

Application Form**Profile**

If you have any questions or difficulty submitting this application, please reach out to Alex Guzhnay at aguzhnay@newhavenct.gov or call 203-946-7670.

Danyne

First Name

Mercer

Last Name

Middle
Initial

mercerdanyne@yahoo.com

Email Address

422 Legion Ave

Home Address

Suite or Apt

New Haven

City

CT

State

06519

Postal Code

What ward do you live in (optional - please select ward if you know)?☒ Ward 3

Mobile: (860) 804-5031

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Are any of the above number a cell phone number?☒ Yes ☐ No**If so, which? Also, is it okay to send a text message?**

Mobile, and yes, text messages are preferred.

Are you currently employed by the City of New Haven or the New Haven Public School System?☐ Yes ☒ No

Employer

Job Title

To see our list of Boards and Commissions please click here: <https://newhaven-ct.granicus.com/boards/w/976a34cad711af7c/boards>

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

New Haven Food Policy Council: Submitted

Is this an appointment or reappointment request? *

☒ Appointment

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve. Please attach any of the follow:

Resume, Curriculum Vitae (CV), Professional Bio, or a Statement of Interest.

[DanyneMercer_FoodPolicyCouncil_Letter.docx](#)

Upload a Resume

If not submitting a Resume or CV, please submit a ~150 word Statement of Interest as to why you are interested in serving on your selected boards/commissions. If you have uploaded a resume, you can write n/a.

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

To help promote change in the New Haven community concerning food insecurities and health.

Why do you believe you would be a good fit for your selected board and commission(s)?

Working with Food Systems Policy Division, being a Master Gardener, as well as participating in the Farm-Based Wellness Program at New Haven Farms.

Do you have any time commitments that would prevent you from participating in board/commission meetings? Meeting times can be found by visiting newhavenct.gov/boards, but most are usually once a month for 1-2 hours.

No

Question applies to New Haven Food Policy Council

The New Haven Food Policy Council currently does not have a set meeting time. If appointed, what time of day / day of the week works best for you?

Demographics

Some boards and commissions require membership to be politically proportionate, per State Statute on minority party representation (CGS § 9-167a). What is your political affiliation on your voter registration?

Democrat

In order to stay compliant with our city's charter, are you registered to vote in New Haven?

☒ Yes ☐ No

We strive to maintain diversity in all of our Boards and Commissions. These questions are optional and if you volunteer the information we will only use it to ensure that our boards and commissions are diverse.

Ethnicity

☒ African American

Gender

☒ Female

How did you hear about serving on our Boards & Commissions?

Food Systems Policy Division

Food has always been an important part of my life. My passion for food began with learning how to cook nutritious food for my children, which inspired me to graduate from Gateway Community College in 2019 with an Associate's Degree in Culinary Arts. My children also inspired me to build my advocacy skills through participating in the Bridgeport Parent Leadership Training Institute in 2019.

While attending Gateway Community College, I participated in New Haven Farms' Farm-Based Wellness Program (FBWP). The FBWP introduced me to growing food, and eventually led me to becoming a gardener through their Incubator Gardener Program. Through my 4 years in the Incubator Gardener Program, I grew a variety of vegetables for my family, friends, and neighbors. In 2021, New Haven Farms staff shared an opportunity to apply my advocacy skills in New Haven's food and farming community by working with the Food System Policy Division (FSPD). I served as an Urban Agriculture Master Plan Community Advisory Board member from 2021-2023. Since then, I've continued learning about farming and gardening, by earning an Urban Farming certificate through UConn Extension, becoming a Master Gardener in 2024, and attending online farming courses through Purdue University and Cornell Small Farms Program.

I am applying to become a New Haven Food Policy Council member, so I can use my experiences and knowledge to make changes in New Haven for my community.