

**Julia Sanchez**

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**From:** Webmaster  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 26, 2020 5:52 PM  
**To:** CityClerk; Cristina Hernandez; Leah Larrarte  
**Subject:** City of Chula Vista: Redistricting Commission Application - Web form

**Warning:  
External  
Email**

A new entry to a form/survey has been submitted.

**Form Name:** Redistricting Commission Application  
**Date & Time:** 07/26/2020 5:52 PM  
**Response #:** 31  
**Submitter ID:** 81024  
**IP address:** [REDACTED]  
**Time to complete:** 33 min. , 26 sec.

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**Survey Details**

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## Application for membership on the Redistricting Commission.

*When used in this Application, the term "City" refers to the City of Chula Vista.*

1. Prefix

(o) Mrs.

2. First and Last Name

Caneisha Fortner

3. E-mail

[REDACTED]

4. Home Address

[REDACTED]

5. City

Chula Vista

6. ZIP code

91915

7. Primary Phone



**8. Secondary Phone**

Not answered

**9. Are you registered to vote in the City?**

(o) Yes

**10. Do you live in the City?**

(o) Yes

**11. If yes, how long?**

5 years

**12. Present Employer**

United States Navy

**13. Occupation**

Paralegal

**14. Relevant educational background:**

Master of Public Administration | University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA – Student – Class of 2023;  
Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice Administration | Excelsior College, Albany, NY – 2017;  
Associates of Science, Paralegal Studies | Roger Williams University, Providence, RI – 2013;  
Housing Policy Leadership Academy Graduate; and  
City of San Diego – Citizens Water Academy Graduate

**15. Are you currently serving on any board or commission for the City or any other governmental agency?**

(o) No

**16. If yes, which one(s)?**

N/A

**17. 17. Have you previously served on any board or commission for the City or any other governmental agency?**

(o) No

**18. If yes, please list which one(s) and dates served:**

N/A

**19. Are you, or have you been, involved in any local, civic or community groups?**

(o) Yes

**20. If yes, please list them:**

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated; National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); Black Women’s Institute for Leadership Development (BWILD)

**21. Per Chula Vista Municipal Code Section 2.25.030, I understand:**

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-If I am currently serving on a board or commission, I must resign from my current board or commission if I am appointed.

-I must have served at least 12 months on my current board or commission in order to be appointed to another board or commission.

(o) I have read, acknowledged, and agree to the above statement.

22. Per Chula Vista Charter Section 300.5(E)(2), I understand:

If I am appointed to serve on this Commission, I will be ineligible to serve on, and shall not seek election to, the City Council in any district whose boundaries were drawn or adjusted by the Commission for a period of four (4) years immediately following the end of my service on the Commission.

(o) I have read, acknowledged, and agree to the above statement.

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## Eligibility to Serve on the Redistricting Commission

City Charter Section 300.5(C)(2) identifies certain persons who are ineligible to apply for and serve on the Redistricting Commission. Accordingly, please answer the following questions.

23. Are you an elected City official, or a member of the City Charter Review Commission?

(o) No

24. Are you a relative by blood or marriage within the second degree, or a domestic partner, of an elected City official?

(o) No

25. Have you, at any time within the last four years served as an elected City official?

(o) No

26. Are you a current employee of the City or a current employee of any organization representing any employee bargaining unit for employees of the City?

(o) No

27. Have you, at any time within the last four years, worked as a lobbyist?

*For purposes of this question, the term "lobbyist" means a person who, for compensation, has direct communication with a City official, including the Mayor, a Councilmember, or any elected City official, for purposes of influencing a municipal decision*

(o) No

28. Are you currently an officer in any local political party organization, including, but not limited to, officers of a political party county central committee?

(o) No

29. Have you, within the last four years, served as a paid campaign worker or paid campaign or political consultant for an elected City official?

(o) No

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**30. Please describe any relevant knowledge or abilities you can bring to the Redistricting Commission that you believe would help the Commission carry out its responsibilities, such as prior experience with districting or redistricting efforts:**

For 13 years I have served in the United States Navy. During this time I have been given the opportunity to work with various legal experts as a legal manager for domestic and global operations. Through these experiences I have developed excellent administrative, interpersonal, organizational, and technical competences. In researching the The Redistricting Commission, I have found that these are skills that are needed for any Commissioner to be able to undertake its duties effectively. The Commission was created to make unbiased, equal, and fair recommendations to the city council on how best to modify the existing district boundaries and while I do not have any previous districting or redistricting experience, I do believe that the proficiencies that I possess will greatly assist the Commission in making sound recommendations to the City Council on the required district boundaries' modifications.

**31. Please describe any experience you have with public communications or public outreach in the City**

Outside of my legal and naval experiences, for the past three years, I have had an opportunity to interact and work with the Chula Vista Community through local nonprofit Daring, Reshaping, Empowering, and Mentoring (D.R.E.A.M). As its executive director, I led my team members in training San Diego County residents on practical skills, financial matters, and other socioeconomic aspects. Throughout the past three years that I worked with the surrounding community, I afforded the opportunity to learn a lot about the various groups of interest in the area, as well as the cultural, ethnic, socioeconomic, and geographic factors that bind them. Therefore, my knowledge of such populations of interest in Chula Vista will enable me to guide the Commission on the interested parties who need to be involved in the formulation of its redistricting proposals.

