

From: [Jerry Billups](#)
To: [CPC Applications](#)
Subject: Cleveland Community Police Commission Application
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Submitted on Thu, 04/28/2022 - 12:00

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

First Name

Jerry

Last Name

Billups

Are you a resident of Cleveland?

Yes

Home Address

City

Cleveland

State

Ohio

Zip Code

44111

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

Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court,
Intervention / Diversion Specialist
9300 Quincy Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio
44106

Selection Criteria

I am an African American who has lived the majority of my life in Cleveland. During my teenage years I did experience numerous contacts with law enforcement officers. Most of those interactions were positive however there were many that were combative and abusive. Although I have never had any criminal charges or arrests I was still often treated as if I were a criminal. While in college during the finals week of my senior year at the University of Toledo I was stopped for an apparent traffic violation, I did mistakenly turn right on red when that turn was not allowed. I stopped and shortly thereafter I was arrested for possessing drugs. I was asked in an interrogating type of conversation sitting in the back on the police car if I could give them a name of anybody to turn to get myself out of this. When I did not provide them a lie I was booked into the Lucas County jail. Eventually I was exonerated but that experience highlights my experience in dealings with law enforcement.

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.

I am a person who really wants to see positivity in the world. I did believe this commission was necessary very early on, but I did want to make sure I had gained enough information prior to the election/vote. I was able to be in the audience at the City Club for a discussion from both side of the Commission. I was also able to meet with Police Officers as well as the President of the CPPA to gain as much knowledge from their perspective as possible. In the end I did believe that this commission is necessary.

I would put the same energy into fulfilling my role on the Commission to help guide the process after considering all information available with an open mind and fair consideration. I do believe that our city and surrounding cities would become much better once we are able to become a society where the people can absolutely trust law enforcement, and law enforcement can absolutely trust the people.

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

I have the unique ability to process information from all sides without emotion. I understand the importance of fairly considering all information equally. In my life I have been the teenager/young adult who was harassed by officers, and now as an adult I am able to speak to many officers to shed light on certain challenges. As a young profession I worked in a gang outreach and prevention in Slavic Village. I have been a Juvenile Probation Officer for 10 years and currently as an Intake/Diversion Officer I have years of experience reading and processing police reports. I have years of experience of working with young people who are adamant they did not commit a crime. I further have the experience of working with those young people in the months and years following the incident in question and observing how one incident could effect a young person and at times an entire family or community. I take my work extremely serious. I speak to my co-workers and supervisors daily, I speak honestly and truthfully about how we handle situations and how we could be more effective.

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

I do see the Community Police Commission having a tremendous and positive impact on Cleveland Police. I have had numerous opportunities to speak my councilman several times and he told me that Cleveland Police has been in the process of transforming for some years and the new younger officers are being trained to do things in a much better way. I believe the statement and with that being said I further believe that knowing there is a real checks and balance system in place here Officers will be less likely to intentionally wrong someone. I believe citizens will develop more of a sense that a fair body will consider conduct in a fair and timely manner. I believe that eventually both sides will be better off as a result. I also believe the initial considerations will go a long way to decide how soon the positive impact is felt by the citizens and the officers alike.

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

First, I am an active resident in my community ward 16. I have been part of the conversation / solution to curbing violence within our local parks. My family has helped with St. Paul AME

pass out and distribute food throughout the community. I have organized grassroots meetings in parks and even at my home where neighbors could come together and discuss concerns and solutions to challenge that effect the neighborhood. For these meetings we had Brian Kazy join one we also had Bride Sweeney join for another. My family earned nomination for Cleveland Public Library Unsung Hero's for the work we did in the community in 2020. I am part of the initial group to start the Cleveland Peacemakers Alliance to help curb gang violence. I have now worked at Juvenile Court for 12 years in Probation and now Intake/Diversion. I am a person who wants the best for Cleveland and I am not married to any one way of achieving the best. Thanks for my consideration.