

Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity Commission Proposed Appointments – September 2017

Autumn Amadou-Blegen

Ward 4

Non-Hispanic Caucasian

Employer: Summit Brewing Company

Occupation: Human Resources Director

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

Serving on the Sick and Safe Leave Task Force has exposed me to greater service to this fantastic city. It would be an honor to continue to serve the City and citizens of St. Paul via one of the city committees. HREEO in particular is of interest because of the focus on justice, equity and finding channels and pathways to provide and ensure accessibility, economic opportunity and equity for residents of St. Paul.

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

Bachelor of Science in ASL/English Interpreting, Western Oregon University; Master of Arts in Human Resource Management; Senior Professional in Human Resource Management (SPHR) Certification (active); Society for Human Resource Management Senior Certified Professional (SHRM-SCP) Certification (active); City of Saint Paul Sick and Safe Leave Task Force Member (2016)

Catherine Dahlberg

Outside of St. Paul (1/3 of members may live outside the city)

Asian/Pacific Islander

Employer: Republic Bank

Occupation: Bank teller/Community volunteer

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

I have working experience in community capacity building, including housing and education projects. In particular, I served on a committee with Community Action Duluth in 2015.

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

I have been an active volunteer over the past 10 years while living in Duluth, MN. I am energetic and passionate. I volunteered on education, youth and neighborhood projects. I have

work experience in meeting people of color. I am currently volunteering for a term in St. Paul. I would like to seek a committee seat to explore political involvement in St. Paul.

Cassandra Dutrieuille

Ward 6

African American

Employer: Hennepin County

Occupation: Social Worker

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

I believe in promoting systems that adhere to moral and ethical principles for everyone. In addition, I am interested in developing a deeper knowledge of the policies, procedures and practices as it relates to Human Rights/EEOC.

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

I have great analytical skills that allow me the ability to solve both complex and uncomplicated problems and concepts while making decisions that are reasonable based on the information presented. I've served in leadership roles with the St. Paul NAACP and various fundraising committees within the St. Paul community. I've also been a St. Paul resident for more than 10 years.

Devon Gilchrist

Outside Saint Paul (1/3 of Commission members may live outside the city)

African American

Employer: State of Minnesota

Occupation: Social Services Program Consultant

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

I am interested in serving on a board or committee because of the potential to continue working in public service in a new and exciting role that will allow me to use my current skills and experiences while providing opportunities to develop new professional capacities. I have a strong history of public service specifically in the areas of human and social services as well as education and feel, at this point in my professional career, I am looking to enhance and strengthen my involvement in the public sector to provide quality and efficient services to those who are served by the board.

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

In my current professional position, I am responsible for determining country/tribal child welfare programs' achievement in meeting performance objectives and outcomes by planning, coordinating and conducting on-site reviews; receiving and review periodic monitoring reports to assure country/tribal compliance with applicable standards, guidelines, county and state social service plans and state and federal law. Additionally, I serve as a union steward for the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees. In this role I serve as an advocate for employees, communicate with management, provide information for employees and enforce the employee contract. I represent and support employees during investigations, disciplinary proceedings, grievances and appeals to ensure that working conditions are safe, fair and equitable. I monitor the work place to make sure that the mutually agreed to contract between MAPE and the State of Minnesota is followed and ensure that individual employees' and the union's rights under the contract are not violated. I feel that these current professional experiences in addition to my prior work history will allow me to serve as a contributing member of the boards to which I have applied for consideration.

Allison Hofstedt

Ward 6

Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Employer: Murphy Warehouse/Midwest International Logistics

Occupation: Lead Import & Legal Compliance Specialist

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

I want to participate in making my community a better place for all who live here. I have excellent ideas for bringing our community closer together and the issue involving police/community distrust is at the heart of a lot of discord in our community. We need to be able to work together to build a strong, safe, trusting community and working on this board would be the footing we need to stand on.

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

I am a paralegal and earned my paralegal certificate during my AS studies at Inver Hills Community College, which gives me experience in law and specifically the statutes of Minnesota. I am a logical problem solver with the ability to think outside the box and come up with creative problem solving methods. In my professional experience it is imperative I listen and hear all sides of a situation before assessing the proper method to proceed on matters.

Brynn Smith

Ward 3

Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Employer: The Center for Victims of Torture

Occupation: Clinic Manager

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

I would like to become more active in my community through both formal and informal channels. I believe I have the skills and experience to be able to make a difference.

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

I have a Master's degree in social work which has trained me to be vigilant about human rights, but to also assess policy initiatives for the greatest good. I relate to people of diverse backgrounds very well. My current employment is in an organization that focuses on human rights and, through that work, I have learned about fundamental human rights on a global level, but also about the strengths and challenges we have on a local level.