**32. Please describe experience you have had serving in a nonpartisan role in which you have had to exercise impartiality:**

As a member of the uniformed services, I have learned to discharge my duties in a nonpartisan and impartial manner. Every member is expected to distance themselves from active politics and refrain from supporting any political party. In my case, I set the bar for nonpartisanship and impartiality even higher as I have had more than decade of practice in being independent in my decision-making. This experience will be helpful to the Redistricting Commission since it is required to make nonpartisan and fair recommendations. The Commission also has to desist from making endorsements that favor political office incumbents, their challengers, or any particular party. Therefore, my ability to discharge my duties objectively and make decisions without being swayed politically will help the Commission to achieve and maintain impartiality and nonpartisanship as it executes its mandate.

**33. Please describe any other relevant experience you have that is not described above:**

None.

**34. What would you hope to accomplish in the role of a Member of the Redistricting Commission? (250 words or less)**

As a member of the Redistricting Commission I would hope to impartially and fairly discharge my duties, while ensuring that there is balance and that constituents continue to yield the power that our democracy was created for them to hold. It is important that members appointed to the Redistricting Commission are able to remain focused in order to ensure that fair and unbiased political lines are drawn without special interests, politics or political influence.

**35. I understand that to be considered, I must submit a resume and one letter of reference along with this application.**

(o) I have read and acknowledge the above statement.

**36. Please upload a resume in addition to your application (required).**

Caneisha Fortner\_Resume .docx

**37. Please upload a letter of reference in addition to your application (required).**

2020-0725LORCFortner.pdf

**38. The City understands that applicants' schedules and availability may change. In an effort to have the districts drawn by August 2021, the goal is to seat the Redistricting Commission by August 2020, giving the members one year to complete**

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**the task. We ask that you review the previous Districting Commission's meeting frequency and final report in order to gain an understanding of the requested level of commitment.**

I have reviewed the previous Districting Commission's meeting frequency and final report and can commit to the suggested level of participation.

**39. I understand if I am selected to serve on the Redistricting Commission I will need to disclose certain economic interests (Form 700) in accordance with the City of Chula Vista's Conflict of Interest Code.**

I have reviewed the City of Chula Vista's Conflict of Interest Code.

**40. In lieu of signature, please type your name, and type today's date below before submitting this form. I understand and agree that typing my name below carries the same force and effect as if I had signed my name in my own handwriting. I hereby certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information I have provided in this application is true and correct.**

**Applicant's Name:** Caneisha S. Fortner  
**Today's date** 07/26/2020  
**{MM/DD/YYYY}:**

**\*\*Please review your application before submitting to ensure that all requested information has been provided, all required information reviewed, and all attachments included. If any of this information is lacking, the application will be deemed incomplete and will not be considered.\*\***

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**OPTIONAL: One of the City's goals in selecting Redistricting Commission members is to form a Commission that includes individuals who reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the City (City Charter Section 300.5.D.3.a). In an effort to meet that goal, the City requests that applicants *voluntarily* provide the following information. *You are not required to provide this information. Responding to the questions below is optional.* Any information provided will be used only in accordance with applicable law.**

**41. GENDER:**

Female

**42. Ethnicity:**

Not of Hispanic Origin

**43. Race:**

Black or African (Not Hispanic or Latino)

**44. How did you hear about the Chula Vista Redistricting Commission?**

Outside Organization

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Thank you,  
City of Chula Vista

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# CANEISHA S. FORTNER

Chula Vista, CA 91915



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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Experienced Legal Manager and Military Veteran with a Secret Security Clearance and 12 years of proven experience in the United States Navy. Accomplished measurable results while leading teams in dynamic, fast - paced environments. Possess a comprehensive background in legal and administrative processes derived from conducting domestic and global operations. Motivated and personable professional with a successful track record of serving as a leader in victim advocacy, the military justice system, investigations and public service activities. Possess extensive knowledge in interpersonal skills while providing a broad range of technical proficiencies, the ability to handle multiple tasks efficiently, accurately and timely. Displays excellent organizational skills while displaying a high level of occupational knowledge. Career supported by a Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice Administration.

- Law and Government
- Leadership
- Document Management
- Criminal Justice
- Training and Development
- Policy Implementation
- Administrative Services
- Communication
- Microsoft Office Suite

## EDUCATION

**Master of Public Administration** | University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA – Student – Class of 2023  
**Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice Administration** | Excelsior College, Albany, NY – 2017  
**Associates of Science, Paralegal Studies** | Roger Williams University, Providence, RI – 2013

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**United States Navy – Various Locations**

**2010 – Present**

### Senior Legal Manager

Oversaw the legal and administrative processes of a large organization for over 13 United States Navy legal offices worldwide. Provided excellent legal and administrative support while effectively managing 15 legal assistants and clerks.

