

Profile

The Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13) governs the City’s use of the information contained in this application. Some of the information sought in this application is private data under the Act. The requested information will be used by the appointing authority to carry out the City’s official appointment responsibilities. You are not required to provide any information. However, failure to answer the application questions may cause the appointing authority to reject your application. The majority of items contained in this application are public, including name, address, employment, skills, training and experience, and are therefore available to anyone requesting it. The remaining items on the application form are classified as private. The private data is available only to you and to other persons in the City who, because of work assignments, reasonably require access to the information.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity: Submitted

Jilla _____ Nadimi _____
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

Email Address

Select Your Ward

Ward 4

Select Your District

District 13 - Union Park

Street Address

City

Suite or Apt

State

Postal Code

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Interests & Experiences

American Refugee Committee _____
Employer Job Title

Global Quality & Results Officer _____
Job Title

Why are you interested in serving on a board or committee?

Growing up as an immigrant, I valued community engagement from a young age. My family did not have any networks in Minnesota so public service allowed me to build a community. These networks continued to shape my life as my involvement with the Girl Scouts of America, City Council of Mounds View, and City of Minneapolis revealed to me that public service allowed me to build networks, learn about my home, impact decisions that affected my family, and make lifelong relationships. In my current professional role as the Global Quality and Results Officer for the Twin Cities' based American Refugee Committee (ARC), I have the privilege to address real-world problems on a macro scale. Working with ARC has allowed me to help provide aid in refugee camps abroad so that displaced persons can rebuild lives of dignity, security, and self-sufficiency. However, I found that I missed being able to also make an impact on a local level. This drove me to represent St. Paul as the 2018 Winter Carnival Queen of the Snows. It gave me great joy to be an ambassador for the city of St. Paul and show that immigrants can also represent their homes. I am now looking to further deepen that commitment to my local community and serving on this board would grant me this opportunity. I continue to strongly believe in the importance of public service to ensure that there is quality of life, safety, and opportunity for all residents of our great city of St. Paul.

What skills/training or experience do you possess for the committee(s) for which you seek appointment?

My dedication as a human rights advocate has guided my professional path. While obtaining my undergraduate degree in Global Studies and French at the University of Minnesota, I gained further experience at the International Institute of Minnesota. In this role I directly aided immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in correctly submitting appropriate federal paperwork. To ensure that they met federal requirements as well as to identify cases of potential discrimination, I interviewed and screened clients in English and French. Following graduation, I was hired as a Project Coordinator for the City of Minneapolis' Department of Elections and Voter Services to recruit 2,000 additional election judges and to increase election judge diversity. I had been a member of the first graduating cohort and advocate of the Urban Scholars program, a workforce feeder initiative which strives to increase diversity in local government. Through this role I was able to directly give back to the program by mentoring and supervising Urban Scholars myself. My proudest accomplishment in this position was the establishment of the 'Adopt-a-Precinct' initiative which I designed to engage diverse, local community leaders in order to recruit election judges within their own networks. In result, election judge demographics reflected the communities they served, building confidence in the government as an ally. Following this role, I created a novel volunteer recruitment and coordination program in the Galapagos Islands of Ecuador in partnership with the Charles Darwin Foundation. I began by building strong, personal relationships with local community leaders which led me to participate in various committees and working groups in Spanish. In my current role as the Global Quality and Results Officer for the Twin Cities' based American Refugee Committee, I have had the opportunity to directly support refugees, trafficked persons and displaced migrants. In this position, I help ensure the success of programs by monitoring project implementation across refugee camps. I accomplish this by working with diverse teams across the world virtually and through travel. We utilize real-time refugee feedback to analyze and investigate how our services can be improved. As a professional dedicated to protecting human rights, increasing access to governmental aid, and promoting equity I would serve as a valuable member of St. Paul's Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity Commission. It would truly be an honor to help others receive the support and protection they deserve.

Upload a Resume

Question applies to Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity

The Saint Paul HREEO Commission seeks candidates with strong community involvement experience. Briefly describe your background that relates to the purpose and work of the Human Rights Commission. Include details of work and involvement in human rights and all work that might contribute to the mission of the Human Rights Commission.

Community service is the cornerstone to my professional and personal life. I continue to be involved in many community programs. Last year, I had the opportunity to proudly represent the city of St. Paul locally, nationally, and even internationally as the 2018 St. Paul Winter Carnival's Queen of the Snows. Beyond gaining intimate knowledge of the greater Twin Cities' communities through over 400 appearances, I was able to bridge this ambassadorship with my profession as a humanitarian by developing the 'Ice Block Promise' initiative. Through this campaign, I was able to raise over \$10,000 to support development projects for vulnerable populations in the Twin Cities and youth in Uganda's Nakivale Refugee Camp, building stronger communities "one ice block at a time." Projects included supporting fair housing initiatives within the Nakivale Refugee Camp and partnered with the West St. Paul Police Department's C.O.P.S. program to provide much needed school supplies to 700 underprivileged students. Growing up as an immigrant, I intimately understand the value of equity outreach programming. I benefited directly from the Urban Scholars program as a proud member of its inaugural class, another community program I was able to participate in. As an Urban Scholar, I experienced how governmental programs can promote economic equity in their hiring practices. Through this internship for the Minneapolis' Regulatory Services Department, I supported the City of Minneapolis' Staple Food Ordinance. This project relied heavily on my understanding of federal and state statutes especially regarding the Federal Women Infant Children (WIC) requirements. Following site visits to monitor compliance primarily for small businesses, I researched and updated the City's ordinance to ensure alignment with federal and state guidelines. Following graduation from the program I gave back by reviewing new Urban Scholar applications for 2 years.

