

Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Application

Submitted on	11 February 2025, 9:41AM
Receipt number	49
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	02/05/2025
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Contact Information

Full name	Kassandra Aguirre Ramirez
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Phonetic pronunciation	Kassandra: kuh-SAN-drah Aguirre: ah-GEE-reh Ramirez: rah-MEE-rez
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Gender	Female
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Pronouns	She/Her
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Email address	Kassandra@Ohiohispaniccoalition.org
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Phone number	6146416739
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Indicate home, work, mobile for primary number	Work
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Secondary phone number	6145309236
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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	Kassandra Aguirre Ramirez
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Residential street address	1535 Bethel Rd
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City	Columbus
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Zip code	43207
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How many years have you lived in the City of Columbus? 13

What district of the City of Columbus do you live in? (1-9 or outside of city limits) 3

Age 18-25

Personal Information

Country of origin (or country of origin of your parents, if applicable) Mexico

How long have you lived in the US? (date of arrival) 03/03/2004

What immigrant group or groups do you represent? Latino and Hispanic community

What languages do you speak and rate your fluency in each (basic, conversational, fluent, or proficient) English: Proficient
Spanish: 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) Latino (Mexico, South American, Central America, Caribbean, etc.)

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)

I've always been someone who enjoys helping others more than myself, and serving on this commission would give me the opportunity to work with the community that I hold dearest to my heart. I am a wife and the daughter of immigrants who came to the U.S. in search of a better life. My husband's and parents' stories motivate me to help others who are like them—those seeking a better life but who need support to thrive. I am deeply committed to making a positive impact in my community and believe that my passion for service, as well as my personal experiences, would make me a valuable addition to the commission. I am eager to collaborate with like-minded individuals who share a common goal of empowering others and creating opportunities for growth. Joining this commission would allow me to contribute my skills, compassion, and dedication to serving those in need and helping to shape a brighter future for all.

What do you hope the commission will accomplish in the short term and long term? (maximum 250 words)

In the short term, I hope the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs will establish a strong foundation for advocacy, empowerment, and open dialogue between immigrant communities and city leadership. By creating a platform where immigrant voices can be directly heard, the commission can immediately start to address the most pressing concerns of these communities, such as access to services, legal protections, and support for integration. This could include advocating for improved access to education, healthcare, and affordable housing, as

well as building partnerships with local organizations to ensure immigrants have the resources they need to succeed.

In the long term, I envision the commission playing a central role in shaping city policies that foster inclusion, equality, and opportunity for immigrant populations. This could involve collaborating with policymakers to develop comprehensive immigration-related policies that create pathways for economic mobility, social integration, and overall well-being. Additionally, the commission can work towards creating a more welcoming and diverse city culture, helping Columbus to not only embrace its immigrant roots but also to lead as a model for how cities can thrive through inclusivity and cultural vibrancy.

Ultimately, my hope is that the commission will empower immigrant and refugee communities to have a lasting, positive impact on Columbus and ensure they are recognized as key contributors to the city's future.

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

I have been working with the Ohio Hispanic Coalition for over a year, and during this time, I have had the opportunity to participate in numerous events that empower and support the Latino and Hispanic community. The coalition is dedicated to serving the Latino community through various programs, including the Soy Latina program, which provides vital support to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, family violence, and dating violence. Additionally, I had the privilege of giving testimony before the City Council to advocate for the coalition and raise awareness about the challenges faced by children who have had to take on adult responsibilities at a young age. These children often forgo their childhood to support their immigrant parents as they navigate life in a new and unfamiliar country. Working with the coalition has been a deeply rewarding experience, and I remain committed to uplifting and advocating for our community.

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

I am currently working at the Ohio Hispanic Coalition as a victim advocate for the Soy Latina program, where I've been helping individuals for over a year who have been affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, family violence, and dating violence. This program is specifically dedicated to supporting the Latino and Hispanic communities, empowering victims and helping them regain independence after experiencing trauma. Through my work, I've had the privilege of supporting survivors and guiding them toward resources and the tools they need to heal and thrive. Additionally, I am currently pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice, which has further deepened my understanding of the systemic challenges that immigrant and refugee communities face, especially in relation to legal and justice systems. This education equips me with a broader perspective on policy, advocacy, and the legal frameworks that impact vulnerable populations. Joining the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs would allow me to continue this important work on a larger scale, helping to shape policies that promote safety, empowerment, and independence for those who need it most.

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

No, not that I am aware of.

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.

Not at this moment or near future.

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

I am a full time employee at the Ohio Hispanic Coalition but I have full flexibility for any time or participation needed with the Commission.

References

Reference #1

Josue Vicente

Relation #1

Executive Director at the Ohio Hispanic Coalicion

Phone number #1

6147963068

Email #1

Josue@ohiohispaniccoalition.org

Reference #2

Alondra Clavel

Relation #2

Program Coordinator at the Ohio Hispanic Coalition

Phone number #2

6147463534

Email #2

Alondra@ohiohispaniccoalicion.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.

[Minimalist White and Grey Professional Resume \(1\).pdf](#)