

From: [John Adams](#)
To: [CPC Applications](#)
Subject: Cleveland Community Police Commission Application
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Submitted on Fri, 04/29/2022 - 10:16

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

First Name

John

Last Name

Adams

Are you a resident of Cleveland?

Yes

Home Address

City

Cleveland

State

Ohio

Zip Code

44135

Are you over 18 years of age?

Yes

What is your gender identity?

Man

What do you consider your race?

Black

What do you consider your ethnicity?

Black

Most recent place of work, job title, and address

Chair, Social Studies Department
Cleveland School of Science and Medicine
2075 Stokes Boulevard
Cleveland, OH 44106

Selection Criteria

Several elements of the Community Police Commission criteria apply to me. I am a racial minority who works closely with Cleveland youth. As a PhD. in African American history, with a specialty in Civil Rights and gender, I am well-informed and will bring expertise to the commission that will enrich discussions and our understanding of complex situations and issues. Personally, I have family members who have struggled with mental health, substance abuse and incarceration. Members of my family and former students have been victims of gun violence. The combination of my personal experience and professional training qualify me to fairly serve on this commission.

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 interested in serving on the commission because I believe that I am capable of being impartial and fair. The objective of the commission is accountability and transparency, not to demonize the police. I am a historical resource that can help the commission to understand the larger context behind the difficult issues we will undoubtedly have to address. Furthermore, I care about the safety of the Cleveland community, as well as that of law enforcement. We should protect them as they protect us, but we must also ensure that there are not different rules for different people. My goal is to foster better relations between the police and different communities because there is a disconnect, and a divide in dire need of repair. I believe that I have valuable knowledge, and a depth of personal and professional experiences that make me an asset to the Commission.

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

As an African American male, I have had a wide-range of experiences with law enforcement. I am an educator and a PhD. in history. Part of my research addresses the history of law enforcement and the Black community. One of my first professional jobs was working in the District of Columbia's juvenile detention facility.

We were the first charter school to establish a school for incarcerated youth in the entire nation. That job allowed me critical insight into the challenges law enforcement face daily. I understand the nuances of policing and will work to help others on the commission to view the issues we will have to address in complex ways. Personally, I believe that every person has a right to have their thoughts and opinions heard. More perspectives in the room increases the likeability that we will come to a decision that is appropriate and fair. My 8 years working with Cleveland youth give me a perspective that is valuable and needed. The combination of these experiences make me an ideal candidate for the Commission.

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

The Community Police Commission has the potential to not only transform Cleveland, but also the nation by potentially becoming a model for other cities and municipalities. Appropriate and transparent oversight of the police creates an opportunity to restore the damaged relationships between law enforcement and communities in Cleveland. I see the oversight role as one in which we will closely examine often controversial events and situations, and the community will look to the Commission to be fair, equitable and just. It is critical that the Cleveland community's perception of law enforcement is that, like normal citizens, they too are not above the law. Again, the goal is not to demonize the police, but to hold them accountable to ensure community confidence in law enforcement. I am sure that there will be instances where we conclude that police actions were appropriate and justified, and the community may disagree. In those instances, it is up to us as a selected Commission to communicate clearly with the City of Cleveland about our recommendations. This may require public hearings and public relations, but that is also a part of the job of serving on the Commission. We too must be held accountable.

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

In addition to being an educator since 2007, I am active in several communities and organizations. I have been a panelist for the City Club of Cleveland, and spoke to the State Board of Education regarding issues like education reform and Critical Race Theory. I am a member of the Cleveland Association of Black School Educators (CABSE) and Black Men

Teach. Furthermore, I work with organizations like the Thurgood Marshall Oratorical Debate Commission (TMOD) and have forged a brother relationship with Orange High School. I have served as the Department Chair of Social Studies at Bard High School Early College and Cleveland School of Science and Medicine for the past 8 years. I am one of the most active social studies teachers in Cleveland and will bring my passion for the youth and justice to the commission.