



Police Commission

Application for Position of Commissioner

The purpose of the Police Commission is to oversee the Oakland Police Department in order to make sure that its policies, practices and customs meet national standards of constitutional policing.

A Selection Panel of volunteer community members will select Oakland residents to serve on the Police Commission. Seated Commissioners are volunteers and will not be compensated.

Applicant Information					
Full Name:	Harbin-Forte	Brenda	F.	Date:	10/31/2022
	<i>Last</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>M.I.</i>		
Home Address:	Street Address		Apartment/Unit #		
	Oakland	CA			
	<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>ZIP Code</i>		
Phone:		Email:	judgebrenda2019@comcast.net		

Supplemental Questionnaire

The purpose of this supplemental questionnaire is to evaluate your qualifications to serve on the Police Commission. This application, along with your answers to these questions, will be used by the Selection Panel to select the most suitably qualified candidates (Question 1, 2, 3 and 4 below.)

- Applications submitted without a completed supplemental questionnaire will not be considered.
- Please limit your response to each question to one 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper (single or double spaced).

Please respond (in writing) to the following questions:

1. Please describe any life work and significant community volunteer experiences that prepare you to contribute to the work of the Commission.
2. Please describe your contacts or experiences with the Oakland Police Department.
3. Please describe, if applicable, if you or an immediate family member has had significant volunteer or employment experience:
 - a. as a police officer,
 - b. as a criminal prosecutor or defense attorney,
 - c. with a public agency or nonprofit community group serving or advocating for crime victims or persons charged or convicted of crimes.
4. Have you ever served on a board, committee, commission, or other group? (Examples might include church boards or school organizations.) Please describe your experiences. What were the most challenging aspects of your participation?

Application Considerations

Check all that apply:

I would like to be considered as a Selection Panel appointee?

YES

NO

I would like to be considered as a Mayoral Appointee?

YES

NO

References

Please list three professional or personal references who are familiar with your background, experience and qualifications, and who can answer questions about your ability to serve as a Commissioner.

Full Name: Hon. Judith Ford (Ret.)

Relationship: Friend

E-Mail jdonna@pacbell.net

Phone: 5 Relationship:

Full Name: Linda Purkiss, Esq.

Friend

E-Mail lindapurkiss@comcast.net

Phone: Relationship:

Full Name: Bari Robinson, Esq.

Friend

E-Mail barirobinson@aol.com

Phone:

Voluntary Self-Identification Questionnaire

1. With which race and/or ethnicity do you identify? (Check all that apply.)

- White
- Black or African American
- Latino
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Asian
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Other: _____
- I do not wish to Self-Identify

2. What is your gender?

- Female _____ I do not wish to self-identify

3. You are considered to have a disability if you have a physical or mental impairment or medical condition that substantially limits a major life activity, or if you have a history of such an impairment or medical conditions.

Please check one of the boxes below:

- Yes, I have a disability (or previously had a disability)
- No, I do not have a disability
- I do not wish to answer

Required Questionnaire

4. How long have you lived in Oakland?

42 years

5. How many meetings of the Police Commission have you attended, on Zoom or in person? (You can find a link to the next meeting on the agenda for that meeting, which can be found at www.oaklandca.gov/policecommission. You can also find video recordings of past meetings there.)

- 0
- 1-2
- 3 or more

6. How did you hear about applying to be on the Police Commission?

I am currently a Mayoral appointee seeking reappointment

Disclaimer and Signature

The City Charter requires background checks for all Police Commission members and alternates. Prior convictions will not eliminate you from consideration. The Selection Panel strongly encourages formerly incarcerated individuals to apply.

I certify that I am over eighteen years of age and that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

My signature below also indicates my acknowledgement that, by applying for the position of Commissioner, I will be subject to a background check.

Once submitted, your application form, along with all attachments, becomes a public record.

Signature: 

Date: October 31, 2022

Completed applications must be received by **June 30, 2022**, by mail, hand-delivery, or email as follows:

Mail or Hand-Delivery (Monday-Friday, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm)	Selection Panel for Police Commission c/o City Administrator's Office 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 3rd Floor Oakland, CA 94612
Email	Address: CityAdministratorsOffice@oaklandca.gov Subject: Police Commission Application
For assistance or additional information contact	City Administrator's Office CityAdministratorsOffice@oaklandca.gov (510) 238-3301

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE
of Brenda F. Harbin-Forte
APPLICATION FOR POSITION OF OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSIONER

1. Please describe any life work and significant community volunteer experiences that prepare you to contribute to the work of the Commission.

I have been an Oakland Police Commissioner since July 2020. Before then, I served for almost 30 years as an Alameda County Judge, first on the Municipal Court and then on the Superior Court. I am a member of the African American Latino Action Alliance.

2. Please describe your contacts or experiences with the Oakland Police Department.

For the past 2+ years, as a Commission member, I have overseen the work of the Oakland Police Department to ensure that its policies and practices pass constitutional muster. When I was an Alameda County judge, I handled numerous criminal cases, including juvenile court matters, involving the Oakland Police Department (OPD). As a Commissioner, I have also overseen the Community Police Review Agency, which investigates complaints of misconduct by OPD officers. In my work on the Commission, I have also served on several ad hoc committees tasked with creating and revising OPD policies.

3. Please describe, if applicable, if you or an immediate family member has had significant volunteer or employment experience:

- a. as a police officer,
- b. as a criminal prosecutor or defense attorney,
- c. with a public agency or nonprofit community group serving or advocating for crime victims or persons charged or convicted of crimes.

In the early 1980s, I practiced criminal defense in the state and federal courts.

4. Have you ever served on a board, committee, commission, or other group? (Examples might include church boards or school organizations.) Please describe your experiences. What were the most challenging aspects of your participation?

In addition to serving on the Police Commission, I have most recently served on the following boards and commissions: (a) City of Oakland Redistricting Commission; (b) California State Bar Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation; (c) California State Bar Council on Access & Fairness; (d) Judicial Council of the California Association of Black Lawyers (CABL); (e) California Association of Black Lawyers Board of Directors; and (f) Planning Committee for the Annual Conference of the California Judges Association.

I held leadership roles in many of these groups (e.g., Chair of the Judicial Council of CABL; Chair of the State Bar's Council on Access & Fairness; and Co-Chair of the Planning Committee for the Annual Conference of the California Judges Association). I had very positive and satisfying experiences working with others toward achieving mutual goals.

The most challenging aspects of my participation were and are making sure that all members of the group feel heard and feel that their views have been taken into account before the group makes a final decision on a course of action.

Dated: October 31, 2022


Brenda F. Harbin-Forte