- Collaborated with coworkers to routinely draft and update improvements to the Navy's Paralegal training program, improved job productivity by 25%
- Prepared daily affidavits, legal correspondence, and organized all legal documentation in paper and electronic format, ensured attorneys were accurately prepared for trial
- Performed online and offline research to assist military attorneys in related casework
- Managed and directed 10 legal assistants; ensured all legal correspondence and documentation were in accordance with military regulations
- Orchestrated and coordinated a senior leadership course, successfully prepared over 35 officers to lead in the legal field
- Provided excellent customer service and legal support to over 13 legal offices with a 100% customer satisfaction rating

### Trial Paralegal

Coordinated all the paralegal management responsibilities of over 550 commands within the Region Legal Office including courthouse security, legal correspondence, affidavits and promotions.

- Provided legal documents in courts-martials, Article 15 actions and reviewed separation board proceedings and other administrative and military justice issues
- Effectively managed the legal processing, documentation and correspondence of over 20 court martial cases and over 75 records of trials, ensured 100% compliance with deadlines
- Researched, investigated and interviewed personnel for over 100 sexual assault cases, informed victims of the Victim Assistance Program and ensured 100% completion

### **Trial Paralegal**

- Maintained the Region Legal Office's customer service help desk and ensured 100% customer satisfaction
- Managed and directed 10 legal assistants and performed quality assurance of legal work
- Provided excellent mentorship to over 35 Naval Legal assistants, increased the number of promoted employees by 30% and increased the retention rate of legal assistants by 40%

### **Legal Assistant**

Served as a legal assistant providing excellent legal and administrative support for over 2000 personnel.

- Assisted over 300 employees in family law including power of attorney, wills and separation decrees
- Prepared over 50 official accounts of hearings, investigations, courts-martial and courts of inquiry and processed appeals in an effective and efficient manner
- Managed and oversaw the proper processing of over 31 administrative separation packages, 2 separation boards, 32 non-judicial punishments trials and 121 legal documents
- Displayed a high level of professionalism and customer service in daily interactions with personnel
- Prepared and disseminated over 300 official legal forms, letters and requests with 100% efficiency for over 4 administrative boards, 25 appeals, and several Military Protective and Liberty Risk orders
- Assisted attorneys in researching and preparing for over 75 Civilian Administrative Forum hearings, improved the overall efficacy of the trials by 30%

### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated  
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)  
Black Women's Institute for Leadership Development

### **NOTABLE AWARDS**

Employee of The Year for The Year – 2017 | Navy Good Conduct Medal  
Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal  
Housing Policy Leadership Academy Graduate  
City of San Diego – Citizens Water Academy Graduate

### **TECHNICAL SKILLS**

**Software:** Microsoft Office, SharePoint  
**Operating Systems:** Microsoft Windows



ALISHA WILKINS, Ph. D.  
Chair

July 25, 2020

KATIE BUCKLAND  
First Vice Chair

CELINDA VÁZQUEZ  
Second Vice Chair

Lauren Babb  
Member at Large

ASSEMBLYMEMBER SHIRLEY WEBER  
Member at Large

ASSEMBLYMEMBER RECECCA  
BAUER-KAHAN  
Commissioner

Erica Courtney  
Commissioner

Quinn Delaney  
Commissioner

Lilia Garcia-Brower  
Commissioner

Joelle Gomez  
Commissioner

ASSEMBLYMEMBER ELOISE GÓMEZ  
REYES  
Commissioner

SENATOR HANNAH-BETH JACKSON  
Commissioner

SENATOR CONNIE LEYVA  
Commissioner

SENATOR HOLLY MITCHELL  
Commissioner

Executive Director  
LaKenya Jordan

Chula Vista Redistricting Commission  
City of Chula Vista  
276 Fourth Avenue  
Chula Vista, CA 91910

To Whom it May Concern:

RE: Letter of Support for Caneisha Fortner

It is a pleasure to recommend Ms. Caneisha Fortner to the Chula Vista Redistricting Commission.

Caneisha has served as an active duty member of the United States Navy for 13 years. She continues to further illustrate her dedication to her country through active engagement in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (DST), a private, not for profit organization committed to public service. Through DST, she planned and executed five voter registration drives in FY 19/20 reaching over 500 San Diego residents.

Caneisha also founded D.R.E.A.M. Inc., (Daring, Reshaping, Empowering, and Mentoring), a 501(c)3 organization that helps high school graduates with developing life skills, financial literacy, and acquiring and granting academic scholarships. Participants in her training have received over \$75,000 in federal grants.

Caneisha is also a graduate of Black Women's Institute for Leadership Development (BWILD), a program founded by Assemblywoman Dr. Shirley Weber. BWILD was created to grow an alliance of women from the African diaspora and provide them with guidance and support for a career in public service leading to elected office and/or leadership positions on boards and commissions.

In summary, I fervently support Caneisha for consideration to the Chula Vista Redistricting Commission.

Best regards,



Dr. Alisha Wilkins, Chair  
CA Commission on the Status of Women & Girls