

City Council Application

First Name	Demar
Last Name	Sheffey
Phone Number	
Cell Phone Number	
Email Address	
Street Address	
Place of Employment	Cleveland Metro Schools
Position	Educator
Length of residence in Cleveland Heights	1 year and 1 month.
Are you a registered Cleveland Heights voter?	Yes
What do you think would be your role as a member of City Council? What are your priorities 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?	<p>As a member of City Council, my role would be to serve as a bridge between residents and city government while setting clear policy direction and ensuring accountability. My priorities would focus on public safety rooted in prevention and trust, economic development that supports local businesses and job creation, youth development and workforce readiness, equitable infrastructure investment, and transparent government that communicates clearly and measures results. I believe the City can improve in coordinating efforts across departments, using data more effectively to evaluate programs and spending, expanding access to opportunity in underserved neighborhoods, and engaging residents more consistently in decision-making. My service on City Council would help achieve these goals by bringing a coaching and development mindset to leadership, applying my legal and governance experience to strengthen oversight and fiscal</p>

responsibility, and building strong partnerships across public, private, and nonprofit sectors to deliver long-term, measurable impact for the community.

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

I bring a combination of legal training, executive leadership experience, and a coaching mindset that focuses on developing people, strengthening systems, and achieving measurable results. My background in law, governance, and nonprofit and public-sector leadership allows me to analyze policy critically, ask the right questions, and ensure decisions are fiscally responsible, equitable, and aligned with long-term community goals. I also bring strong facilitation and listening skills, enabling me to engage residents with differing perspectives and build consensus without losing focus on outcomes. I have working knowledge of City Council meetings, including agenda setting, committee structures, legislation review, public comment, voting procedures, and the importance of open meetings and transparency. This combination of practical governance experience, collaborative leadership, and accountability-driven decision-making would add immediate value to Cleveland Heights City Council and help strengthen trust between residents and city leadership.

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

My formal education includes a Juris Doctor, with executive leadership training through a nationally recognized management program, and undergraduate studies in political science, all of which strengthened my ability to analyze policy, understand governance structures, and lead with discipline and accountability. Professionally, I have served in executive leadership roles, board governance positions, and municipal-facing roles that required collaboration with elected officials,

city departments, and community stakeholders to design, implement, and evaluate programs. Informally, my experience coaching leaders, mentoring youth, facilitating community conversations, and working directly with residents across diverse neighborhoods has sharpened my listening skills, judgment, and ability to translate community needs into actionable solutions. These combined educational, professional, and life experiences have prepared me to contribute thoughtfully, responsibly, and effectively as a member of City Council.

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

Chair of the Board, Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District – Cleveland, OH

Led strategic policy development for environmental conservation and sustainability.

Secured community partnerships to implement water quality and conservation projects.

CEO & Chief Program Officer, Children's Law Society – Grand Rapids, MI

Designed and managed 100+ youth-focused programs providing legal education and mentorship.

Collaborated with schools, community organizations, and local leaders to expand youth resources.

Mayor's Liaison, City of Elyria – Elyria, OH

Facilitated community engagement programs and strengthened partnerships between government agencies and local stakeholders.

Board Member, Various Local Nonprofits

Provided governance and strategic oversight to support organizational goals and community initiatives.

Mentorship and Leadership Coaching

Actively mentor youth and young professionals in leadership development, civic engagement, and career readiness.

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? Please note, having a full time job will not disqualify any applicant, and Council works hard to accommodate all members schedules when scheduling meetings.

No

State any additional information you would like to have considered.

I am a man of faith, a devoted family man, and a servant leader. My faith guides my values, decisions, and commitment to serving others. I prioritize building strong relationships, fostering community, and leading with integrity, humility, and a focus on positive impact. My dedication to family and community shapes my approach to leadership, ensuring that every decision reflects care, responsibility, and a commitment to the greater good.

Please upload your CV or Resume (5 MB Limit)

[Demar_Sheffey_Resume_.pdf \(129 KB\)](#)

Do you agree to electronically sign this form?

Yes

Signature

Demar Sheffey

DEMAR SHEFFEY, J.D.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | NONPROFIT & GOVERNMENT LEADER | STRATEGIC OPERATOR

- Impacted 5,000+ youth through 100+ programs, driving measurable success in participation, retention, and outcomes
- Managed a \$2M operational budget at Cuyahoga Soil & Water, optimizing resources and expanding program reach
- Built long-term partnerships and donor relationships, fostering cross-sector collaborations with schools, municipalities, and nonprofits
- Strengthened program quality and outcomes through data-informed, trauma-informed, people-first leadership

EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE

Chair of the Board

Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District | 3 Years

Focused on board governance, strategic planning, and community engagement during operational and regulatory transitions.

- Directed multi-year strategic planning to expand environmental education and community programs
- Strengthened governance systems, reporting structure, and board accountability practices
- Built partnerships with municipalities, schools, and nonprofit leaders to increase impact reach
- Improved resource, fleet, and operational efficiency across multiple service areas

Mayor's Liaison

City of Elyria | 6 months

Senior strategic advisor overseeing community programs, civic engagement, operations, and cross-department coordination

- Directed logistics, fleet operations, and multi-department program execution to reduce costs and improve service. Led community outreach initiatives to increase civic participation and strengthen city-resident relationships
- Guided planning and execution of high-visibility city events with operational precision

- Streamlined citywide processes to improve efficiency, accountability, and responsiveness

CEO & Chief Program Officer

Children's Law Society | 5 years

Executive leader for mission, programs, operations, teams, partnerships, and financial stewardship within a youth-focused advocacy nonprofit

- Drove organizational strategy centered on youth development, legal education, and family support
- Built partnerships with law firms, school districts, and nonprofits to expand program capacity
- Oversaw budgets, compliance frameworks, grant management, and operational performance
- Strengthened program quality, outcomes measurement, and service delivery across the organization

Program Manager, Youth Programs

YMCA | 6 months

- Directed multi-site youth development programs with focus on safety, social-emotional learning (SEL), and student growth
- Managed program staff emphasizing coaching, professional development, and trauma-aware practice
- Expanded school and community partnerships to increase program participation
- Oversaw transportation operations to improve safety, reliability, and cost efficiency

Program Coordinator

After-School All-Stars | 2 years

- Coordinated high-impact after-school and enrichment programs for high-need youth
- Improved scheduling, staffing, and resource allocation to strengthen program outcomes
- Built school partnerships to expand services and increase student engagement
- Fostered positive, supportive environments through mentorship and SEL-centered leadership

EDUCATION

- **Juris Doctor (J.D.)** — Business Law Specialty, Western Michigan University
- **Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)** — Political Science, Notre Dame College

- **Executive Leadership Development Certificate** — Weatherhead School of Management, Case Western Reserve University