

Form Name:
Submission Time:

Citizens Commission
February 11, 2019 11:02 am

Name Cassandra Bensahih

Address

Phone

Email

Citizenship Affirmation

I am a U.S. Citizen

Residency Affirmation

I am a resident of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Statement of Intent

I intend to comply with and advance the policy established by this Act.

Statement of Interest

I believe it is our duty to shape, and change the world together for fairness and justice for all. I have worked in the field of organizing for almost 11 years. In my journey, I have built relationships with the legislatures in our state and the people in my communities, I have always wanted our work together to make Massachusetts better. Through sharing our stories and victories of reforms I feel we have done some great work. I have also come to believe that people from all walks of life, with a different lens, should help shape policy and represent the people. One of my mentors said "nothing about us without us". I would be honored to work together with you on this commission.

Résumé or Summary of Qualifications Upload

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Political Party Affiliation, if any, over the previous five years

Democratic

City or Town where you reside

WORCESTER

Employment Status

Employed

Occupation

coordinator, organizer, public speaker

Employer

MASC Coalition (Prisoner's Legal Services)

CASSANDRA BENSAHIH

Committed social justice activist with 10+ years of community development experience; Proven organizer, team builder and leadership developer with fundraising and grant writing background; Superior interpersonal skills, self-directed, and able to master new concepts quickly.

EMPLOYMENT

MASC (Massachusetts against Solitary Confinement)

Coordinator

2017 – Present

- Duties include support for the coalition thru maintaining the website, facilitate meetings. Public speaking
- Building the coalition thru the statewide relationships I have built in the ten years of community organizing.
- Knowledge of legislative campaigns and advocate with legislatures in the State House to help move our agenda forward.
- Able to work with community and a diverse group of organizations from faith -based to ACLU, Prison Legal Services, and many others.

EPOCA (Ex-Prisoners Organizing for Community Advancement)

2009 – 2017

Executive Director

- Recognized as one of the preeminent spokespersons for criminal justice reform through multiple presentations to legislators, faith-based organizations, community activists and progressive groups throughout the Commonwealth.
- Contributed to design of omnibus criminal justice reform bill currently under consideration by the Massachusetts legislature
- Met with all state legislatures in Worcester county to urge them to co-sponsor the criminal justice reform bill
- Stabilized and helped refocus EPOCA during an unpredictable time in its history
- During tenure at EPOCA the critically significant RMV bill was passed by the legislature; pivotal role played by EPOCA is illustrated by my personal inclusion in signing ceremony
- worked to establish Mayor's 'reintegration-to-community' council
- Managed creation and distribution of 'Coming Home Directory' for Worcester County
- Oversee individual donor program comprised of five mailings/year, calls and high-donor meetings
- Facilitate board and general membership meetings
- Build and maintain relationships with allies and other community leaders
- Update community members on status of campaigns

- Schedule and conduct one-to-one leadership development meetings to build membership base
- Assist and coordinate the activities of local and community volunteers
- Travel in and out of state for professional development trainings on topics such as Undoing Racism, Democracy and How to be a Community Organizer
- Function as organization's media spokesperson; Update community on status of campaigns

Mass Alliance of HUD Tenants-

2014-Present

Tenant Organizer

Henry Heywood Hospital, Gardner, MA

2000-2006

Medical Office Assistant

Answered phones, greeted public at front desk, used Medi-Tech software to coordinate diagnostic tests and procedures for patients.

Lynn Community Development Corporation, Lynn, MA

1997 – 1998

Office Manager

Maintained filing and record system, planned and publicized community events, recruited students and taught basic computer course, and organized logistics for first time homebuyers course.

EDUCATION

Mount Wachusett Community College, Gardner, MA

2004-2006

Pursuing Associates Degree in Medical Office Procedures/EKG

Quinsigamond Community College

2013-2018

Pursuing a Degree in Communications

Graduate with honors earned Associate Degree