

Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Application

Submitted on	12 February 2025, 1:36PM
Receipt number	89
Related form version	10

I am interested in serving on the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. By checking this box I am affirming that I understand this appointment will be a 2-3 year commitment.	Yes, I understand
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I understand that this document will be a public record and any information I provide could be subject to release upon request.	Yes, I understand
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Date of application	02/06/2025
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Contact Information

Full name	Naima Ilmi
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Phonetic pronunciation	Ny-ee-Mah ill-Me
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Gender	Female
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Pronouns	She/Her
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Email address	Naimailmi08@gmail.com
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Phone number	6146743428
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Indicate home, work, mobile for primary number	Mobile
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Secondary phone number	614-563-3349
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Indicate home, work, mobile for secondary number	Work
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If you have a social media presence (Instagram, Facebook, X, Tiktok, LinkedIn, etc.) please share the best way to find you	www.linkedin.com/in/naima-ilmi-lsw-82a992202
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Residential street address	1220 Corrugated Way
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City	Columbus
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Zip code	43201
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How many years have you lived in the City of Columbus?	Columbus
What district of the City of Columbus do you live in? (1-9 or outside of city limits)	Columbus
Age	26-35

Personal Information

Country of origin (or country of origin of your parents, if applicable)	Somalia, Born in Kenya
How long have you lived in the US? (date of arrival)	08/01/2000
What immigrant group or groups do you represent?	Somali
What languages do you speak and rate your fluency in each (basic, conversational, fluent, or proficient)	Fluent in Somali and English
Do you identify as one of the following: Immigrant (a person who has come to a country that is not their own in order to live there permanently), Refugee (a person who has come to a country that is not their own to avoid persecution in their country of origin), First-Generation (children of foreign-born parents)	Yes
Ethnicity and race (please check all that apply)	African American (of African Descent)
Occupation (if retired, please share former occupation)	Star House Housing and Engagement Manager Afrocentric Personal Development Shop Inc. Program Manager
Do you identify with any of the following affinity groups?	Not applicable

Questionnaire

Why are you interested in serving on this commission? (maximum 250 words)	<p>As a Somali-American immigrant, I am eager to contribute to the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. Columbus' vibrant immigrant and refugee communities are a vital part of our city's strength, and I believe my lived experience offers a unique perspective. I understand firsthand the challenges and opportunities faced by newcomers, from navigating complex systems to building a new life.</p> <p>The Commission's mission to amplify immigrant voices in city policy is deeply important to me. I am passionate about ensuring that the needs and concerns of our diverse communities are heard and addressed. I am particularly excited by the Commission's role in shaping its own structure, allowing us to build a truly representative and effective platform. I am confident I can contribute meaningfully to this process, drawing on my understanding of community dynamics and my commitment to positive change. I am ready to collaborate with fellow commissioners and city leadership to create a more inclusive and equitable Columbus for all.</p>
What do you hope the commission will accomplish in the short term and long term? (maximum 250 words)	<p>In the short term, I hope the commission will establish stronger connections with underrepresented immigrant and refugee communities, ensuring their needs and concerns are understood. Long term, I envision the commission as a powerful advocate, driving policy changes that</p>

	<p>create a more inclusive and equitable community for all immigrants and refugees in our city. This includes not only amplifying their voices but also actively working to address the systemic challenges faced. My goal is to help the commission not just represent the immigrant and refugee community, but to actively empower every individual within it to shape the policies that affect their lives.</p>
<p>Please describe and share relevant activities and accomplishments that relate to the community that you represent (maximum 250 words)</p>	<p>My community involvement has provided invaluable experience advocating for underrepresented communities, particularly youth, immigrants, and refugees. As a 2024 Columbus Sister Cities International Circle Fellow, I develop cross-cultural understanding crucial for working with diverse populations. My work with the Attorney General's Human Trafficking Commission (2021-present) exposes me to the unique vulnerabilities of these groups and strengthens my ability to advocate for protective policies. Serving on the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Community Advisory Committee (2021-2024) highlighted the need for equitable resource access for all, including youth, immigrant and refugee families. My current participation on the COTA Mobility Advisory Board focuses on improving transportation accessibility, vital for youth access to opportunities, immigrant and refugee resettlement, access to employment, and community integration. These experiences reinforce the importance of amplifying the voices of these communities to ensure their needs are prioritized.</p>
<p>List any experience that would assist you in serving on this commission (maximum 250 words)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -2024 Columbus Sister Cities International: Circle Fellow - 2021-current Attorney General Human Trafficking Commission, Legal and Legal and Legislative Subcommittee -2024- Current COTA Mobility Advisory Board -2021- 2024 MidOhio Regional Planning Commission Community Advisory Committee - Licensed Social Worker - Capital University B.A Psychology, B.A Political Science and Bachelors of Social Work - Trauma Responsive Care Certificate Level II -Community Resilience Certificate
<p>Are you related to any elected City official or city staff member? If yes, please explain.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>Do you or any of your family members work for or serve on the board of directors of any organization which has contracted with or applied for funding from the City of Columbus? Do you anticipate any involvement of this kind in the future? If yes, please describe the relationship.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>Please indicate any activities you are involved with that may present a conflict of interest with the commission applying for.</p>	<p>None.</p>

References

Reference #1	Ann Bischoff
Relation #1	Employer, Star House CEO
Phone number #1	614.419.1541
Email #1	abischoff@starhouse.us
Reference #2	Jerry Saunders Sr.

Relation #2	Employer, Africentric Personal Development Shop Inc. (APDS) CEO
Phone number #2	Work: 614-253-4448 ext.109 Cell: 614-496-1991
Email #2	jsaunders@ncusolutions.com
By filling out the reference section, I hereby authorize the City of Columbus to conduct a reference check by contacting the individuals listed above. As a reminder, this document is subject to public records requests.	Yes

Resume & Letters of Reference

Optional: Please attach your resume and any letters of reference here. If you plan on mailing this form please remember to attach a copy of your resume and any letters of reference.