

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.

Lana

First Name

Melonakos-harrison

Last Name

Middle
Initial

lanaharrison4@gmail.com

Email Address

699 Elm Street

Home Address

#3

Suite or Apt

New Haven

City

CT

State

06511

Postal Code

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

☒ Ward 24

Mobile: (916) 872-7276

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

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

☐ Yes ☒ NoSoutheastern Connecticut
Council of Governments

Employer

Planner

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?

Board of Zoning Appeals: Submitted
City Plan Commission: Submitted
Environmental Advisory Council: Submitted
Fair Rent Commission: Submitted
New Haven Food Policy Council: Submitted
New Haven Solid Waste and Recycling Authority Board of Directors: Submitted

Is this an appointment or reappointment request? *

☒ Appointment

Question applies to multiple boards

Are you seeking a mayoral appointment/reappointment or a appointment/reappointment from the Board of Alders? Mayoral appointments go through the Mayor's Office, while Aldermanic appointments go through the Alders Office of Legislative Services. *

☒ No Preference

Question applies to multiple boards

*Note: If this is an appointment or reappointment request for a Board of Alders slot, please contact the Office of Legislative Services (OLS) at (203) 946-8371 or at alucas@newhavenct.gov if you have any questions on the progress of your appointment. The Mayor's Office is not involved in the timeline of Aldermanic appointees, but forwards any interested applicants for those slots to OLS.

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.

[Lana_MH_Resume.pdf](#)

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.

N/A

Question applies to Fair Rent Commission

Are you a landlord, renter, or someone who works with either landlords or renters? If so, please explain which?

Renter

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

As a resident of New Haven who lives, shops, and recreates here, I am committed to serving my community and ensuring it is a safe, healthy, and good place for existing and future residents and folks who work here. Boards and commissions, while often unknown to or little understood by the public, are the first level of a city that enables residents to be directly involved in the decisions and outcomes of their community. They are an opportunity for people to get involved in shaping their environments for the good of themselves, their neighbors, and the city as a whole.

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

I am committed to thorough understanding, fairness, and equity. As a renter, I am aware of housing issues in the state and how they impact New Haven locally and have a basic understanding of some housing laws with a desire and willingness to learn more. As a planner in southeastern Connecticut, I work on issues such as stormwater, waste management, housing, and recreation. While I work in a region that is quite different from New Haven, this experience gives me insight into issues that New Haven also faces and deals with.

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?

Weekday evenings

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

☒ Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Gender

☒ Female

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

A direct email

Lana

MELONAKOS-HARRISON

she/her/hers

EXPERIENCE

Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments - Norwich, CT

PLANNER II (August 2024 - Present)

Coordinate and execute planning projects on a variety of issues across the region. Responsibilities include: drafting RFPs consistent with state and federal requirements; coordinating with municipalities to plan for local and regional projects; writing grant applications; managing the Regional Open Space Plan and work plan; collaborating with colleagues on cross-sector planning and project coordination; providing staff support for the Solid Waste Committee and Southeastern Connecticut Housing Alliance.

Fine Homebuilding Magazine - Newtown, CT

DIGITAL EDITOR (March 2021 - January 2024)

Published a quality print and digital magazine by: planning and maintaining digital content calendar; brainstorming content relative to innovative building trends; working with contributors in the story development process; writing articles; publishing newsletters; planning digital strategy; serving on company-wide Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

Downtown San Diego Partnership - San Diego, CA

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER (Feb. 2019-Nov. 2019; Coordinator 2017-2019)

Collaborated with community stakeholders on neighborhood branding & placemaking projects; implemented utility box art project throughout downtown; coordinated admin tasks for downtown Commercial Enhancement Program including preparing agendas, publishing meeting minutes, & complying with public transparency legislation; wrote speeches, articles, & blog posts on a variety of policy issues and lifestyle topics relevant to downtown San Diego.

UCSD Challenge Course & Teambuilding Program San Diego, CA

LEAD FACILITATOR and ADMIN ASSISTANT

Facilitated experiential & dialogue-based team building workshops for organizations, companies, & youth groups; planned adaptive program material specific to the needs of each group; oversaw staff implementation; monitored staff & client safety; & handled contracting, payment & ongoing client relationship.

CUNY Hunter College

Masters of Urban Planning
Graduated: 2024

University of California San Diego

International Studies/Political Science

Relevant Courses & Skills

Courses: Real Estate Development, Land Use, Site Planning, Waste Mgmt, GIS, Environmental Impact Review, Transportation
Skills: QGIS, Microsoft, Google, Adobe, research, report writing & design, public speaking & presentations

EDUCATION
REFERENCES

Angela Wells

Special Projects Manager | City of San Diego
wellsak@sandiego.gov

Ruthy Gourevitch

Housing Policy Manager | Climate & Community Project
ruthgourevitch@gmail.com

Samantha Maver

Executive Managing Editor | Fine Homebuilding
smaver@aimmedia.com

RELEVANT ACTIVITIES



Volunteer

CONNECTICUT TENANTS UNION (Current)

Currently serving on the Social Housing Committee of a statewide tenant advocacy entity. I help research best practices on social housing and tenant governance for a more just and affordable housing landscape and strategize around local opportunities for implementation.

DOWNTOWN WOOSTER SQUARE CMT (March 2021-March 2022)

Vice chair of Community Management Team; participated in discussions guiding the content and direction of community meetings; composed agendas and meeting minutes.

MID CITY CAN RESIDENT LEADERSHIP ACADMEY (April 2019-May 2019)

Participated in 8-week leadership program focused on community organizing and advocacy. Class sessions included: principles of organizing; power players; social determinants of health; & place, food, transportation & restorative justice.