

Form Name: PEC Commissioner Application
Submission Time: October 21, 2022 6:51 pm
Browser: [Redacted]
IP Address: [Redacted]
Unique ID: [Redacted]
Location: [Redacted]

Public Ethics Commission Application

Contact Information

Name	Chris Nardi
Address	[Redacted] Oakland, CA 94612
Phone	[Redacted]
Evening Phone	[Redacted]
Email	[Redacted]

Please answer the following questions

Are you an Oakland resident?	Yes
Years of residency in Oakland	1
Your City Council District	District 3
List any City of Oakland Boards or Commissions (including this Commission) on which you currently or have previously served:	None
Do you attest that you already have or will attend a PEC meeting before your final interview with the Commission?	Yes
If you said yes to the previous question, please let us know what date you attended or will attend.	October 12, September 14
Are you currently employed by the City of Oakland or do you have any direct and substantial financial interest in any work, business, or official action by the City?	No
Are you currently or are you planning to run for elective office in Oakland?	No

Item 7b - Nardi Application

Are you currently or are you planning to endorse, support or oppose an Oakland candidate or ballot measure? No

Are you currently or are you planning to work on behalf of an Oakland candidate or ballot measure? No

Are you a registered Oakland lobbyist? No

Are you required to register as a lobbyist? No

Do you receive compensation from an Oakland lobbyist? No

Do you receive gifts from an Oakland lobbyist? No

How did you hear about this vacancy? Oakland website

Supplemental Questions

1. Why do you want to serve on the Public Ethics Commission?

As a new and hopefully long-term resident of Oakland, I would like to give back to my community. Under the city charter, the Public Ethics Commission is tasked with enforcement, administration, and education of laws and programs relating to "campaign finance, lobbying, transparency, and governmental ethics." These topics are of paramount importance and interest to me. Though I recognize that good government and transparency does not necessarily create effective governance, I do believe that government is improved when it operates openly and ethically. As a law student, I also have a hope that law can be used to create a better society for us all. I would be thrilled to help carry out the Commission's important work for the people of Oakland as a commissioner.

Item 7b - Nardi Application

2. What skills and experience will you bring to the Commission? (Include any governmental experience, activities with civic and business organizations, neighborhood groups, or any other experience that would contribute to your effectiveness as a Commissioner.)

I have worked as an intern for various agencies in the federal government. Though I never worked in administration of ethics or transparency laws, I saw how these laws were implemented in trainings and requirements for employees. I have also frequently been on the other side, as an individual requesting public records. I have filed public records requests with jurisdictions across the country, including with several cities and agencies in California. In my birth state of Indiana, I submitted several complaints alleging violation of their Public Records Act to the state's Public Access Counselor, in addition to filing a lawsuit seeking disclosure of certain public records.

I additionally served as an Associate Chair of my undergraduate institution's Judicial Council. While the role of this body was much different than the Commission's, my role involved many similar responsibilities. I met with college administrators to discuss conduct problems, served as a rotating chair of hearing panels, developed educational outreach programs, and considered revisions to the college's policies and Council's procedures.

3. What issues, projects, or goals would you like to pursue while serving on the Commission?

I would like to pursue projects that preserve institutional memory for the Commission. Commissioner turnover has been a topic of conversation at recent Commission meetings. Though staff play an important role in reminding commissioners about previous Commission actions, I believe the Commission could be more deliberate in compiling information for the benefit of future commissioners. In addition to improving the quality of the Commission's decision-making, such an effort would also enhance public understanding of the Commission and its recent efforts.

I would also like to continue the Commission's efforts to ensure compliance with public record and open meeting laws. I think the proposal to create a subcommittee tasked with identifying barriers that departments face in complying with public records requests is an excellent idea. Though it is unclear the extent to which staff would be needed to complete such a project, I think this is exactly the role of an independent body like the Commission. Any systemic problems identified by the Commission can be reported to the City Council and City Administrator for potential legislative or administrative action. Additionally, I have noticed that Business Improvement Districts approved by the city are sometimes out of compliance with public record and open meeting laws. It doesn't appear that the Commission currently includes BIDs in its outreach programs; targeted programs for BIDs would likely improve their compliance.

Item 7b - Nardi Application

4. What do you think are the City's most pressing ethics, campaign finance, or transparency challenges?

I think one pressing problem is the Commission's backlog of unresolved complaints. As of the last staff report, there were 49 open cases before the Commission, 9 of which were opened in 2016 or 2017. For the Commission to be effective at deterrence and education, it needs to be able to resolve complaints in a faster timeframe. Training of commissioners as hearing officers will hopefully speed up the hearing process, but the Commission should additionally consider whether procedural changes or increased resources are needed to have timely resolution of complaints.

