

City Council Application

Reference #	11819477
Status	Complete
First Name	Constance
Last Name	Johnson
Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Cell Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Email Address	[REDACTED]
Street Address	[REDACTED] Greyton Road, Up
Place of Employment	Central Bible Baptist Church
Position	Church Administrator
Length of residence in Cleveland Heights	14 years
Are you a registered Cleveland Heights voter?	Yes

What special qualities, abilities, skills, insights or perspectives do you possess which would be of value in serving on Cleveland Heights City Council?

My career focus has been on administering and facilitating programs designed to provide resources and support of area families. My experience in community outreach required that I develop a wide array of skills that will prove helpful in this position including: preparing monthly newsletters, coordinating the efforts of multiple programs for a common goal, preparing and maintaining organizational calendars and resource databases.

For over 25 years I have served my community both professionally and as a volunteer. This work has strengthened and affirmed the working-class perspective with which I was raised. It is seated in a pragmatic optimism that at once acknowledges the truth of challenges faced while maintaining the assurance that hard work and ingenuity will ultimately be the key to solving them. I believe that the stability of a community is rooted in the connection and common values of its residents. While working to attract new businesses and home owners to the city is important for future growth, I believe that there are shared goals that can be achieved by marshalling existing resources to solve our problems. This requires both the ability to listen carefully to concerns of others and the willingness to explore unconventional solutions. I'm excited by the prospect of being a part of making creative, fiscally responsible choices that address the needs and concerns of Cleveland Heights residents.

What educational training (formal or informal), employment and other life experiences have helped you develop the qualities, abilities, etc., described above?

I earned a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Psychology from Cleveland State University with a minor in Neurology. Through my academic training as well as three years as a Community Psychiatric Support Treatment (CPST) Case Manager I gained invaluable communication skills that have served me well in managing personalities in team efforts and gaining insight into individual perspectives. I have benefited from having worked in a variety of settings that all required me to develop strong communication skills and due to limited resources, the ability to think outside the box in problem solving. I was fortunate to begin my formal community work with a group of gifted educators during the founding of the Cleveland Municipal Schools Alternative Education program at Jesse Owens Academy. The program was for students who had difficulty achieving in a traditional educational setting. The school served students in grades 4-12 from across the district. For five years I served as Family and Community Liaison; developing programs and activities designed to increase parental involvement in the educational process and cultivating relationships with community partners to support the school in its efforts. The position also required me to learn the fine points of managing an operational budget for a public institution. I am most proud of my work to establish a Parent Resource Center and an Adult Lending Library at the school. The library was a of educational support materials that created opportunities for parents to interact with staff and learn the skills necessary to support their child's academic performance. The Parent Resource Center coordinated with public and private agencies to facilitate access to resources as well as structured parenting support classes to help parents navigate the personal and social barriers to their child's success. We were able to accomplish this without additional funding from the school district by working with area businesses and community stakeholders to obtain donations of goods and services. It was in this capacity that

I received training and began to hone my grant writing skills. By working with a broad spectrum of community stake holders with varying interests, I learned the importance listening carefully to the concerns, hopes and goals of each party involved with an open mind and to look for non-traditional approaches to problem solving.

In 2011 I began employment with Organizing for America (OFA) as a Field Organizer with President Obama's reelection campaign. The position included multiple trainings on data analysis and the effective application of evidence-based solutions, community team building, developing community-based partnerships and engaging and empowering residents. During this time, I also learned the power and importance of face to face interaction with community residents when seeking to identify and address concerns. I also studied community building best practices with the Ohio Organizing Collaborative

In 2004, I founded an organization that has come to be known as "The Work of Faith" to provide pro-bono services and support to small non-profit efforts in the Cleveland area. I work with individuals and small groups to address the issues of concern to them in their community. In this capacity I help to develop business plans, provide grant writing services, connect with area resources and map out implementation strategies.

Please list your recent community, professional or charitable involvements. List the most recent first.

I am currently working with neighborhood residents and the Central Bible Baptist Church to establish the Noble Senior Center. "The Center "will be a much-needed neighborhood gathering place to provide an outlet for older residents and retirees to remain socially active and impact their community. We have developed a series of classes, workshops and activities that will address the interests and concerns of our older residents, including health and wellness, access to resources, and a computer lab to promote technological literacy. When surveyed, area seniors expressed a desire to be a part of improving conditions in our community and giving back. We are working with the Home Resource Center and Juvenile Court Department of Probation to develop a community service initiative that would partner volunteer seniors with area youth to provide needed services for Noble area seniors and the disabled. The Center is In December 2018, The Center was awarded a Community Development Block Grant to aide in our efforts. Activities are set to begin in March 2019

