

## **Resident Biographical Information**

**City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118**

**Name:** KEBA SYLLA

**Phone:** (216) 371-2367                      E-mail: ksylla@kent.edu

**Address:** 3262 E. Overlook Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118

**Place of Employment:** Baldwin Wallace University, Berea, Ohio 44017

**Position:** Professor

**Length of residence in Cleveland Heights:** 18 years

**Are you a registered Cleveland Heights voter?** Yes

### **1. What special qualities, abilities, skills, insights or perspective do you possess which would be of value in serving on Cleveland Heights City Council?**

I have a doctorate in Public Administration from the University of Akron, in Akron, Ohio and a Masters and a BA in Criminal Justice from Kent State University in Kent, Ohio. I am also an active member of CAC (Chair of the CAC. With my doctorate in Public Administration (specialist on Budget & Finances, Ethics in Government, Leadership & personnel), I will focus on Budget and how to bring resources to alleviate the loss of funds from the State. I will always seek to employ effective ways to solve our budget issue; in working with the city's manager and her excellent staff, who I have to known since working with them as a member and chair of the CAC. I will also urge an equitable distribution of funds for all commercial and business districts so that the economic growth reaches all part of the city. Once this reached, the city can have a broad tax base which will be fair to all of us and alleviate the tax burden on citizens With my Masters and BA in Criminal Justice, I will focus on crime and Public safety issues across our city. As a Criminalist and a Ph.D. in Public Administration, my objective is to work with youth organization, advocacy groups, business leaders, families and police to create conditions that allow our youth to enter into mentoring programs, where they can work with police officers, teachers and parents to make them understand their responsibilities and duties toward their fellow citizens , elderly people and businesses.

### **2. What educational training (formal and informal), employment and other life experiences have helped you develop the qualities, abilities, etc., described above?**

I have a doctorate in Public Administration from the University of Akron, in Akron, Ohio and a Masters and a BA in Criminal Justice from Kent State University, Kent, Ohio. I am also an active

member of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) with the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio since 2006. Currently, I am the chair of the CAC. In addition, since 2001, I have been involved with the Upward Bound Program at Cuyahoga Community College- Metro Campus in Cleveland, Ohio; where I taught for 11 years French and Spanish to inner City teens. In addition, I have knowledge of collective body functions. As a member of the CAC and its Chair, I have led a collective body that works hand in hand with City Council members and the City Manager's staff regarding the CDBG funds (also known as the Community Development Block Grant) that are allocated to diverse organizations across our city. During my tenure at CAC, I have developed a strong interaction with a collective body that mirrors the work of the City Council. This will make it easier for me to work with all members of the City Council and also the staff as well.

**3. Please list your recent community , professional or charitable involvements. List the most recent first.**

Member of the Board of Directors of Reaching Heights, since 2013; and a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) since 2006. As an active member of these community organizations, I work with diverse people on a variety of issues that are relevant to the economic and social well being of our city. I will bring these experiences to the City Council, once I am nominated to replace Council Woman Janine BOYD

**4. What are your goals for our community and are there are areas in which you believe the City needs improvements? How would you your service on city Council help achieve those goals and improve the City?**

I have two main goals I would focus as a member of the City Council: First, I will focus on Crime and Public Safety across our city. The fear of crime can negatively affect the businesses and deter newcomers to the city. I will work tirelessly with the Police Department, the Citizens, youth organizations and my colleagues on the Council to tackle this important issue. Second, I will focus on economic development that brings businesses and other financial resources to the city and thus reduces the tax burden on our citizens. In addition, I will improve the communication from the city council regarding city business. People are entitled to be informed about the Council policies.

**5. Do you have other responsibilities which would prevent from participating in City Council and Council committee work during certain hours or on certain days?**

No. I have a flexible schedule from the University

**6. State any additional information you would like to have considered.**

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Your signature: KEBA SYLLA, Ph.D.

**Please return this form to: City Manager's Office**

**City of Cleveland Heights**

**40 Severance Circle**

**Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118**