

# Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Application

Submitted on	3 February 2025, 5:59PM
Receipt number	8
Related form version	10

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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	02/03/2025
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## Contact Information

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Full name	The Rev. Dr. Alexander Y Sumo
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Phonetic pronunciation	6142186730
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Gender	Male
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Pronouns	He/Him
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Email address	saq9000@yahoo.com
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Phone number	614-218-6730
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Indicate home, work, mobile for primary number	Mobile
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Secondary phone number	614-966-2690
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Indicate home, work, mobile for secondary number	Home
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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	Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, etc
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Residential street address	5804 Mouzon Drive
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City	Columbus
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Zip code	43232
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How many years have you lived in the City of Columbus?	15+ years
What district of the City of Columbus do you live in? (1-9 or outside of city limits)	District #5
Age	46-55

## Personal Information

Country of origin (or country of origin of your parents, if applicable)	Liberia - West Africa
How long have you lived in the US? (date of arrival)	03/10/2008
What immigrant group or groups do you represent?	Liberians (West Africans) communities
What languages do you speak and rate your fluency in each (basic, conversational, fluent, or proficient)	English (very fluent) Kpelleh, Lorma, Gola (fluent, conversational or proficient), French (basic)
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)	I am an Administrator and Pastor
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)	I am interested in serving on this commission to provide meaningful help and support to our city government in supporting the immigrant community in central Ohio make this city a better place for all. I will bring my education and wealth of experience in community leadership, faith based collaboration and social service management to help develop structures, frameworks and policies that will enhance the social and economic viabilities of city and community to thrive and flourish.
What do you hope the commission will accomplish in the short term and long term? (maximum 250 words)	I am confident that this commission will make the most of its time by developing meaningful policies, structures, frameworks and programs that will enhance the livelihood of the immigrant community in central Ohio. In the short term, I believe this commission can develop a robust 'common sense' policies and frameworks that will provide guidance for our City Leadership and local governments to engage with immigrant community in the face of the impending new federal immigration changes and laws. In the long term, this commission could become a body that will provide meaningful and 'researchable' guidance on policies and programs on immigrants to our city government and state actors.
Please describe and share relevant activities and	I am one of the distinguished leaders (co-chairperson of the board of

accomplishments that relate to the community that you represent (maximum 250 words)

directors) in the Liberian and West African communities in Columbus. For the last decade, we have collaborated a fusion annual event for the immigrant communities in the southeast side of our city. This event draws people from nearly all of West Africa and folks from other parts of African and around the world to celebrate culture, food and unity. I am a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and serves a community pastor and leader for all immigrants in this community and city; providing cultural and religious guidance for our families and role model and mentorship youths across the community and city.

List any experience that would assist you in serving on this commission (maximum 250 words)

I am a national pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and holds a Doctoral Degree in Ministry and Leadership - with emphasis in leadership systems and organizations. I have worked both in local government social services and community nonprofit arenas. I fully understand the dynamics and processes in immigrant communities and knows how those processes can be harness to support immigrant families to mitigate problems and help them to thrive.

Are you related to any elected City official or city staff member? If yes, please explain.

No.

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.

I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Liberian Community in Central Ohio. If I am appointed on this commission, I will everything to ensure no conflict of interest.

Please indicate any activities you are involved with that may present a conflict of interest with the commission applying for.

Other than my leadership (as co-chairperson on the board of directors) in the Liberian Community, I do not believe there is any conflict of interest for me to be appointed on this commission.

## References

Reference #1	Dr. Murphy S. Anderson
Relation #1	Former co-worker and community leader in the West African Community
Phone number #1	6142186730
Email #1	vatikeh@hotmail.com
Reference #2	Bishop Suzanne Dillahunt
Relation #2	Bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Phone number #2	6142186730
Email #2	bishopSDillahunt@southernohiosynod.org

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

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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.

[Alexander Sumo Resume \(Autosaved\).docx](#)