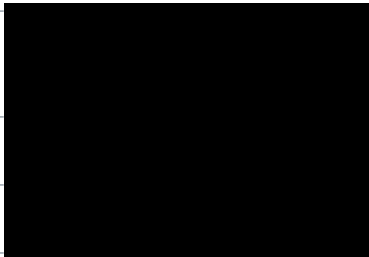
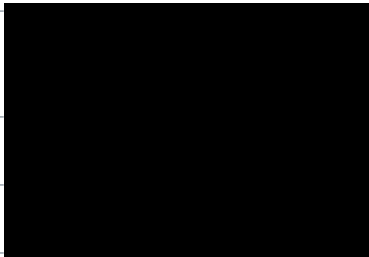
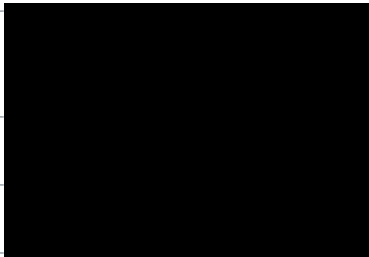
Additionally, as previously discussed, the backlog of public records requests for some departments means that compliance with the text (or at least the spirit) of transparency laws is broken. This is a universal problem across every jurisdiction I have requested records from. But this is an opportunity for the Commission to be a leader and find solutions so that the public receives responsive records to their requests more quickly.

5. What else would you like the subcommittee to know as your application is considered?

I believe the Commission would benefit from my youth. While youth political participation has increased in recent years, it has been coupled by feelings of apathy and inability to change entrenched structures. I firmly believe that participation in local government is one of the easiest ways to have a direct impact on one's community. Considering public transparency and good government issues in the context of youth participation would be beneficial to the Commission's mission.

Please provide two references

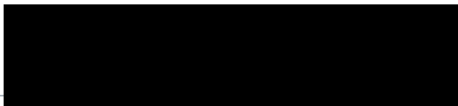
Reference 1

Name	Ashley Mihalik
Address	
Phone	
Email	

Reference 2

Name	Manisha Goel
Address	
Phone	

Email



n 7b - Nardi Application

Submit your resume

Upload your resume

<https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/13577177490>

Sign and submit application

Signature



Date/Time

Oct 20, 2022

Item 7b - Nardi Application

CHRIS NARDI

Oakland, CA [REDACTED]

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, Berkeley, CA J.D. Candidate Activities: <i>Berkeley Journal of Criminal Law</i> Political and Election Empowerment Project	Expected May 2025
Pomona College, Claremont, CA B.A., <i>cum laude</i> , in Politics with a specialization in American Politics, Minor in Economics Honors: Edward M. Sait Prize in American Politics Pomona College Scholar (Fall 2018, Fall 2019) Activities: <i>The Student Life</i> , Staff Photographer	May 2022

EXPERIENCE

Judicial Council, Pomona College, Claremont, CA <i>Associate Chair</i> Recruited, selected, and trained 44 student panelists for a student-led judicial body. Rotated presiding as chair of disciplinary hearing panels that determine responsibility and appropriate sanctions for violations of the student code. Suggested student code revisions to make its rules more restorative and educational.	May 2021 – May 2022
Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. <i>Student Trainee (General Administration)</i> Improved natural language processing models for automated classification of intake text to product codes. Redacted investigative documents for distribution to product manufacturers.	June 2021 – Aug 2021
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Washington, D.C. <i>Student Trainee (Economist)</i> Summarized statutory and regulatory rules for deposit insurance assessments. Earned STAR (Special Thanks and Recognition) award for analysis of textual and financial data submitted to financial regulators to inform ongoing rulemakings. Trained dozens of employees in other sections on the role of the Deposit Insurance Fund and factors that affect deposit insurance premiums paid by individual banks.	July 2020 – May 2021
Pomona College, Claremont, CA <i>Research Assistant</i> <i>High Performance Computing Support</i> Supported economics research of job listings as lead student developer using topic modeling algorithms (LDA) in Python/Spark and statistical analysis in R. Evaluated state-of-the-art methodologies to improve research using large datasets.	Aug 2020 – May 2022 Aug 2018 – May 2018

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Indiana Vote By Mail, Carmel, IN <i>Organizer</i>	Sept 2020 – Nov 2020
Resistbot / Open States, Remote <i>Developer</i>	June 2018 – June 2022