

Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Application

Submitted on	4 February 2025, 2:22AM
Receipt number	22
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	02/04/2025
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Contact Information

Full name	Mariam Isse
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Phonetic pronunciation	M ae r Y a M Isa
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Gender	Female
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Pronouns	She
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Email address	intiysar@hotmail.com
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Phone number	6144779965
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Indicate home, work, mobile for primary number	Mobile
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Secondary phone number	Same
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Indicate home, work, mobile for secondary number	Mobile
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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	Maria Isse
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Residential street address	5515 wolf run drive
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City	Columbus
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Zip code	43230
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How many years have you lived in the City of Columbus?	No
What district of the City of Columbus do you live in? (1-9 or outside of city limits)	District 9
Age	36-45

Personal Information

Country of origin (or country of origin of your parents, if applicable)	Somalia
How long have you lived in the US? (date of arrival)	08/15/1997
What immigrant group or groups do you represent?	Somali Americans
What languages do you speak and rate your fluency in each (basic, conversational, fluent, or proficient)	Somali-fluent and English proficient
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)	Nursing
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>Columbus has a growing and diverse refugee population, and I want to help shape policies and initiatives that promote their successful integration and well-being. My skills as a healthcare provider and currently serving members of the central committee, makes me well-equipped to contribute to the commission's work.</p> <p>I believe in fostering inclusive communities where refugees feel welcomed, supported, and have the resources to thrive. Serving on this commission would allow me to collaborate with other passionate individuals to create meaningful change.</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 improves access to essential services like housing, healthcare, education, and employment while fostering a more welcoming community. Strengthening partnerships and addressing barriers such as language access and transportation will help refugees establish stability.</p> <p>Long-term, I want the commission to promote policies that support refugee integration, including workforce development, affordable housing, and leadership opportunities. By empowering refugees to become active participants in the community, we can make Columbus a model city for refugee resettlement and inclusion.</p>

Please describe and share relevant activities and accomplishments that relate to the community that you represent (maximum 250 words)

As a Somali American community activist and mental health provider, I have worked to improve access to culturally competent care and reduce stigma within refugee communities. Through outreach, advocacy, and partnerships, I have helped connect individuals to vital resources and services. My experience bridging healthcare and community needs equips me to advocate for policies that support refugee well-being and inclusion in Columbus.

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

As a Somali American activist and mental health provider, I have extensive experience advocating for refugee communities. I've worked to improve access to culturally competent care, connect individuals to vital resources, and collaborate with local leaders to address key challenges. My background in healthcare and community engagement equips me to contribute effectively to the commission's mission.

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

I am representative Munira Abdullahi's of district 9 auntie.

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.

No

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

I currently serve in the central committee I am not sure if that would be considered as conflict of interest

References

Reference #1

Representative Ismail Mohamed of district 3

Relation #1

Friend

Phone number #1

+1 (614) 804-4225

Email #1

rep03@ohiohouse.gov

Reference #2

Fizarna Martens

Relation #2

Co-worker/friend

Phone number #2

(614) 615-2945

Email #2

Fhoossen@Gmail.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

[resume2025.docx](#)

reference.