

OPIOID SETTLEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (Application)

Contact Info

Name
CHARLES RIDLEY

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Office of the City Clerk

Received

1/7/2025

Expires

1/7/2027

Occupation

Senior Community Organizer

Business Name

SEIU

NOTE: Your responses or disclosures are intended to assist the City Commission in considering an application for appointment/re-appointment to a City board or committee and will not result in the automatic disqualification from consideration or appointment/re-appointment. Therefore, complete and accurate responses should be provided.

Position Applying For:

At-large member who is a resident of the City of Delray Beach.

Relevant Licenses and/or Certifications: (Please upload)

SKIPPED

Additional Documents

SKIPPED

Are you a vendor or employed by a vendor that does business with the City?

No

Are you currently serving on a Delray Beach Advisory Board/Committee?

No

If yes, please provide details and dates.

NA

Are you aware of any potential conflict of interest (including, without limitation, any potential voting conflicts, or potential prohibited conflicts) that may arise from your serving on the City advisory board/committee to which you are seeking appointment?

If yes, please explain:

NA

Do you, any member of your immediate family, your employer, or your business (or any entity in which you have a controlling interest) currently have any contractual relationship with, or do business with, the City, or has there been any such relationship within the past 5 years?

If yes, please explain:

NA

Do you (or any entity in which you have a controlling interest) have any delinquent accounts with the City or owe any monies to the City?

If yes, please explain:

NA

Have you ever been found to have violated, or had a complaint filed against you alleging a violation of the Florida Code of Ethics for public officers and employees, Palm Beach County Code of Ethics (or any other ethics code)?

If yes, please explain:

NA

Have you ever had any complaint(s) or action(s) filed against your State certification or license?

If yes, please explain:

NA

INTERESTS & EXPERIENCES

List any additional certifications or licenses which may further qualify you to serve on this committee.

In 2013, I became the Coalition Director of the Miami Gardens Drug-Free Coalition, a federally funded initiative through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a role I held for 10 years. To qualify for this position, I completed certification through the National Coalition Academy (NCA), an intensive training program developed by the National Coalition Institute (NCI). As part of the year-long program, coalitions were required to develop and present five essential deliverables to graduate: (1) a substance abuse and misuse community assessment, (2) a logic model, (3) a substance abuse and misuse strategic and action plan, (4) an evaluation plan, and (5) a sustainability plan.

Briefly describe why you wish to serve as a member of this committee and how your personal experience and background relate:

I wish to serve on the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee because I bring a deeply personal and unique perspective to addressing substance abuse and its far-reaching impacts. Having lived as a crack addict for over 10 years, I know firsthand the devastating consequences addiction has on individuals, families, and communities. For the past 35 years, I have lived as a recovering addict and an actively engaged member of Narcotics Anonymous, which has given me firsthand experience in recovery work

List any other community/civic involvement which you would like the Commission to consider:

I have been a community activist in the city of Delray Beach for over 35 years. My initial involvement began with the creation of a grassroots organization called "MAD DADS," which mobilized a group of recovering addicts to reclaim our neighborhood from the crack wars of the 1980s and 1990s. This work led to the establishment of the Delray Beach Drug Task Force, the Delray Beach Drug Courts, 28 neighborhood associations, and Village Academy. It also played a central role in earning Delray Beach

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

University(s) attended:

Florida Agriculture and Mechanical

Degree(s) received:

120 hours in Music Education

Major area of study:

Music Education

Upload your resume:

[2025 Charles Ridley.docx](#)

Terms Of Acceptance

Applications are kept on file in the City Clerk's Office for a period of two years.

Applicants may supplement their application with a resume or other information relevant to their qualifications.

DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION EXEMPTION:

Personal information provided in this application is public information unless the applicant qualifies for an exemption pursuant to Florida Statutes. You are encouraged to thoroughly read the applicable sub-sections of F.S. 119.0 71 (http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0100-0199/0119/Sections/0119.071.html).

