

# Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Application

THE CITY OF  
**COLUMBUS**  
CITY COUNCIL

Submitted on	16 February 2025, 9:53PM
Receipt number	114
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	02/16/2025
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## Contact Information

Full name	Bashir
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Phonetic pronunciation	Ba-Sheer
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Gender	Male
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Pronouns	He/Him
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Email address	bashira648@gmail.com
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Phone number	6145894403
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Indicate home, work, mobile for primary number	Mobile
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Secondary phone number	
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Indicate home, work, mobile for secondary number	
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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	_double4k
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Residential street address	789 Eatonia pl
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City	Columbus
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Zip code	43228
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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	18-25

## Personal Information

Country of origin (or country of origin of your parents, if applicable)	Kenya
How long have you lived in the US? (date of arrival)	09/01/2004
What immigrant group or groups do you represent?	Somali Bantu/Kenyan
What languages do you speak and rate your fluency in each (basic, conversational, fluent, or proficient)	Mai Mai/ 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)	
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)	My entire life I've always been grateful for my culture but I learned very quickly how my people have been neglected and failed in terms of representation in society. There's been a lack of understanding of what we are and no direction for us to find resources to tell that story and empower one another. This goes to all immigrants however, we are a collective people whom have all aspired and worked tirelessly to achieve survival here in the states with a limited understanding of its culture. It would be amazing to be a part of something that can help bring attention to the right things and challenge issues head on.
What do you hope the commission will accomplish in the short term and long term? (maximum 250 words)	I'm not sure because I've never been in a position like this but I hope it'll help connect more immigrant communities to success through whatever ideas we come up with and implement.
Please describe and share relevant activities and accomplishments that relate to the community that you represent (maximum 250 words)	I am Somali Bantu as I said and I don't have many direct accomplishments but I have done a lot of work serving my community directly. I've recently joined the nonprofit space where I work for an organization known as My Project USA and with their help I've been involved in programs that help my people and other immigrant youth avoid the pitfalls of their dangerous neighborhoods. Protecting them from gang relations, gun violence and drugs through meaningful youth programming that offers mentorship and sports. I've advocated at the

statehouse in front of many state officials for funding and resources and that to me is an accomplishment because I was able to get my voice in a room that it's never been in before.

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

The best experience has been with working with My Project USA, through them I've developed so much as an individual and those raw first hand experiences with people in the community have allowed my perspective to grow while also seeing certain parts of the political world that influences so much of the standing in the inner city and disparity.

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.

No.

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

Other than my jobs, nothing more currently.

## References

Reference #1

Sharon Watkins

Relation #1

Mentor

Phone number #1

6145656062

Email #1

Watkins.roon@gmail.com

Reference #2

Mohamed Hassan

Relation #2

Friend

Phone number #2

6145966099

Email #2

mhassan7@neighborhoodathletics.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

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.

[Bashir Resume.pdf](#)