

From: postmaster@muniweb.com
To: [Morris, Melissa](#); [Hanson, Cortney](#)
Subject: The Form "Boards and Commissions Application - V2" was submitted
Date: Monday, February 5, 2024 3:56:29 PM

Name

Robert O'Donnell

Nickname, if preferred

Bob

Address*

565 Thornhill Ct, Belleville, MI 48111

Preferred Phone Number*

(734)294-8681

Email*

rodonnell1111@gmail.com

Are you a registered voter in the City of Novi?*

No

How long have you lived continuously in the City of Novi?*

NA, Novi business co-owner

Employed by

Novi Coffee & Tea, and I am a practicing attorney

Educational Background*

Brother Rice High School; University of Michigan AB Economics; University of Detroit School of Law JD

Please describe your professional qualifications, skills and/or work experience, and how you would use these to benefit the boards and/or commissions for which you are applying.*

I am a business owner in Novi (9 years), and I am a practicing attorney with relevant experience & expertise working with community leaders involved with economic development. I was a litigation attorney with Ford for 20 years, and I was a C Suite level chief legal officer at Absopure Water Company & its Plastipak Packaging affiliate for 12 years, during a phase of explosive growth for the companies -- in that role, I scouted, purchased, and helped organize the construction of manufacturing & other business-related sites throughout the US and internationally.

Please list any community groups with which you are currently or have previously been active and describe your role.*

Our coffeehouse is a true community-centric "Third Place", where people from all walks of life & backgrounds can come together to interact & get to know one another. We are proud to be a Black, Woman, Latina & Farmer owned business enterprise, and our mission since we bought the business in 2016 has been to bring the greater Novi community together, and link it with the communities around the globe that grow & process coffee (including my partner Maria's hometown in Puerto Rico, where she owns her family's coffee farm). From 2006

through 2018, I ran the Community Affairs function for Absopure Water Company & its affiliate Plastipak Packaging. In that role, I was the primary corporate official responsible for interaction with the dozens of communities around the US and internationally in which the companies operated manufacturing and other sites. In that time, we were in a significant growth phase and I interfaced frequently with local and other government development authorities. From 2009 through 2018, I served on the board of the Detroit Region Dollars for Scholars non-profit, working with kids, their families, teachers & administrators at 15 area high schools. While we offered college scholarships, our mission also included working with 30 students at each partner high school (10 per grade) beginning in the sophomore year to identify their post-graduation areas of interest & college preferences. Many of our scholars were children of immigrants and/or "first generation" college attendees, who faced unique challenges compared to others going to college.

What motivated you to apply to serve on a board or commission, and why did you select the boards/commissions that you did?*

I have an interest in public service, and believe I have a useful set of skills & experiences that would help the Corridor Improvement Authority.

If appointed, what do you hope to accomplish during your term? What do you hope to learn?*

Help improve the commercial business district within the Grand River Avenue Corridor, building on the community's past successes while avoiding or fixing past shortfalls. I would hope to learn more about business owner's & resident's priorities and concerns in the process.

What do you think the City is doing well or could be doing differently when you think about the areas of responsibility for the boards and/or commissions for which you are applying?

I think that Novi has done an enviable job over the years in building a community that balances commercial & residential needs and expectations, which has led to it being a home of choice for businesses & residents alike.

Is there anything else you would for Council to be aware of, or know about you?

No

1st Choice

Corridor Improvement Authority

2nd Choice

3rd Choice

List any additional choices (in order of preference)

Beautification areas of expertise

Board of Review areas of expertise

Building Authority areas of expertise

Construction Board of Appeals areas of expertise

Corridor Improvement Authority areas of expertise

Reside/Own Property in District

Codes/Regulations/Laws

Strategic Planning

Resource Allocation

Economic Development Corporation areas of expertise

Election Commission areas of expertise

Historical Commission Area of Expertise

Library Board areas of expertise

PRCS areas of expertise

Planning Commission areas of expertise

Zoning Board areas of expertise

Signature/Date

Robert J. O'Donnell/February 5, 2024