



Application for Boards and Commissions

City of New Haven, CT

Submitted On:

May 20, 2023, 10:39AM EDT

Full Name	First Name: Yash Last Name: Chauhan
Email	yash.chauhan@yale.edu
Are you a current New Haven resident?	Yes
Full Address	Street Address: RM A21A, Benjamin Franklin College, 90 Prospect Street City: NEW HAVEN State: CT Zip: 06511
Phone Number	4753065007
Are you a registered voter in New Haven?	No
What political party do you belong to? [This information is only requested as it is required by the city charter (Article X Sec. 2-551) to ensure minority party representation on boards and commissions]	Democratic Party
What is your current occupation?	Student (Yale College)
Please upload a resume or personal statement of interest	Resume (City Board_Yash).pdf
New Haven Boards & Commissions Listed	Affordable Housing Commission Board of Education Board of Public Health Housing Authority
Please explain why you are interested in serving on this board/commission?	<p>Though I did not grow up here, for the last year New Haven has been my home. And as much as I'd like to say that I have done my part as a member of this community, the truth is that I haven't. Serving on a City board or commission does not in itself fulfill my commitment to this community, but I think it's a good place to start, for I would be able to learn much about this city and engage with other residents from all walks of life.</p> <p>I haven't been here long, but it is clear to me that there is a certain divide between the Yale community and the rest of New Haven. Through my conversations with other New Haven residents, I have sensed that many feel that Yale is solely concerned with its</p>

reputation and image and not with the interest of ordinary New Haveners. I want to be able to say to them that there are countless students like myself who hear them and are fighting for Yale to change its ways. I hope that I can help find common ground in my board and serve as a bridge between these communities that share so much.

Lastly, I think that serving on this board would allow me to do much to improve this city and apply all that I have learnt and am learning in college to solve problems on behalf of the people of New Haven. If I really want to go into public service eventually - which I do, I don't see how I can forgo this amazing opportunity to serve the community I'm part of for at least the next three years. It is because of this that I must say that though I have selected a few boards/commissions that I think I have the background for, I'm more than open to serving on any that would have room for me.

Why do you believe you are a good fit for this board/commission?

Before I specifically address why I am a good fit for each of my selected boards/commissions, let me make a general statement as to why I might be valuable on one. I'm a student of political science and am active politically in both academia and the real world. I study politics only because I hope to be able to implement some of the ideas I am exposed to. I have a real passion for public service and want to have the chance to collaborate with people from a range of backgrounds. From lobbying the Yale Alumni Association to build a community center adjacent to the Green to volunteering for the Chapel on the Green program supporting the homeless, I have tried my best to involve myself in the betterment of this community and want the chance to continue to do so. I don't know how many Yale students serve on these boards, but I would think that it might be a valuable perspective to have, irrespective of the board's purpose.

Board of Education: As a recent high school graduate, sibling to a high school junior, and current undergraduate in New Haven, the work that this board does is personal to me and I truly believe that I have a unique perspective to add to it. Before college, my education was a product of homeschooling, public schools, and private boarding schools. Because of this diversity in experience, I have a strong sense of how we must ensure our schools are second to none in providing each student with the knowledge and community they need to succeed. Furthermore, I think I am a good fit for this board because I think Yale can do more to help our public schools, and I'm currently discussing proposals that would do so with the Moderate Party. I will admit that though I have no sort of formal qualifications in this field, this is something I'm really passionate about and would love to work on.

Board of Public Health: During the Covid-19 Pandemic, I was involved with several public health projects from Virufy at Stanford to Covid Watch (one of the first contact tracing apps) at the University of

Arizona. I hope to be able to pull from these experiences in serving on this board.

Housing Authority and Affordable Housing Commission: During this last academic year, much of my coursework was centered around housing policy in Connecticut and how one might address the system inequity that underlies it. In fact, as a student of Professor Jacob Hacker, I wrote several policy memos detailing how one might be able to address Connecticut's housing crisis from all levels of government and ensure that certain minority groups are not disproportionately affected by it. I hope to bring this insight to the board, and hopefully introduce some of these ideas that I have been exposed to.

Thank you, and I hope to be able to serve any one of these boards/commissions.

Do you have any time commitments that would prevent you from participating in the board/commission meetings?

Absolutely not. With the exception of pressing schoolwork, my work with the board/commission would take precedence over any of my other engagements. This isn't an empty promise - I really do mean it.