

City Council Application 2020

Reference #	12845943
Status	Complete
First Name	Russell
Last Name	Rucky
Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Email Address	[REDACTED]
Street Address	[REDACTED] Derbyshire Rd.
Place of Employment	Retired after 28 years at CSU Library
Position	Before Retirement: Systems Database and Server Admin
Length of residence in Cleveland Heights	Over 36 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?	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>To use the existing Cuyahoga County Real Estate Data to populate a local CH problem property database to easily find available housing and stores.</p>

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.

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

Attendance of CH community meetings discussing: TOH, Issue 26 – 2019, Issue 26 – 2020

Member of Future Heights, for the past four years.

On the Board of the Friends Of the Heights Library for 5 years as their Web and PC specialist Oct. 2013 – Oct. 2018.

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

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:

Commitment to transparency of the Council in governing CH.

Commitment to the changing of the CH City Charter in transitioning to the citizen's election of the CH's Mayor.

Holding the Committee of the Whole in the Council Chambers so it can be videotaped like the regular Council Meetings. Yes, it's good to FINALLY have audio tapes of the meetings after being in violation of Ohio's Sunshine Law for so many years, but I don't recognize everyone's voice, so at the very least have a transcript of the meeting on the web as well, which would also benefit deaf residents. This will also add to Council governing transparency. All other meetings of the City Hall should also be taped with transcripts as well.

The use of the CH Web Site to be more helpful in conveying information to the residents and from the residents to the Council.

Areas in which you believe the City needs improvement:

Being more fiscally responsible to residents to reduce CH's income tax and Property Tax rates. Every local increase in the Property Tax rate must require a reduction in CH's income tax rate and the subsequent savings in increasing efficiency in the services the City provides.

Ways of decreasing the number of empty housing by offering individual housing Property Tax Abatement for individuals for enough years to incentivize housing sales. Since the City finds it a benefit to the City to do it for Outside Developers, such as the TOH project,

with a 30 year Property Tax Abatement, the same process should be used to increase the number of residents and decrease the number of empty housing, only with fewer years than 30.

The same methodology should be used for new small business owners in CH to decrease the number of empty storefronts, with differences to account for storefront rentals. So perhaps a reduction in the local business tax rate for the first years of business.

Of course this would not be fair to the current residents and business owners that have been in CH for years so a similar tax savings should be awarded to residents beginning with the residents that have been here the longest and a smaller reduction in their property taxes or income taxes.

The following are some examples of current topics that would benefit from web discussions based on actual knowledge of the situations supplied by the members of Council. And before the CH Council votes and finalizes the matter, it would also be a source of information for input from residents to the Council.

An immediate end to the Council's "re-branding" effort of CH. I understand that the Council is still working on this. The council should learn from this mistake. Instead of a survey after spending the money, a survey could have been taken before and the suggestion of having a contest for the artistic residents of CH. Or the survey could have easily indicated that the residents are very satisfied with the existing CH tree logo. The only positive result of this, was to have a united consensus of the citizenry that the current CH tree logo shouldn't be changed. I have never seen the community as unified in all my years of residency.

The Meadowbrook–Lee–Cedar Project, Severance, the Noble Rd. Project and other

development projects will hopefully learn from the TOH project and the CH residents will be kept in touch and their input seriously considered before decisions have been finalized.

My service on CH City Council would help achieve these goals and improve the city by:

I believe a great aid to Council transparency would be to have a question and answer section in the CH Web site, with a section for extended resident discussion. Perhaps each Council member should have an event/discussion page as well. My computing experience would be helpful in conjunction with the existing CH Web Master in implementing the use of the CH Web site to increase government transparency and communicating between the Council and residents by recruiting CHUH High School students for an internship position to program the html pages to benefit the city and to enhance the students college application with community service.

I would also help implement a database of available homes and vacant store fronts to allow interested future residents and business owners to select CH as their location.

Discussion about bringing High Speed internet to CH should be centered on subsidizing faster 5G access instead of being tied down to physical locations by fiber access.

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

State any additional information you would like to have considered.

Location, Location, Location: Less than a half hour commute downtown, without the sun in your eyes, and less than a few 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.

Would you like to upload a Resume?	Yes
Resume or CV Upload (5 MB Limit)	RussellRucky-Resume.txt (1k)
Item # 23	I agree to electronically sign this form.
Signature	Russell Rucky
Last Update	2020-03-23 17:48:36
Start Time	2020-03-23 17:26:01
Finish Time	2020-03-23 17:48:36
IP	
Browser	Firefox
OS	Windows
Referrer	https://www.clevelandheights.com/1085/City-Council-Application

Russell Rucky - Resume

Russell Rucky

Derbyshire Rd., Cleveland Hts., OH 44106

--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