

Council Business Meeting

May 18, 2021

Agenda Item	Appointment of Cheri Elson, Julie Gillis, Keith Jenkins, Irene Kai, Jamie Powell and Tamara Williams to the Social Equity and Racial Justice Commission	
From	Melissa Huhtala	City Recorder
Contact	Melissa.huhtala@ashland.or.us ; (541) 488-5307	

SUMMARY

Confirm Mayor's appointment of Cheri Elson, Julie Gillis, Keith Jenkins, Irene Kai, Jamie Powell and Tamara Williams to the Social Equity and Racial Justice Commission.

POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED

Ashland Municipal Code (AMC) Chapter 2.19.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION

N/A

BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This is confirmation by the City Council of the Mayor's appointments to the Social Equity and Racial Justice Commission

FISCAL IMPACTS

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

N/A

ACTIONS, OPTIONS & POTENTIAL MOTIONS

I move to approve the appointments of Cheri Elson, Julie Gillis, Keith Jenkins, Irene Kai, Jamie Powell and Tamara Williams to the Social Equity and Racial Justice Commission with a term beginning June 3, 2021 and expiring April 30, 2024.

REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1: Cheri Elson Application
- Attachment 2: Julie Gillis Application
- Attachment 3: Keith Jenkins Application
- Attachment 4: Irene Kai Application
- Attachment 5: Jamie Powell Application
- Attachment 6: Tamara Williams Application

**APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO
CITY COMMISSION/COMMITTEE**

Please type or print answers to the following questions and submit to the City Recorder at City Hall, 20 E Main Street, or email melissa.huhtala@ashland.or.us. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the City Recorder at 488-5307. **Attach additional sheets if necessary.**

Name Cheri Elson

Requesting to serve on: Social Equity and Racial Justice Commission (Commission/Committee)

Mailing Address 599 Ashland Creek Dr., Ashland, OR 97520

Physical Address 599 Ashland Creek Dr., Ashland, OR 97520

Occupation retired Phone: Home (541) 630-0016

Work

Email pitzkele@me.com

Fax

1. Education Background

What schools have you attended? UC Santa Cruz - Santa Cruz, CA
Ventura College of Law - Ventura, CA

What degrees do you hold? BA in Music and a JD

What additional training or education have you had that would apply to this position?
While I have not had any formal training in this area, I engaged on a self-training journey about 4 years ago. Like many liberal white folk, I did not have a clear understanding of my white privilege and it has been eye-opening to say the least. This is a continuing journey for me - I will never be done learning or helping to disseminate what I have learned!

2. Related Experience

What prior work experience have you had that would help you if you were appointed to this position?

My 20 years as an estate planning attorney has taught me the value of listening so that I can serve my clients and fulfill their needs (and not mine). In the past four years, I have also become politically active, with racial equity being an important subject. As a Jew (whose mother is a Holocaust survivor), I sadly have direct experience with racism and also know the frustration of others telling me I am over reacting. I know that, as a white person, I don't get to say what racism is - my job is to listen, learn, and support (just as, as a Jew, I do get to say what anti-semitism is and non-Jews have a role to listen, learn, and support).

Do you feel it would be advantageous for you to have further training in this field, such as attending conferences or seminars? Why? Ongoing training is imperative - living an anti-racist life is not something achieved by reading a book or 10 - it is learning, adjusting, and learning and adjusting more - it's really a continuum on which I can keep moving and the best way to do that is through training which can then be turned into action.



3. Interests

Why are you applying for this position? _____

Social equity and racial justice are extremely important to me and I know that this entire country's system was built on a lack of both. In order for us, as a society, to live up to our full potential, we must break down the systemic racism and become a truly equitable and racially just society.

4. Availability

Are you available to attend special meetings, in addition to the regularly scheduled meetings? Do you prefer day or evening meetings? I probably prefer days, but could to evening

meetings if needed.

5. Additional Information

How long have you lived in this community? Since 7/31/2014 - almost 7 years!

Please use the space below to summarize any additional qualifications you have for this position

I think my answers above summarized everything pretty well. This is some of the most important work I think I can do. Judiasm teaches us the concelp of Tikum Olam, which means "Repair the World." We are each tasked to leave the world a better place than it was before we entered it. I can think of no better way of fulfilling this obligation than by doing what I can to end the systemic racism of this country (on a national, state, and local level). Serving on this commission would allow me the oppportunity (and honor!) of being on the front lines and helping our beautiful town become better.

May 11, 2021
Date

Cheri Eisen
Signature



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Name _____

Requesting to serve on: _____ (Commission/Committee)

Mailing Address _____

Physical Address _____

Occupation _____ Phone: Home _____

Work _____

Email _____

Fax _____

1. Education Background

What schools have you attended? _____

What degrees do you hold? _____

What additional training or education have you had that would apply to this position?

2. Related Experience

What prior work experience have you had that would help you if you were appointed to this position?

Do you feel it would be advantageous for you to have further training in this field, such as attending conferences or seminars? Why? _____

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Name Keith Jenkins

Requesting to serve on: Social Equity and Racial Justice (Commission/Committee)

Mailing Address 226 Grant Street Ashland OR

Physical Address 226 Grant Street Ashland OR

Occupation Political Consultant

Phone: Home (510)746-6839

Work _____

Email _____

Fax _____

1. Education Background

What schools have you attended? Laney Community College

What degrees do you hold? None

What additional training or education have you had that would apply to this position?

