



City of Cleveland Heights
40 Severance Circle
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118

CITY COUNCIL APPLICATION FORM

DATE RECEIVED: _____
(for official use)

Thank you for your interest and willingness to serve Cleveland Heights. To be considered for appointment to Cleveland Heights City Council, please answer all questions on this form. Attach your resume to your completed form. Please return the completed form to the City Manager's Office, Cleveland Heights City Hall, 40 Severance Circle, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118 or email this form and resume to councilapplication@clvhts.com

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Name: Russell Rucky

Phone: (home) [REDACTED] (cell) NA Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Derbyshire Rd., Cleveland Heights, OH 44106

Place of Employment: Retired from CSU Library after 28 years

Position: Reference Assistant for 6 years and then
Systems Database and Server Admin for 22 years

Length of residence in Cleveland Heights: over 36 years

Are you a registered Cleveland Heights voter? Yes

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

As the Computer Database and Server Admin at the CSU Library for 22 years, it gave me experience in rational problem solving and how to accomplish goals in an efficient manner given limited time and resources.

By following local CH community interests by attending community meetings and following CH Council and Charter Review Meetings in person and on YouTube, I have a good idea of what problems face the CH community and what methods could be implemented to best ameliorate those problems.

To use the existing Cuyahoga County Real Estate Data to populate a local CH problem property database.

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

CH FutureHeights Neighborhood Leadership Community Capacity-Building Program Workshop, Spring, 2017.

Worked as a paralegal for the law firm of Ulmer, Berne, Laronge, Glickman, and Curtis, Summer, 1976.

Computer Database and Server Admin at the CSU Library for 22 years.

Attended CSU Computer classes.

Owner of Rock Solid Databases, LLC – Web access of databases.

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

Member of FutureHeights, for the past three years.

On the Board of the Friends Of the Heights Library for 4 years as their Web & Email & PC specialist Oct. 2013 – Oct. 2017.

Worked on the 2014 Heights Library Levy Website.

Attend Computer Tech MeetUps – Hadoop Large Data Databases monthly lectures.

Donations to several charities with low overhead so most of the donations go to their intended purpose

Owner of **Rock Solid Databases, LLC** – Web access of databases

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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?

My goals for the CH Community are the following:

To reduce the Property tax from 4% to 2% or at least 3%, to put it in line with the rest of Cuyahoga County to make owning a home in CH more inviting. This would require a balance of cutting back on some unnecessary spending until the increase income tax from new residents in housing sales compensates for the tax decrease.

To Help the School Board increase the State Grade of CHUH schools to make family interest in moving to CH more inviting.

To restore and rent or sell unoccupied houses in CH by individual property tax abatements and with help from FutureHeights and Habitat for Humanity instead of changing the fabric of CH by pursuing high density housing in hopes of getting more income tax.

To stop wasting time and money on “rebranding” CH and change the actual reasons that people and business avoid settling in CH. The current CH logo is fine as is, assuming that the CH Council stops removing trees from Mayfield Rd. to clear more spaces for high density housing or if the trees are really old and falling down, to plant new trees to maintain the current CH Tree Logo.

To spend time and money on existing CH citizens that need help, such as existing homeless and unemployed in CH. I was surprised to hear of a homeless man sleeping in the post office at night. Community churches should be looked into as temporary shelters if needed.

Each CH Council member should "adopt" several neighborhoods so that those residents know who to take their problems to for triage and neighborhood meetings could be held to help fix small problems before they become big problems.

Work with FutureHeights to impress upon the school children not to litter and graffiti their neighborhoods.

To elicit true opinions from online surveys of the residents of CH instead of having surveys with only options that the CH Council approves of that can be selected and a total absence of write-in responses.

Severance Town Center should be paramount in being the centerpiece of CH restoration. It has been vacant for far too long. If nothing else, CH should make sure the parking lot and the ring road is free of potholes year round. In addition to all the excellent suggestions for Severance Town Center, from tech training and other adult education to music and dance and theatre pursuits, a virtual amusement park could be established, where the view of the ride is on a movie screen and the theatre chairs move in relation to the ride. I would have CH Council encourage the absentee Namdar Realty Group "landlords" in Great Neck, NY to more quickly develop Severance Town Center. As is indicated from the CH's website:

<https://www.clevelandheights.com/DocumentCenter/View/2533> p. 71

Note: While Voorhees Township has taken a very important step in advancing redevelopment of the Voorhees Town Center site, consistent with earlier recommendations, HR&A recommends that the City of Cleveland Heights secure site control before advancing and redevelopment efforts at Severance. ... As the Voorhees Town Center project continues to proceed, Cleveland Heights staff may wish to maintain periodic engagement with Voorhees staff to inform engagement with Namdar.

Several fenced-in Dog Parks should be established, starting with the empty lot at Lee and Meadowbrook and the former site of the Center Mayfield theatre near Mayfield & Noble. The fencing, access to water for the dogs, and upkeep can be helped paid for with an additional city license-fee of the yearly county dog license. Yes, yes, I know the properties are far more valuable to the CH City Council as "high density housing with first floor retail" but since they have remained bereft of being built, they would be far more valuable to the dog lovers of CH as Dog Parks and even to CH as a whole if they are promoted properly as an incentive to bring in more residents. Of course this would mean that the current CH City Council plan for retail and high density housing for the lot at Lee and Meadowbrook be abandoned. Since the current substructure of the previous building will not support a six story building, as was the case when this project was originally explored several years ago, a Dog Park makes much more sense.

