

City of London - Application for Appointment to a City of London Board or Commission

Application

Please choose the Board or Commission you are interested in serving on: **London and Middlesex Community Housing**

Contact Information

Name: **Ozeyr Subhani**

City: **London**

Province: **ON**

Postal Code: **N6B 1W9**

Experience and Qualifications

If you have experience on a London Board or Commission, please provide dates and details. (max. 3000 characters):

I would like to begin by stating that I am a new resident to the City of London & received Government Housing as of March 1st of this year. So, I do not have any experience on a London Board or London Commission...However I do have some past experience in the City of Mississauga where I sat on the Condo Board as Secretary for #33 Elm Drive from 2004 through 2006.

I also have much to offer in terms of business experience as I owned & operated a used car dealership & Leasing Company from 1998 to 2017 (Miami Master Car Inc. & Master Car Leasing Inc. respectively). As President & CEO of both corporations, Financial Business Management, Corporate Governance, & Labour Relations were Critical & Crucial in order to operate successful & fruitful Enterprises.

In addition, I held the position of Vice President of Operations for Subhani Inc. where I managed a private Student Housing Portfolio off residence at York University in the City of Toronto from 2007 to 2013.

Regarding Municipal Government Relations, (which is a passion of mine), I attended City Council Meetings every other Wednesday at Mississauga City Hall in 2005 during a period of my life when I was considering Public Service Candidacy in a potential role of City Councillor in Ward 10. During this time, I realized that being of utmost Service to my Ward & operating Full Time businesses would essentially be impossible. Therefore, I wasn't able to pursue my passion in Municipal Politics. I would like to mention that this pursuit was inspired by my admiration for The Late Mayor, Hazel McCallion who literally poured all her Sweat & Tears in Serving the Residents of Mississauga.

What do you hope to contribute or learn as part of a Board or Commission? (max. 3000 characters):

Essentially, I want be of Service to the City of London. Giving back to the Community that offered me Housing out of approximately a dozen Housing Applications that I submitted across the Province of Ontario.

At this point in the Application Process to whomever is reviewing, I guess, one would ask:

How did a Successful Business Entrepreneur end up on a Government Housing List? Well, from 2017 through 2021, I experienced Multiple Severe Health Issues where costs of treatment were astronomical & I was forced to shut down business operations. Lack of income combined with the inability to work resulted in Extreme Poverty. Born & raised in a middle class family, then achieving wealthy status through both hard work coupled with business acumen, led me to a point of desperation that I thought was never a possibility in my life. In January 2022, I was homeless & living in Shelters throughout the region of Peel until May 2022 when I was finally able to afford basic room & board. I felt that this was important to share...although I realize that I have swayed away from the topic at hand, "What do I hope to contribute or learn as part of the LMCH Board of Directors?"

- Learn the role or roles of LMCH within the community, city council, & shareholders
- Address challenging concerns with respect to 580 Dundas Street & achieve some resolve
- See City plans on addressing homelessness, mental health, & rebuilding commerce in The Old East Village
- Learn the policies set in place by the LMCH with respect to Governance, Contribution, & Budgets
- Seek help / assistance from City Council & members of the Community to address the concerns of all residents within the neighbourhood
- Listen & address the concerns of local businesses
- look at ideas to raise Future Capital Investment in the community

So, in a nutshell...How can I be of Service?
And, How can my Life Experiences be of Value to the LMCH?
I believe that the my commitment to strive, to learn, & contribute will be an asset to the LMCH Board of Directors.

How will you support the work of a Board or Commission? (max. 3000 characters):

Firstly, I will have to learn the policies that are in place between The Board, By-Law, & City Council. As a result of gaining knowledge & information through Workshops & Board Meetings, I will be able to provide feedback / input as to where we may be able to improve the quality of living for all LMCH residents as a whole.

I would also like to learn & assess policies that have already been implemented in other LMCH Residential Communities where changes & improvements have already been achieved. And identify what steps have been initiated to achieve these desired results, so we can apply these initiatives to other LMCH Residences that are lacking in specific areas with regards to living conditions.

