



APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT AS City Council Ward 2 Council Member

The information provided will be used by the City Council in considering your appointment. Please complete each section, if applicable. Please attach additional materials (resume, letters of reference) that you would like considered as part of your application.

>>APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant's Name: Cornellia Williams
Residence Address: 1632 Kathy Dr, Columbia MO 65202
Mailing Address: same
Email: Nellawilliams02@gmail.com Home Phone: 5738645356 Cell Phone: 5738645356

How long have you been a continuous resident of the City of Columbia and of Ward 2?

If less than three years, please list all addresses within the last three years:
NA

Are you registered to vote in the City of Columbia? Yes

Do you meet all of the qualifications to hold elective office as defined in the Columbia City Charter Article II Section 6? Yes

>>EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

High School: GED Diploma Earned: GED
City/State: Columbia MO
College/University: Columbia College Degree Earned: Masters CJ
City/State: Columbia MO

Any other training or education that you believe is relevant?
I have served on the CPRB as vice president.

>>EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Current or Last Employer: UM Position: Service Coordinator Dates: 10/21/2023
Address: Old Alumni Center, Suite 108 Columbia, MO 65211 Phone: (573) 882-2146
Previous Employer: Cornelliaspeaks LLC Position: Owner Dates: 12/20
Address: 303 N Stadium Blvd, Columbia MO Phone: 573-518-5225

>>ORGANIZATIONS AND CIVIC EXPERIENCE

List any community, civic, trade or professional organization in which you have been active.

Organization/Project: CASA Volunteer City/State: Columbi MO To/From: 6/18
Organization/Project: Job Point CHODO Board City/State: Columbia MO To/From: 07/2009
Organization/Project: City Of Columbia CPRB City/State: Columbia MO To/From: 2017-2021

Have you ever been elected or appointed to any public office, board or commission in Missouri? If so, please list.

Title/Position: Vice President Office/Board/Commission: CPRB
Election/Appt. Date: _____ Term Length: _____
Title/Position: _____ Office/Board/Commission: _____
Election/Appt. Date: _____ Term Length: _____
Title/Position: _____ Office/Board/Commission: _____
Election/Appt. Date: _____ Term Length: _____

>>SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Please use an additional page to answer the following. Limit answers to 200 words each.

- 1.) Why are you interested in serving on the City Council?
- 2.) Generally speaking, what do you see as the City Council's role?
- 3.) How does your specific experience make you qualified to serve as a City Council member?
- 4.) Describe your civic involvement in the Columbia community.
- 5.) Do you have the availability to attend all City Council meetings, meet with constituents, spend the time to become informed for meetings, and engage in outreach to the community?
- 6.) What do you see as the current topics before the City Council to be decided in the next 6 months?
- 7.) Is there anything else that you wish to add that would help us get to know you better?

>>REFERENCES

The following individuals are qualified to comment on my capabilities. At least one reference must be from Ward 2.

Name: Roy Lovelady Relationship: Friend Phone: 573-268-7917
Name: Tim Hudseth Relationship: Friend Phone: 573-639-1321
Name: Wanda Bessman Relationship: Friend/Neighbor Phone: 573-881-1832

>>UNDERSTANDING OF APPLICATION

NOTE: By submitting this application, you affirm that the information contained in it is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge and that you are the person named. In addition, you acknowledge that upon receipt, this form is a public record and its contents will be provided to anyone requesting a copy and that this information could be made available to the public via the internet.

Signature of applicant: Cornelia Williams Date: 11/09/2023

Please return this completed application to the City Clerk at Columbia City Hall, 701 E. Broadway, Columbia, MO 65201, no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, November 13, 2023. Applications received after 5:00 p.m. on November 13, 2023 will not be accepted, and mailing post-marked applications will not be accepted.

The application and correspondence should be addressed to:

Sheela Amin, City Clerk
City of Columbia
701 E. Broadway
Columbia, MO 65201

Sheela.Amin@CoMo.gov

1. Why are you interested in serving on the City Council?

I am a proud citizen of Columbia, MO, where I was born and raised. My passion has always been to contribute to the community. By serving on the Citizen Police Review Board, I gained a better understanding of the wants and needs of many citizens, as well as how the Columbia Police Department operates. This experience has increased my desire to serve on the City Council.

I firmly believe that serving the community is the best way to bring about positive change. As a representative, I would strive to advocate for policies and initiatives that align with the needs of our citizens during city council meetings. I would also aim to clarify to those unsure of the city's structure and operations, explaining why certain decisions are made. I would also identify future needs and bring them to the City Manager and other members of the City Council for consideration.

I am committed to contributing to the betterment of my community, and I believe that serving on the City Council is an excellent way to accomplish this goal.

