

From: [Virginia Beckman](#)
To: [CPC Applications](#)
Subject: Cleveland Community Police Commission Application
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Submitted on Thu, 04/14/2022 - 19:16

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

First Name

Virginia

Last Name

Beckman

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?female

What do you consider your race?

caucasian

What do you consider your ethnicity?

not Hispanic/Latinx

Most recent place of work, job title, and address

Lorain County Safe Harbor/Genesis House

I'm the Executive Director

PO Box 718

Lorain, OH 44052

Selection Criteria

The organization I work for is a domestic violence center, focused on the civil-rights issue of gender based violence.

I've worked in homeless and domestic violence shelters throughout my entire career. Some shelters I've worked for in Cleveland are the Salvation Army Women and Children's Shelter, The PASS Program, Family Promise of Greater Cleveland, and The Journey Center for Safety and Healing (back when it was called Women Together).

Where I work now, in Lorain County, there is a significant Latinx population. I partner closely with community leaders who represent the Latinx population and actually recently took part in advocacy regarding accessibility for monolingual Spanish speakers in the city of Lorain.

Clients we serve were being turned away by Lorain Police when there wasn't a Spanish speaking patrol officer on duty. I requested and had a meeting with the Safety Service Director of the City of Lorain to discuss this.

Working in shelters, I've always served people who sometimes have the issues of mental-illness and substance-abuse disorders.

Additionally, I have also advocated (in court and in the community) for victims of domestic violence whose partners have been police officers.

Of course, I've knows too many women who have been killed through gun violence, as the presence of a gun in the home makes a victim of domestic violence three times more likely to be the victim of domestic homicide.

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 have lived in the Cleveland area my whole life. I spent years as a child in the West Park area, and moved back to this area a couple years ago, after spending some years in Olmsted Twp. I attended Cleveland State University, and hold Cleveland very close to my heart. I would love an opportunity to use some of the skills and knowledge I've acquired throughout my years in leadership and social justice work to better this city that I love. Cleveland can be a great city. We have some work to do to improve some pieces of our puzzle, but with committed, passionate people, we can make the improvements needed to allow our city to shine as it should.

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

As the Executive Director of a social service and social change organization, I'm accustomed to working with diverse stakeholders in the community and engaging in challenging subject matter with the goal of moving forward productively.

As someone who has worked in shelters for nearly 30 years, I am someone who has a unique understanding for the alienation from our justice system so many people feel. I worked as a Legal Advocate for about six years in Lorain County. During that time I was stationed in Elyria Municipal Court to work with victims of domestic violence whose partners had been criminally charged with domestic violence. I've seen how unchecked power in the justice system works to further endanger vulnerable people.

I carry out educational presentations often in the course of my work, and one piece of insight I talk about often is the gap between policy and implementation. That gap is "buy in," and this is one of the many pieces of policing that needs work. An understanding of this concept can be applied in so many areas.

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

Checks and balances of all kinds are critical to ensure the integrity of any organization or group. As Director of a non-profit, I have purposefully created processes that offer checks and balances and promote transparency. If one is operating with integrity, this is welcome. A significant short-coming of so many law enforcement agencies in our country is that a cloak of secrecy has grown to be so large and so opaque that transparency is all but gone. The Community Police Commission can create an atmosphere that promotes transparency and integrity. The expertise of each member can offer insight to challenging situations and policies. True community involvement can only serve to better a police department.

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

I serve as Treasurer of the Board of the Ohio Victim Witness Organization.

My organization is a member of the Ohio Domestic Violence Network.

My organization is also a member of the Ohio Victim Witness Organization.

I serve on the Oberlin Salvation Army Community Advisory Council.

I also serve on the Avon Hospital Cleveland Clinic Community Advisory Council.

In the past, I have served on the Ohio Domestic Violence Network Steering Committee.

In the past, I have served on the Facilities Governance Board of the Lorain/Medina County Community Based Correctional Facility.

I currently facilitate the Lorain County Domestic Violence Task Force, convening a true cross-section of the community to discuss important issues related to domestic violence.

I have been active in the past with the Lorain County LGBTQIA+ Task Force, and have ensured that my organization is Safe Zone trained.