Question applies to Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity

What do you see as crucial issues facing our community, and briefly explain why?

I have seen housing in St. Paul, including within my own neighborhood, become unaffordable for those that live in these neighborhoods. To stay competitive and attractive as a city, it is important to modernize and increase amenities. However, we need to remain conscious of gentrification that can occur from these improvements. As we make our city even more desirable to live, work, and be in we cannot push away those that need these advantages most. Mixed housing initiatives ensure individuals with varying incomes can continue to call St. Paul home through low income housing availability and a variety of housing options. However, these initiatives not only aid individuals and their families, but also bolster communities as a whole. I have been perpetually fascinated by how culture affects our daily lives and how the influx of diverse thought can stimulate innovative ideas. Mixed housing allows individuals from differing backgrounds and perspectives to interact, exchanging ideas which results in stronger communities overall.

Question applies to Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity

Please describe your present and past community involvement which are applicable such as voluntary, social, city, church, school, business, and professional. Include dates of involvement, and any offices or leadership positions held.

Community involvement was at the core of my career in Girl Scouts. This formative program introduced me to community service and culminated in my self-designed Gold Award project in 2008, through which I directed the planning and implementation of the 50th anniversary Festival in the Park for the City of Mounds View. From September 2010 until September 2014 I served as an executive board member for the Students' Housing Cooperative Inc. which provides fair housing options to University of Minnesota students. Among other roles, I served as a voting board member for housing applicants. As a U.S. State Department Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholar in 2011, I learned skills abroad that I brought back home to improve my community. After studying the culinary arts in Paris, I returned to volunteer for the Central High School Cooking Matters program to teach underprivileged, low-income youth how to cook healthy but affordable meals. From May through September 2011 I volunteered as an Immigration Services Intern for the International Institute of Minnesota, helping to provide permanent residency, citizenship, passport, and refugee services. From May to August 2012 I served as a Business Licensing Intern in the inaugural class of the Urban Scholars program for the city of Minneapolis, focusing on WIC requirement alignment and the Mobile Food Vendor Ordinance. From January through August 2015 I served as a volunteer English as a foreign language teacher through the Minneapolis based English Learning Center. I wanted to give back because English is also my second language. I have volunteered in the Nativity of Our Lord choir in the Macalaster-Groveland neighborhood since 2016. From November 2017 until January 2019 I served as an ambassador for the City of St. Paul as the Winter Carnival Queen of the Snows, making over 400 community appearances.

Question applies to Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity

As part of your duties as a HREEO Commissioner you may be called to serve on a panel regarding fair housing issues. Please describe your experience, if any, working on fair housing issues? Note: lack of experience will not preclude applicants from serving.

I helped form and served on the Minneapolis for Intentional Communities Ordinance Reform community group. We worked closely together, with residents, and with councilmembers to draft various ordinance and zoning reform proposals. These efforts culminated in our group presenting our final proposal at a the Community Development & Regulatory Services committee public hearing and submitting to the Zoning & Planning committee. The ordinance reform proposals were adopted, raising the number of unrelated individuals that can occupy a residence. This helped the city of Minneapolis to make its current housing stock more usable and affordable.

Question applies to Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity

List any skills, knowledge, or perspectives that would serve the Human Rights Commission's ability to meet its mission and further the work of its committees.

When my family immigrated to the United States, my parents' degrees did not transfer and we did not speak any English. Because of this, the jobs that my parents were able to find meant that we grew up in poverty. Fortunately however, my parents made sure that they lived in a city with social programs and a good school system. I realize that I could not have accomplished what I have without these public services. In my professional career, I have had various opportunities to apply this unique perspective on equity. At the City of Minneapolis I continued to aid in the Urban Scholars program beyond my own graduation from the program, even hiring on Urban Scholars. Equity was my primary focus in recruiting additional election judges. Due to my integrated approach, we met our goals by lowering the average age of judges by 5% as well as by raising the number of multilingual judges by an additional 52%, African American judges by 50% and the proportion of Latino and Southeast Asian judges to reflect 2010 census data. For the CDRS in the Galapagos Islands I continued to employ this insight, that fair opportunities extend beyond accepting certain applicants. That fair hiring practices begin with equitable recruitment practices. Most recently, I earned the University of Minnesota Equity and Diversity Certificate to further bolster my knowledge of equitable practices.

Demographics

Ethnicity

None Selected

Gender

Female

11/12/1990

Date of Birth