In 2015 as part of Noble Neighbors (NN), I helped to develop a partnership between NN, The City of Cleveland Heights and local realtors to establish the annual " We are Noble" event to celebrate the history and quality of life in the Noble road area. The event has grown from a weekend of yard sells and "Open House" showings to include multiple events over the course of a spring weekend that brings a spotlight to the diversity of Noble while highlighting our common values. In 2018, I was awarded a grant from Future Heights to host the event "Talent of the Heights" as part of "We are Noble" weekend. With the help of community partners, including Home Depot, Noble Food Deal, and other north Noble Rd businesses, I worked with NN volunteers to present an outdoor event that featured live music by local artists, a food truck and over local 30 vendors. When targeting vendors, we sought Cleveland Heights small business owners and crafters. We succeeded

in bring the community together for a festive day while providing an opportunity for these homebased vendors to gain exposure, all at no cost. We look forward to expanding this event in 2019.

Since 2013 I have had the honor of serving as Administrator of Central Bible Baptist Church. A north Noble institution for over 26 years, CBBC has several ongoing community outreach ministries that serve the residents of Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland to address the practical needs of our neighbors. These include: Our annual Back Pack Giveaway which provides 300 area students(k-12) a brand-new backpack filled with all the supplies Cleveland Heights/University Heights Schools suggest for the start of the school year. This program is funded by material and financial donations from members and community members. This effort results in over \$10,000 in supplies in the hands of area students every year.

In 2015 we began working with our community partner, Home Depot to host our annual Christmas Dinner Box giveaway that provides a complete holiday meal (turkey, desert and all the trimmings) to over 300 families in need. In 2018 the Home Depot partnership expanded to include five area schools and local business owners in a project designed provide a complete holiday experience for families in need. This completely self-funded program, called "Giving Hearts" provides a Christmas tree, ornaments, and culturally appropriate decorations, a holiday meal for six, and presents for all the children in the households. In our first year we served 10 area families with a total of 14 children. The families included several in which grandparents have taken on the responsibility of raising their grandchildren or other relatives.

What are your goals for our community and are there areas in which you believe the City needs improvement? How would your service on City Council help achieve those goals and improve the City?

I chose to live in Cleveland Heights because of the diversity of its people, the schools are well thought of and the community values mirrored my own. The city has a long history of appreciation for the arts, strong family neighborhoods and a commitment to the environment that was established long before it became the fashion. I settled into the Noble neighborhood and immediately felt at home. I got to know my neighbors, both home owners and renters, and found that not only did we share the same values, we shared many of the same concerns. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to meet and engage with residents of other Cleveland Heights neighborhoods and the conversations are much the same; we all want a safe and vibrant community. One that encourages and embraces diversity and respects and values its residents. Of particular concern to those I've spoken with is finding ways to provide structured programming and recreational neighborhood activities for our youth. One of my goals for service on City Council is to educate, engage and empower residents to use existing resources and creative partnerships to address this concern. Another goal of service would be to work to strengthen and enhance the city's relationship with existing business interests. I would like to work to develop initiatives that would support and encourage "home-grown" Cleveland Heights entrepreneurs and craftspeople develop their own small business. Finally, I would like to nurture opportunities for residents to get build relationships across neighborhood boundaries. Specifically, I would like to see the residents of the Noble Neighborhood, my neighborhood, become more connected socially and civically with the rest of the city.

Do you have other responsibilities which would prevent you from participating in City Council and Council Committee work during certain hours or on certain days?

My only constraint is that I work during normal business hours on week days. I am fortunate to work in a position and for employer that allow for flexibility in scheduling.

State any additional information you would like to have considered.

I would only add that, through my experiences as a working-class single mother and my years of community organizing, I believe that I have cultivated a set of skills and experiences that will allow me to be an asset to the work of City Council and the citizens of Cleveland Heights.

Would you like to upload a Resume?	Yes
Resume or CV Upload (5 MB Limit)	Constance_Johnson_Resume_ch.pdf (131k)
Item # 23	I agree to electronically sign this form.
Signature	Constance Johnson
Last Update	2019-01-15 00:59:08
Start Time	2019-01-14 23:07:35
Finish Time	2019-01-15 00:59:08
IP	
Browser	Chrome
OS	Windows
Referrer	https://www.clevelandheights.com/1085/City-Council-Application

CONSTANCE J JOHNSON

Greyton Rd. Up
CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OHIO 44112

Phone: [REDACTED]

Career Summary

Caring, energetic and committed service provider dedicated to the work of building a stronger community by assisting children and families in developing the skills and resources necessary to successfully address life's challenges.