2. Generally speaking, what do you see as the City Council's role?

As a bridge between the city government and the citizens of Columbia, your role is crucial. You'll need to ensure that the policies created are in the community's best interest and help govern the city effectively. Conducting public meetings and developing an annual budget will also be your responsibility. You must ensure that the government is democratic and accountable to the local communities and promote social and economic development while creating a healthy and safe environment for all citizens. You are also responsible for seeing possible future changes that must be addressed.

3. How does your specific experience make you qualified to serve as a City Council member?

I have extensive experience serving on the Citizen Police Review Board and am well-versed in the rules and operations of the city government. In 2011, I completed the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Program. For over 15 years, I have worked in human resources and held various supervisory positions. Additionally, I have worked with the disabled population for over 20 years and spent a decade at Columbia Housing Authority. While there, I created a job training program that enabled over 300 individuals to become self-sufficient. I have volunteered at the Salvation Army for over four years, teaching financial management. I have also worked with single mothers and served as a CASA volunteer. I was the Functional Leader for the Jefferson City Job Center. I have been a Deputy Juvenile Officer. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice, a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, and a Masters in Criminal Justice. I am an ordained Minister through Urban Empowerment Ministries.

My diverse working experiences and living in the community have allowed me to interact with various social and economic groups in Columbia.

4. Describe your civic involvement in the Columbia community.

Throughout the Columbia community, I have been actively involved in serving others for many years. In August 2001, I received the Mayor's Proclamation in recognition of my ten years of hard work creating the Back-to-School Program. I ran the official Back-To-School Program for ten years. I strongly believe in helping others, so I worked part-time to obtain school supplies each year.

I have served on Job Point's CHODO Board for over a decade to help families fulfill their dream of being a homeowner. I have volunteered to teach financial management to hundreds of individuals. Additionally, I have contributed to the community by serving as a CASA volunteer and participating in various volunteer efforts, including feeding people experiencing homelessness, distributing food, working at the food bank, and assisting with community gardens. I enjoy helping others wherever there is a need.

I strongly believe in giving back to the community and helping others succeed. I genuinely think it takes a village, and each one can teach the other. If we all get involved, it will only help our community become better.

5. Do you have the availability to attend all City Council meetings, meet with constituents, spend the time to become informed for meetings, and engage in outreach to the community?

Yes, I have the time and availability. I am aware that the City Council meeting is on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 7p. I understand that sessions may run long, and I have no issues with long discussions.

While serving at the CPRB, I only missed one meeting due to having the flu.

6. What do you see as the current topics before the City Council to be decided in the next 6 months?

- A) Ransom and malware attacks
- B) Aging infrastructure
- C) Loss of trust in government institutions
- D) Low recruitment and employee retention
- E) Increasing prominence of natural disasters
- F) Economic declines
- G) Water utility challenges
- H) City budget
- I) Mental health issues
- J) Housing needs
- K) Safety/Crime
- L) City growth
- M) Diversity, equity, and inclusion

7. Is there anything else that you wish to add that would help us get to know you better?

As a long-time resident of Columbia, Missouri, I'm deeply invested in the progress of my community. I believe that I can contribute valuable insights since I have an excellent understanding of the community's pulse. I have attended City Council meetings in person and via online streaming. This has helped me comprehend some of the community's desires and the city council's challenges.

My strong drive to see everyone succeed motivates me to be an active member of our community. I volunteer to teach financial management, helping families to become homeowners and break free from generational poverty.

As a single mother who grew up in Public Housing and raised my children there, I understand the significance of the moment when you receive the keys to your new home. Although my journey was challenging, working out of Public Housing, Section 8, and eventually owning my home was entirely worth it.

As a high-school dropout, I was determined to make a change for myself and my children. I worked hard for three months and earned my GED, even though I was told it would take 18 months. I then obtained two degrees in college, opening many doors for me and my children. I eventually went back to school and earned my Master's degree. I share my story with others to inspire them to strive for their best. I have been a spokesperson for United Way by sharing my story.

Some areas that I feel have impacted me the most have been serving with my sorority, Sigma Gamma Rho, to meet the homeless population's needs. As a small business owner, I can relate to the needs of other business owners. Working at Phoenix Programs Inc. provided me with insights into the harm caused by drug addiction. Working at the Missouri Job Center has also helped me understand the need for jobs and how it affects our community. I was fortunate to work alongside Judge Cotton Walker to ensure that Jefferson City residents had the necessary resources. This experience helped me identify areas of need in the Columbia area. I have over 15 years of experience working with the disable population.

My years of service throughout Columbia and my life experiences would greatly benefit the City Council.