trust that all investigations will be fair and impartial. If the board functions as designed, trust can be restored for both the public and CPD.

The CPD has been mandated to change through the consent decree. Much of the change revolves around attitudes and culture. The Community Police Commission can assist with the paradigm shift inside the CPD.

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

Institutional Guard
Cleveland Division of Police
1996-2000