Professional Experience

Church Administrator 07/2013 - Current

Central Bible Baptist Church – 2285 Noble Rd. Cleveland Heights, Ohio

Responsible for the coordination of all areas of church operations and coordinating all ministry activities

- Clerical, administrative and logistics support for the Pastor and ministers
- Communications, follow-up, and responses for church mail, e-mail, voicemail, etc requiring staff involvement.
- Purchasing and budget management
- Coordinate church calendar of thirteen ministry activities, expenditures and event planning
- Research and identify possible funding resources, Preparation of grant proposals
- Clerical, administrative and logistical support for pastor and ministerial staff
- Coordinate and manage volunteer staff hours and work assignments
- Facilitate communication between the Board of Trustees, the Pastor and ministry leadership

01/2004 - Current

The Work of Faith LLC – Cleveland Heights, Ohio

Providing support of small non-profit startups.

- Prepare business plans, guide clients in establishing operational procedures and structure
- Instruct business owners and staff in communication and interpersonal skills needed to effectively manage personnel and successfully interact with customers and community partners.
- Research and identify possible funding resources
- Preparation of grant proposals
- Market research, advertising design and distribution, business publishing/printing, store merchandising and administrative support.
- Provide research assistance and tutoring services.

Field Organizer, 03/2011 - 11/2012

Organizing for America – Cleveland, Ohio

- Recruited community members to serve as volunteers via door-to-door canvassing, phone calls, community meetings and social media.
- Trained and managed a core team of 20 and 30 ad hoc volunteers empowering them with the skills needed to enlist additional volunteers needed for specific activities.
- Coordinated and facilitated community canvassing and phone banks to promote candidate support and early voting
- Enlisted the support of churches, business owners and community leaders
- Planned and implemented community-based events including: voter registration drives and educational forums. Efforts resulted in a 28.05 % increase in voter registration when compared to 2008

Community Psychiatric Support Treatment (CPST) Case Manager, 06/2008 - 01/2011

Berea Children's Home and Family Services– Berea, Ohio

- Interview client and families to assess mental health needs and develop appropriate treatment plan
- Conduct CBT based therapeutic interventions with adolescents and children designed to teach skills

- needed to accomplish goals and objectives detailed in client treatment plan
- Instruct parents and caregivers in principles and skills needed to improve parenting skills in 1-1 and group settings.
- Assist parents and caregivers in obtaining social services needed to fulfill goals and objectives set forth in treatment plan
- Coordinate with school staff and administrators to: assist staff in addressing client's clinical needs in educational setting, assist staff in managing client's diagnosis related behaviors and encourage parent's involvement in educational process
- Serve as advocate and assist client and parent in navigating client's involvement with legal system and social service agencies
- Maintain documentation for Medicaid billing

PROTECT (Prevent Relapse Occurrence Team with Enhanced Case Management & Treatment) Case Manager

- Coordinate with therapist to develop treatment plan for child and adolescent victims and perpetrators of sexual abuse
- Educate client, parents and caregivers about issues and concerns surrounding sexual abuse in children and adolescents
- Perform CBT based therapeutic interventions designed to: teach client skills needed for appropriate social behaviors i.e. coping skills, anger management, appropriate sexual expression, and stress management
- Perform interventions and activities with parents and caregivers designed to assist parent in managing client's behaviors
- Assist parent and caregivers in designing and implementing plans and strategies to ensure safety of client, family members and community
- Serve as advocate and assist client and parent in navigating client's involvement with legal system and social service agencies

Family/ Community Liaison/ Alternative Education, 03/2001 - 06/2005

Cleveland Municipal School District Jesse Owens – Cleveland, Ohio

- Disseminate information to parents regarding the nature and scope of Title I instructional support services.
- Produce activity calendars, newsletters, and fliers with information on school activities and initiatives and distribute to parents and community.
- Conduct group sessions with parents and caregivers of at-risk students designed to enhance parenting skills and provide peer support.
- Develop and implement services designed to empower parents to become more involved in students' education.
- Create and maintain database of district, state, county and private sector programs and services and distribute information to parents and caregivers.
- Enlist the assistance of community businesses and agencies to obtain materials, financial donations and support.
- Coordinate and facilitate workshops to promote family literacy, as well as activities designed to address the needs and interest of parents.
- Develop and implement programs to assist parents in obtaining their educational goals.
- Seek out and assist in the implementation of programs to enhance student academic achievement.

Education and Training

05/08 Cleveland State University – Cleveland, OH

Bachelor of Arts Psychology

Coursework in Neurology, PTSD and Sociology