Top Of The Hill Project is in serious need of a more carefully thought out parking and access logistics. As indicated by the following selections from the CH website:

<https://www.clevelandheights.com/1081/TOH-Economic-Impact-and-TIF-Information>

<https://www.clevelandheights.com/DocumentCenter/View/4229/TOH-Neighborhood-Meeting-1120>

Top of the Hill Project Neighborhood Parking & Traffic Meeting November 20, 2018

Summary of Concerns from 10/23 Existing Concerns from Neighbors:

Parking on the streets from commercial district patrons and workers;

High volume of traffic and Vehicle speeds on neighboring side streets;

Difficult today to make a left turn onto S. Overlook from Cedar;

Lennox and Cedar intersection has site distance issues for turns onto Cedar;

Concerns about possibly relocating signal from S. Overlook to Delaware as part of the TOH project;

Concerns about cut through from North Park to Delaware through the TOH site to Euclid Heights Blvd.

With these two being the most obvious indicators of lack of planning:

Too much parking within the project will invite more cars into the district;

Too little parking within the project will create parking problem district wide;

The second is the real problem, with 280 to 300 luxury apartment suits but only 325 (550 minus 225 (175 CH city yearly rental spaces and 50 employee) garage parking spaces. With most of the apartment suits having two occupants driving two cars, the garage is insufficient for a full apartment occupancy and for retail shopping and restaurant parking as well. The first parking concern is therefore a diversion to keep parking at a minimum, because more parking does not "invite" more cars into the parking garage, but rather stores and restaurants bring in traffic. Someone going to the Cedar Lee Theatre does not park at the TOH parking garage. It might also help to put a 3 or 4 story parking garage at the current city parking lot at the corner of Lennox and Euclid Hts.

Two other TOH concerns are: The change of the location of the pocket park from its original location to next to Night Town for their use as al fresco dining. How much rent will Night Town be charged for the use of the park? Why will residents be deprived of the park in favor of the use by Night Town? With the most important concern being TOH Property Tax Abatement set for 30 years instead of the standard 15 for the rest of Cuyahoga County. It should be 15 years. The TOH project planning needs more work.

My service on the CH City Council would help achieve those goals by moving the Council of the Whole meetings to the Council Room so that the meetings could be on video instead of just having an audio recording. Additionally, Spectrum should air the meetings live on cable with email questions from the residents done live to be answered at the end of the meeting in addition to the live questions and concerns of the residents at the beginning of the meetings. Also, Surveys for the views of the residents should not be directed to certain outcomes but open ended with real input from the residents.

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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?

No

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State any additional information you would like to have considered.

My wife was intent in moving out of CH, but after looking elsewhere in Cuyahoga County for a better location to live, we have determined that CH is the best locale in the best location in the nation. Location, Location, Location: Less than a half hour commute downtown, without the sun in your eyes, and less than ten minutes to University Circle makes CH a jewel for commuting and should be promoted as such. I am determined to help make CH an even more livable city for its current and future residents.

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Russell Ruckey
your signature

JANUARY 11, 2019
date

Please return this form to:

**City Manager's Office
City of Cleveland Heights
40 Severance Circle
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118
or email to councilapplication@clvhts.com**

Russell Rucky's Resume

Russell Rucky

[REDACTED] Cleveland Hts., OH 44106
[REDACTED]

Education:

Graduated from Parma Senior High, Spring, 1971
Freshman Year at St. John's College, Baltimore, MD, Fall, 1971 – Spring, 1972
BA in Religious Studies from Cleveland State University, Dec., 1974
Masters Work in Religious Studies from Miami Univ., Oxford, OH,
Fall, 1975 – Spring, 1976
CSU Computer classes 1985 – 1990
CSU Continuing Ed classes 1990 - 2012

Recent Employment:

Retired after 28 years at Cleveland State Univ. Library, 2013

Cleveland State University Library, 1990 – 2012 (22 years)
Database Designer / Programmer / Windows NT & Linux Server Admin

Cleveland State University Library, Reference Assistant, 1984 – 1990 (6 years)

Previous Employment:

Dressage & CT Magazine, Cleveland Hts., Assistant Editor, 1982 – 1984

Cleveland Public Library, Foreign Literature Dept, Reference Desk, 1980 – 1982

General Telephone, Oberlin, Central Office Support, 1978 – 1980

Revco Drug Store, Parma, Floor Manager, 1977 – 1978

Cleveland State Univ., Lecturer in Religious Studies, Fall Quarter, 1976

Ulmer, Berne, Laronge, Glickman, & Curtis Law Firm, Paralegal, Summer, 1976

Miami Univ., Graduate Student Lecturer in Religious Studies, Fall, 1975 – Spring, 1976

Revco Drug Store, Parma, Clerk / Cashier, Fall, 1970 – Summer, 1971
& Fall, 1972 – Spring, 1974