For example, I will touch on a specific issue that is of utmost concern at 580 Dundas Street which is the location of the Large Garbage Bins positioned at the front main entrance of the building which is also the only way to enter the premises. Due to the over-represented homeless population in the neighbourhood, these desperate individuals are forever "Dumpster Diving" into the garbage bins in search for clothing and / or any basic essential necessities that most of us take for granted. I do feel for the homeless as I too experienced it, & therefore can be empathetic in this regard.

However, many of these individuals suffer from mental health & addiction issues which compromises the safety of all residents entering the building at 580 Dundas. I have witnessed many violent outbursts resulting in police altercations & paramedics being summoned to the property. Unfortunately, so many homeless people congregate at the entrance by the garbage bins & harass the residents. Although, security arrives at 8pm, there is very little that 1 or 2 security guards can do about enforcing trespassers to leave the premises because there is just so many of them.

I have addressed this issue with our CRW who informed me that this issue has been brought to the attention of LMCH with the intention to relocate the garbage bins. I was also informed that this is not a simple issue to fix because there may be by-law infringements, conflict in city garbage collection agreements, & several other underlying factors that we are not aware of. I do realize that this sort of motion or request will probably require a vote at the City Council level & other governing bodies.

Interestingly enough, our CRW showed me old photographs of the building from the 1980's & there weren't any garbage bins at the front entrance of the building...so they must have been in a different location.

Also, there is some partial construction scheduled to commence on August 23rd regarding the re-paving & widening of the roundabout for vehicles entering the building. I have been informed that there will be a 40 inch expansion to allow emergency vehicles to maneuver through the entrance way.

This would be the ideal time to relocate the garbage bins, as many of us agree.

The City of London has a commitment to Diversity and Inclusion where we foster an inclusive and supportive workplace respecting the diversity, dignity and perspectives of all. What does it mean to you to have a commitment to diversity and inclusion? Give us an example of how you have and would demonstrate that commitment further in this role. (max. 3000 characters):

From my understanding of Diversity & Inclusion (D & I):

"Capturing the Uniqueness of the Individual"

My commitment to the workplace environment with respect to D & I would value the interests of all genders, races, religions, any, & all parties. I believe that maintaining an open mind is key, & trying to put myself in the another person's shoes, looking at things from their perspective. We are all dynamic individuals that have many personal life

experiences that are invaluable sources of input to the collective as long as I am able to set aside any pre-conceived notions that are subjective in nature.

From my business experience of almost 20 years, I have learned that a successful operation requires employees or staff that have a broad spectrum of talents, skills, & knowledge. I found that this diverse environment achieved a collaborative success that I could not see from my perspective alone. It opened my mind to many ideas that were absolutely brilliant. By embracing & accepting the remarkable benefit in valuing differences & equity simultaneously actually homogenized my organization as a whole. In further demonstrating D & I as a "Collective", I would treat all individuals, their beliefs, & opinions with Respect & Dignity in a Supportive Workplace.

Additionally, I would like to comment on the Subject of Homelessness as I feel it ties in with D & I. There are parties that support the programs implemented by the City of London & there are parties that are opposed.

For example, the "Homeless Hub Plan"

I read an article on July 27th in The Londoner newspaper where Sean Warren (Care Facilitator at London Inter-Community Health Centre & Co-Chair of the group) stated that "Cooperation is the Key". I am in absolute agreement with his statement and thought of this example as a Great Demonstration of Diversity & Inclusion.

Please tell us about your interest in being a part of the London Middlesex Community Housing board. Why are you interested in this particular opportunity? What do you hope to contribute, and how would you support the work of the London Middlesex Community Housing board?(max. 3000 characters):

I seen the posting on our bulletin board at my building & it peaked my interest. As a new resident in London, coming to a new city, & learning a whole new environment, I felt a need to get active again. I wasn't sure what I was going to do, but really felt that some aspect of Service Work in the Community would be rewarding in nature. Having a passion for Public Service that I wasn't able to pursue in the past due to underlying circumstances at that time, coupled with Corporate Business Experience, & Exposure to Municipal Politics, I was more inquisitive as to what this role would entail. So, I decided to attend the Zoom meeting on August 1st.

