

Application Form

Profile

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

Sharon

First Name

Bass

Last Name

Middle
Initial

sharon.bass777@gmail.com

Email Address

345 Fountain Street

Home Address

102

Suite or Apt

New Haven

City

CT

State

06515

Postal Code

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

None Selected

Home: (203) 747-0921

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?

Yes

None

Employer

Retired

Job Title

To see our list of Boards and Commissions please click here: <https://www.newhavenct.gov/government/boards-commissions/boards-commissions-listed>

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Homeless Advisory Commission: Submitted

Is this an appointment or reappointment request? *

☒ Reappointment

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.

[Bass Sharon Resume.docx](#)

Upload a Resume

Are you currently employed by the City of New Haven or the New Haven Public School System?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Why are you interested in serving on a Board or Commission?

I've been on the commission for two years and I'm really enjoying it and learning more about the homelessness problems and solutions in New Haven.

Why do you believe you would be a good fit for your selected Board and Commissions?

I've had professional and personal experience with homelessness.

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

No

Demographics

In order to stay compliant with State Statute, what is your political affiliation on your voter registration?

Unaffiliated

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

None Selected

Gender

None Selected

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

I stay informed with the city's needs and opportunities.

Sharon Bass
345 Fountain Street
New Haven, Conn. 06515
203.747.0921
Sharon.bass777@gmail.com

I am a retired journalist interested in serving on the Homeless Advisory Commission for the City of New Haven.

As a journalist, I covered homeless communities. I investigated the social and economic impact on cities, as well as writing profiles of people who had no homes. I also reported on the quality — or lack of — of programs. I worked in several states and found of all, that Portland, Maine, had the most comprehensive and most humane programs and shelters despite that state's poor economy.

I will never forget the highly devoted people who worked long hours to make sure needed services were in place, such as bringing in dentists and doctors one day a week. There was a community center that provided a safe place to hang out, have a meal, do fun stuff like arts and crafts and connect with social workers.

In addition, the shelters were (hopefully still are) in good repair. The family shelter provided apartments, including bathrooms and kitchens. The shelter for single people was more traditional, but clean and equipped with beds, not cots.

When I retired, I got into financial difficulty and wound up in both of New Haven's women's shelters for about four or five months in total. From my experience as a journalist, and as a human being, I feel I can provide good feedback and ideas.

Work history:

1985-1990 Connecticut correspondent for the New York Times.

1990-1993 freelance writer and editor

1993-1996 editor of Northampton, Mass., weekly the Optimist.

1996-1997 deputy editor of Maine political and environmental weekly Maine Times. (Folded a year later as many alt-weeklies did due to corporate competitors.)

1997-2003 reporter and then editor of Portland, Maine, alt-weekly Casco Bay Weekly. (Folded a year later for same reason as above.)

2003-2005 founder and editor of the Maine weekly Windham Independent.

2005-2008 founder and editor of Hamden Daily News, an online news site covering Hamden, Conn.

2008-2010 freelance writer and editor

2010-2011 East Haven, Conn., editor for Patch, an AOL product.

2011-present, retired.

2021-present, volunteer reading tutor for New Haven Reads.

And an extremely proud mother of two and grandmother of three.