I am the Vice President of SOBLACC. I am deeply knowledgeable in matters of racial equity and inclusion.

Living in Ashland as a Black Man has been a real challenge because of the racism and Anti Blackness I have encountered

2. Related Experience

What prior work experience have you had that would help you if you were appointed to this position?

I've been a community organizer for the better part of the last 15 years. From working with Oakland Rising

To working on the We-count Oregon campaign for the census, to Starting my very own Org called

Southern Oregon Black Leaders, Activists, & Community Coalition (SOBLACC)

Do you feel it would be advantageous for you to have further training in this field, such as attending conferences or seminars? Why? Absolutely, we are never done learning so the more

trainings I can attend the better equipped I am to deal with the issues that come up day to day.



3. Interests

Why are you applying for this position?

Because I care about Ashland and I want our

Black and BIPOC communities to be heard and seen in a real way. That means that there are black people on this commission. Not as tokens but as contributing members of this commission.

4. Availability

Are you available to attend special meetings, in addition to the regularly scheduled meetings? Do you prefer day or evening meetings? I am open to either. The issues that will come

up in these meetings are important and I'll make time.

5. Additional Information

How long have you lived in this community?

1 year

Please use the space below to summarize any additional qualifications you have for this position

I am a black man who is not from here. I'm from Oakland California. I think that's relevant because where

I grew up we had representation in our local city government, and with that representation came accountability. I want

to bring that feel here. We know there are Black Folks in Ashland but I can go days without seeing someone

who looks like me. I want people to look at those on this commission and see faces that they can identify with and feel

comfortable bringing us their issues and having open honest dialogue with the goal of creating a better more equitable

Ashland

5/12/2021

Date


Signature



CITY OF ASHLAND

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO CITY COMMISSION/COMMITTEE

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Name Irene Kai

Requesting to serve on: Social Equity and Racial Justice (Commission/Committee)

Mailing Address _____

Physical Address 2560 Eagle Creek Lane, Ashland, OR 97520

Occupation Art Instructor at RCC Phone: Home 541-552-1363

Work _____

Email irenekai@gmail.com

Fax _____

1. Education Background

What schools have you attended? School of Visual Arts, Royal College of Art

What degrees do you hold? MFA

What additional training or education have you had that would apply to this position?

I am the Co-Founder of the Ashland Culture of Peace Commission in Ashland (ACPC)

2. Related Experience

What prior work experience have you had that would help you if you were appointed to this position?

I am the ACPC Director of Development. I brought the World Peace Flame to Ashland.

Do you feel it would be advantageous for you to have further training in this field, such as attending conferences or seminars? Why? I am a BIPOC of this community and recently

produced a Cultural Literacy Series for the Ashland Tidings.

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Name Jaime Powell

Requesting to serve on: Social Equity and Racial Jus (Commission/Committee)

Mailing Address 484 Neil Creek Rd.

Physical Address 484 Neil Creek Rd.

Occupation massage therapist and coach Phone: Home 541.969.5389

Work _____
Email jaime.transformativ
Fax _____

1. Education Background

What schools have you attended? Converse College, Spartanburg, SC

What degrees do you hold? B.A.

What additional training or education have you had that would apply to this position?
Racial Equity Coalition Race Conversation Tool Kit Training, Deconstructing Whi

2. Related Experience

What prior work experience have you had that would help you if you were appointed to this position?
Massage Therapy training helps me to understand how to navigate stressful situ

Do you feel it would be advantageous for you to have further training in this field, such as attending conferences or seminars? Why? Of course. This field is constantly expa

CITY OF ASHLAND

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Name Tamara Joyce Williams

Requesting to serve on: Social Equity and Racial Justice (Commission/Committee)

Mailing Address 226 Grant street, Ashland, Oregon, 97520

Physical Address 226 Grant street, Ashland, Oregon, 97520

Occupation student Phone: Home 4089038677

Work

Email twilliams4004@gmail.com

Fax

1. Education Background

What schools have you attended? De anza College, Cal Baptist Uni.

What degrees do you hold? AS social and behavioral science and Early childhood education

What additional training or education have you had that would apply to this position?

former preschool teacher

2. Related Experience

What prior work experience have you had that would help you if you were appointed to this position?

My experience working closely with HR in coordinating an election for my school's FTIC (first teachers' first contract) when we worked in private, took from the police department here and the school and help. Overall, my experience is

Do you feel it would be advantageous for you to have further training in this field, such as attending conferences or seminars? Why? yes, it is always an a great experience to learn new information

on new subjects.



3. Interests

Why are you applying for this position?

I would be a good asset to this commission

being as a black person in Ashland, I can share my experiences and help contribute

to necessary data needed to help us get to the bottom of the problem

4. Availability

Are you available to attend special meetings, in addition to the regularly scheduled meetings? Do you prefer day or evening meetings?

day meetings

5. Additional Information

How long have you lived in this community?

a year and some months

Please use the space below to summarize any additional qualifications you have for this position

Multiple horizontal lines for writing additional qualifications.

5/12/2021

Date

[Handwritten Signature]
Signature

