

**Jihane Nami**

Ms. Jihane Nami holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies and French from Willamette University and a Master of Science in Sustainability and Environmental Management from Staffordshire University, in the United Kingdom. She dedicated her first career to working with diverse and marginalized communities around the world, managing humanitarian programs in conflict-affected countries. Raised a “Cross-Cultural Kid”, she now calls Portland home and works at Portland State University, where she facilitates collaborative projects that match the university’s expertise with the priorities of community groups, government agencies and businesses, to develop practical solutions for a more sustainable, equitable and livable city.

**Statement of CRC nominee to City Council**

I would like to serve on the Citizen Review Committee to help improve police accountability and communities' perceptions of their local police bureau. I am committed to the Citizen Review Committee's mission, and believe to be well equipped to contribute to it. By reviewing appeal cases impartially and participating in CRC working groups, I look forward to better understanding systemic causes of police-community tensions, and providing recommendations for equitable change.

### Applicant Questions for the Citizen Review Committee

Full Name Jihane Kathleen Nami Date of Birth     /1979

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Other Names Used (e.g., Maiden Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address                      Portland, OR 97206

Home Telephone                      Work Telephone n/a

Cell Telephone                      E-mail                     

Occupation Project Manager Prior Occupation, if any international aid worker

Current Employer Portland State University

Please answer the questions below truthfully and fully. Attach an additional sheet, if needed.

**Describe any personal attitudes, life experiences, and prior examples that demonstrate you can make objective, impartial, evidence - based decisions about complaints against the police.**

As a systems-based thinker, I continuously look for ways in which systems, trainings and procedures need to be improved when faced with project failures or errors committed by my teams. Rather than placing blame or jumping to conclusions too soon, I maintain objectivity and seek to understand what went wrong and differing perspectives when handling sensitive issues such as accusations towards team members, when firing, etc. I have demonstrated throughout my work that my decisions are evidence-based and fair.

**Have you, a close friend, or a family member ever worked or volunteered in the criminal justice system? If yes, please describe.**

No.

**Have you or a family member ever participated in an organization that advocates a position regarding the police or the criminal justice system? If yes, please describe.**

No.

**Describe your experience in working with culturally diverse communities.**

I have worked with diverse communities and within diverse organizations throughout my career, serving as an international aid worker in various countries, including in Portland (please see resume). As such, I have gained extensive experience working with persons of color, persons with disabilities, LGBTQI communities, in a variety of setting - using empathy and promoting the voices of the marginalized. In my current position at PSU I am tasked with building partnerships with community based organizations that represent people of color in particular.

**Describe any relationships or experiences that could create the appearance of positive or negative perceptions for or against the police?**

I have met with the spouse of former Police Chief Marshman three times to discuss the book entitled "The New Jim Crow" by Michelle Alexander, and explore ideas for supporting the advancement of equity within the police force or criminal justice system. Fully cognizant that M. Alexander presents only one side of the story - albeit a disturbing one - I am interested in better understanding the criminal justice system and the issues in Portland, and contributing to a more equitable and positive outcome in the community. I have had very limited interaction with the police in Portland - it is my nature to believe people are generally good natured and committed to what is right. I have no reason of believing otherwise for the police - I can maintain objectivity when reviewing cases brought to CRC.

**Please provide an example of your experience analyzing, interpreting, explaining and applying relevant laws, regulations, ordinances, and policies.**

When working in international aid, much of the funding for the projects I worked on required a good understanding of and adherence to, federal rules and regulations that govern foreign aid assistance. I have had to interpret and explain these rules and regulations for my teams, seeking assistance from colleagues with more experience in compliance when necessary. I have also had to navigate local laws when stationed overseas.

I am interested in the CRC's involvement in reviewing policies and making recommendations to improve systems and advance equity.

**Describe your comfort level in reviewing complex deadly use of force investigations and making recommendations for findings and discipline.**

In my professional experience, I have been comfortable conducting investigations into behavioral issues, reviewing investigation findings and making recommendations for disciplinary actions when warranted. I believe I would be comfortable reviewing cases of deadly use of force investigations, but I have not had this experience before.

Would you be willing to take six hours of equity/diversity training as part of the 40 hours training you will be required for the Police Review Board/Citizen Review Committee? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Would you be willing to participate in 911 sit-along? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Would you be willing to participate in at least one police ride-along each year you serve? ☒ Yes ☐ No

This important community service will require a significant time commitment (an estimated seven to nine hours each week). CRC members act as an appeal body, and must become familiar with all relevant City codes and protocols in appeal hearing and other duties. CRC members attend regular monthly evening meetings (the first Wednesday each month) that often require advance preparation – such as reviewing case files for upcoming hearings, on occasion, there are additional meetings scheduled. CRC members also serve on various workgroups (sub-committees), which meet separately (generally, one or two meetings each month) and have additional workloads – such as reviewing complaints or policies. Additionally, CRC members will periodically serve on the Police Review Board to make thoughtful impartial, fact-based recommendation for discipline in use of force incidents to the Chief of Police and Police Commissioner. There are orientation and training sessions that members attend, including ride-alongs with police officers.

Are you willing and able to make the above CRC time commitment?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Service on this committee requires honesty and integrity. If any of the questions are not answered truthfully, the applicant will be disqualified from membership on the committee.

**Resume:** Please include an updated resume with this application.

**References:** Please provide names, addresses, and phone numbers of three people who may be contacted for references (*non-family members*).

(1) [REDACTED]

(2) [REDACTED]

(3) [REDACTED]