



FILE NO. 661-2024

City of Cleveland
Justin M. Bibb, Mayor

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May 29, 2024

The Honorable Blaine Griffin
President, Cleveland City Council
601 Lakeside Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114

The Honorable Joseph Jones
Chair, Mayor's Appointment Committee
601 Lakeside Avenue
Cleveland, OH 4411

Dear Council President Griffin & Chair Jones:

I am sending this correspondence as official notification that I am recommending the individuals below to serve as my appointment to the City of Cleveland's Fair Employment Wage Board, pending approval from Cleveland City Council. Included below are the names and terms of my nominations to be considered at an upcoming meeting of Cleveland City Council's Mayor's Appointments Committee.

- John Hodge, business representative, Plumbers Local 55. Representative from labor organization. Nominated for a two (2) year term.
- Helen Qin, Senior Director of New Business Development at Legacy Capital Partners and co-owner of Mason's Creamery. Representative from the business community. Nominated for a two (2) year term.
- Matt Ashton, owner and founder of Lekko Coffee. Representative from the business community. Nominated for a one (1) year term.

A resume is attached for each external candidate. Any questions can be directed to Ryan Puente, Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief Government Affairs Officer, at (216) 664-3544 or via email at rpunkte@clevelandohio.gov.

Sincerely,

Justin M. Bibb
Mayor | City of Cleveland

Matt Ashton

Owner

Lekko Coffee

Cleveland, OH 44113

Lekko Coffee is a coffee company centered around providing a living wage to the full supply chain and serving delicious beverages in a comfortable environment.

Experience

Lekko Coffee / Owner

May 2021 - PRESENT

I roast all coffee and deliver to our shop and wholesale partners, I train staff at our shop and wholesale partners, I do all sales, and deal with all expansion of business locations

Solstice Roasters / Sales, Production, Delivery, Marketing

February 2019 - April 2021, Cleveland OH

Inherited almost every job one could have at a coffee company as I looked to buy out the business.

Rising Star Coffee Roasters / Barista, Social Media, Grocery Director

December 2016 - October 2018, Cleveland OH

Learned to be a barista, ran social media for my final 9 months, and headed up entrance into all Heinen's locations.

Education

Duquesne University / M.M. Music Performance

August 2014 - May 2016, Pittsburgh PA

BGSU / B.A. Music Performance

August 2010 - May 2014, Bowling Green OH

Awards

Silver Spoons 2024

Best of Cleveland Magazine 2023

Matt Ashton

Owner, Lekko Coffee

Matt is Lekko Coffee's owner and founder. He worked for Cleveland's Solstice Coffee Roasters, Rising Star Coffee Roasters and Passenger's Cafe before stepping out to start Lekko. He was raised in the Cleveland area and earned a bachelor's and master's degree in horn performance at Bowling Green University and Duquesne University, respectively. He now lives in the Kamm's Corner neighborhood of Cleveland with his wife Laura and dog Jimmy. In his spare time, he enjoys playing pick-up basketball, roaming downtown to check out the latest restaurants and breweries and watching Cleveland sports.

John Patrick Hodge

Professional Work Experience

Plumber's Union Local 55, Cleveland, Ohio:

Business Representative: (2022-present)

- Negotiate contracts between members and contractors
- Secure plumbing work for members
- Resolve on the job disputes
- Organize new members
- Represent the Plumber's Union through political and business relationships

Journeyman: (2003-2022)

- Union Steward- Seidman Cancer Center (2009-2011) 50 plumbers; Lakewood Hospital (2017-2018) 10 plumbers; Polaris (2018-2019) 20 plumbers
- Construction Foreman-Seidman Cancer Center (2011-2012) 6 plumbers; Rainbow Babies 8th floor (2012-2013) 10 plumbers; Several small to medium size jobs (2013-2022)
- Medical Gas Sub-Foreman- Metro Hospital (2017-2018) 3 plumbers
- Small Jobs Foreman- Smith and Oby service (2021-2022)