If you qualify for an exemption, please indicate below which statutory provision you are citing for the exemption. If you qualify, your address and phone number are protected information.

My address and telephone number are statutorily exempt from public disclosure:

No

If yes, pursuant to which sub-section of F.S. 119.071?

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Please agree with the following statement: I understand the duties and responsibilities of the committee for which I am applying. By signing below, I warrant the truthfulness and accuracy of the information provided in this application.
I Agree

E-Signature of Applicant:
CHARLES RIDLEY

Date:
01/07/2025

Please agree with the following statement: I understand that checking this box constitutes a legal signature confirming that I acknowledge and agree to the above Terms of Acceptance.
I Agree

Charles Ridley

Senior Community Organizer | Political Infrastructure Specialist
Delray Beach, Florida

Professional Summary

Highly accomplished senior community organizer with extensive experience in building political infrastructure for marginalized urban communities across Florida. Proven expertise in mobilizing disenfranchised voters, advocating for social justice, and implementing transformative redevelopment plans. Skilled in substance abuse prevention, coalition-building, and public-private partnerships to drive meaningful community change.

Professional Experience**Political Coordinator**

SEIU Florida Public Services Union
2012 – Present

- Represent 25,000 workers across eight counties, 16 cities, three Head Start agencies, and four school districts throughout Florida.
- Coordinate political strategies to address labor, social justice, and public service challenges statewide.
- Mobilize community members to advocate for equitable policies and increase voter engagement.

Chair

UNIFY Palm Beach
2015 – Present

- Lead a grassroots organization dedicated to building power for Black communities in Palm Beach County.
- Mobilize thousands of Black voters annually, significantly increasing voter turnout and advancing the UNIFY Black Agenda.
- Advocate for systemic reforms addressing mass incarceration, gentrification, healthcare, education, and more.

Chair

West Atlantic Redevelopment Coalition
2018 – Present

- Guide strategic partnerships to implement The Set Transformation Plan in Delray Beach's historic Black community.
- Advance redevelopment initiatives to improve economic, social, and cultural opportunities in the community.

- Foster collaboration among partner organizations committed to racial equity and community representation.

Executive Director

Community Crusade Against Drugs
1999 – 2012

- Directed substance abuse prevention initiatives in Miami Gardens, Florida.
- Developed comprehensive strategies to combat drug-related issues and support community wellness.

Co-Founder

Village Academy
1998 – 2005

- Secured over \$13 million in public and private funding for a K-12 National School Reform Model.
- Collaborated with stakeholders to create innovative educational opportunities for underserved students.

Vice President of Community Programs

MADDADs of Florida
1990 – 1998

- Established over 30 chapters statewide to address community safety and promote fatherhood advocacy.
- Spearheaded community engagement initiatives to reduce crime and foster neighborhood cohesion.

Consultant

Aspen Institute Project: Voices from the Field
2006 – 2008

- Contributed to a collection of best practices for creating Comprehensive Community Initiatives.
- Provided insights into effective community development strategies and policy advocacy.

Co-Author

Southwest Delray Beach Neighborhood Plan
2000 – 2003

- Designed a neighborhood revitalization plan that secured millions in funding for economic redevelopment.
- Advocated for equitable investment in Delray Beach's most economically challenged areas.

Key Skills

- Community Organizing & Advocacy
- Coalition Building & Strategic Partnerships
- Political Strategy & Voter Mobilization
- Redevelopment & Urban Planning
- Substance Abuse Prevention & Education
- Fundraising & Public-Private Partnerships
- Racial Equity & Social Justice Advocacy

Education & Certifications

- Certification in Racial Equity Institute Workshops
- Training in Comprehensive Community Initiatives, Aspen Institute

Awards & Recognitions

- Recognized for leveraging transformative funding for Village Academy and The Set Transformation Plan.
- Commended for mobilizing Black voter turnout and advancing systemic policy reforms.

Community Involvement

- Chair, The Coalition (Current)
- Ambassador, Soil and Soil Organization (Current)

Contact Information

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