I found the presentation along with the Q & A to be very informative where I began to relate my Business background to the structure of the Board & its relationships with internal committees, city council, & by-law. I could see that there were a few common denominators amongst the two:

-Mission

-Vision

-Values

All of this was essential in operating all of my previous businesses. So, when I heard that the deadline to apply had been extended till August 11th...I exercised some due diligence.

Also, learning about the role & the structure of Board regarding budgets, shareholder interests, adherence to the Formal Board Agenda, & Governance while maintaining Safe Supportive Healthy Homes is definitely a challenge by any means. But, so are the challenges of residing at 580 Dundas. This is where I believe that I can contribute the most. Facing the daily challenges of living under these conditions where I may have to accept that this will probably be my home for the rest of my life...I do not want to sit idle. I would prefer to be in a position where my voice can be heard regarding the issues & concerns of everyday quality of living at this address.

And, it would be an honour to represent some positive changes & improvements for "Safe Supportive Healthy Homes" as a mission statement that I would like to incorporate in my Vision for the Values of LMCH.

Please tell us about your educational background, professional credentials, or any other training which is relevant to this position. (max. 3000 characters):

I have a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from University of Toronto.
Graduated in 1998.

Can't say that I have any specific training for this position, except for life experiences that I have already mentioned in any of the preceding fields of entry.

Please describe any relevant work and/or lived experience you have. (max. 3000 characters):

I can elaborate on is my time spent on the Condo Board at #33 Elm Drive in Mississauga. Our Board had to adhere to a strict Standard Operating Policy (SOP), maintaining a Prudent Reserve which had to be revised by our predecessors due to annual increases in

Reserve Fund Requirements for potential catastrophic breakdowns that could occur to the structure of the building. This resulted in annual maintenance fee increases to the residents based on their occupied square footage. Based on accounting data provided to the Board, we found that there was a discrepancy between cost per square foot & the actual fees incurred by the residents.

After some investigating & examination, we found that the Condo Corporation had been billing the residents for the Commercial portion of the building as well as the businesses that occupied the premises along with the commercial portion of the underground parking. In correcting this double billing, there was a surplus added to the Prudent Reserve which resulted in a 4% decrease in Maintenance fees to our residents. It was the due diligence of our board that brought about significant savings in our time of service. I was very thorough as Secretary in reporting back to the board & prepared in advance for all Board meetings which I can bring as an asset to the LMCH.

Tell us about your involvement in any public or private sector boards, community involvement, or other experiences that are relevant to this position. Please describe the roles you played and the period of time you were involved.(max. 3000 characters):

I have mentioned all my previous Board experience & Community involvement in many of the previous fields along with my roles & time periods that I served or was involved. Please review the preceding fields as I may have entered more information than was required during those portions of the Application process. I wanted to be as thorough from the very start.

If necessary, please provide any additional relevant information that is not captured in your previous answers.(max. 3000 characters):

Well, that sums it up for me.

I hope that I may be looked upon as a Viable Candidate in the eyes of the Deciding Committee in terms of advancing to The Interview Phase.

Thank you for the opportunity to apply & to feel a part of the London Middlesex Community!

Attach resume or other document here, if needed:

Attach more files here, if needed:

Confirmations

I declare the following: **I am at least 18 years old.; I am not a City employee or Council member.; For members of the public applying to serve as Tenant Directors on the London Middlesex Community Housing Board. I declare the following: I am currently a tenant of London Middlesex Community Housing; I understand that should I no longer be a LMCH tenant due to transfer of property or moving out, I will need to resign this position. ; I understand that my application and any attachments will be included on a public agenda that is published on the City website.**

To help inform our outreach activities, please tell us how you heard about this opportunity: (optional): **Other**

If you selected 'Other', please specify: **Posted on Bulletin Board at 580 Dundas Street where I reside**

Submitted on: **8/10/2023 4:52:12 AM**