Plumber's Union Local 55 Cleveland, Ohio: Board Member Position

- AFL-CIO Delegate (2005-2010), AFL-CIO Convention Delegate (2007-2009)
- Health and Welfare Board Trustee (2010-2016)
- Pension Board Secretary Trustee (2016-2022)
- DCRP Trustee (2016-2022)
- IFEBP Educational Conferences (2010-2022)
- COPE Member (2020-present)
- U.A. Delegate (2021)
- 200 Club Member (2008-present)

- Apprenticeship (1998-2003)

Other Professional Work Experience

Banking/Sales Representative

Chemical Financial (1995-1996)

- Account Representative/Collections

Key Bank (1996-1997)

- Corporate Bookkeeper

Transworld Systems (1997-1998)

- Outside Sales Representative

Education

Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio, 1994
Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) (GPA 3.2)
Major: Finance

Other Work Experience

- Plain Dealer Paper Route (1978-1980)
- Landscaping with small family business (1978-present)
- UFCW Local #880-Stock/Grocery Clerk (1985-1987)
- 3 G's Supply Company-Clerk/Purchasing Agent (1987-1995)

HELEN QIN

Cleveland, OH

EXPERIENCE

LEGACY CAPITAL PARTNERS

Senior Director | New Business Development, Cleveland, OH **2019 – Present**

- Responsible for bringing in new acquisitions into a series of funds investing in multifamily and for-rent properties.
- Manage due diligence, closing process, and ongoing relationships with various operating partners.

ASSOCIATED BANK

Vice President | Relationship Management, Cleveland, OH **2016 – 2019**

- Prospect for new deals and customers for the commercial real estate group, covering Northeast Ohio.
- Grew portfolio 70% in six months as solo colleague in Cleveland office.

THE NRP GROUP

Senior Asset Manager | Asset Management, Cleveland, OH **2015 – 2016**

- Manage a portfolio of twenty third-party managed LIHTC (Affordable), conventional and student properties. Duties include compliance reporting to lenders, state agencies and Limited Partners.
- Work with team on strategic sales and refi to perm of properties.

Senior Financial Analyst | Development Accounting, Cleveland, OH **2014 – 2015**

- Maintained accounting books for each project and worked with auditors on tax returns and annual audits.

WELLS FARGO & COMPANY

Relationship Manager | Commercial Real Estate Group, Cleveland, OH **2013 – 2014**

- Originated and underwrote real estate deals in the Cleveland area and upstate NY.

Associate | Credit Management Training Program, San Francisco, CA **2012 – 2013**

- Participated in a five-month advanced credit training program to enhance credit underwriting, client relationship management, and business development skills.

Financial Analyst | Commercial Real Estate, Los Angeles, CA **2010 – 2012**

- Supported up to five relationship managers and a portfolio of loans totaling over \$500M in commitments.

THE RUBICON PROJECT

Yield Management Specialist | Online Advertising, Los Angeles, CA **2009 – 2010**

- Monitored and managed performance of remnant online advertising inventory for a portfolio of publishers.

WELLS FARGO & COMPANY

Financial Analyst | Power and Utilities – Corporate Banking, Houston, TX **2008 – 2009**

- Analyzed credit of public utility companies with attention to industry and business risk analysis.

EDUCATION

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN **2003 – 2007**

- Bachelor of Business Administration (Finance); Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies (Plan II Honors)

ADDITIONAL

- **Language**, Native speaker in Mandarin Chinese
- **Co-Owner**, Mason's Creamery, a local ice cream business located in Ohio City **2013 – Present**
- **TEDx Cleveland State**, Speaker, "You Are Not Your Job" **October 2014**
- **Ohio City Incorporated Board of Trustees**, Board Member, Real Estate Committee **2015 – 2021**
- **Ohio City Incorporated Board of Trustees**, Board Chair, Community Engagement Committee **2017 – 2021**
- **CREN (Commercial Real Estate Network)**, Member **2017 – Present**
- **New Americans Advisory Committee**, Appointed by Governor Kasich **2019 – Present**