

November 11, 2020

HONORABLE LONG BEACH INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION MEMBERS
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation to conduct a study session to review and discuss possible appointments to the Independent Redistricting Commission applicant subpool from the selected applicants interviewed.

DISCUSSION

Background

The Long Beach Independent Redistricting Commission (Commission) was established by ballot initiative Measure DDD in 2018. The measure amended the City Charter to create an independent body with the exclusive authority to redraw the Council District boundaries every ten years following the national Census through an open and transparent process.

Recruitment

The application period for the Commission, pursuant to City Charter Section 2505, was open for three months from April 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020. Since the May 2020 update to the City Council, City staff successfully increased the number of applicants in demographic and Council District categories with lower submission totals through targeted outreach, specifically in Council Districts 1, 7, and 9, along with the Asian and Pacific Island, Black and African American, Hispanic or Latinx, and LGBTQ+ communities.

As a result, a total of 400 applications were submitted. Applicants responded that they were directed to the application through the following outreach efforts:

- Utility bill inserts
- Social media ads and posts
- Referrals from Community Based Organizations
- Various email newsletters
- Online media ads
- Freeway billboards ads
- LB Transit ads
- LB Airport ads
- Various presentations
- Local news publications

After an initial review of the applications, 353 applicants were determined potentially eligible (pending verification of conflict of interest and registration responses on their application) to be

included in the subpool of 20-30 applicants selected by the Ethics Commission. There were 14 applicants who withdrew their name from consideration, six duplicated applications, and 27 applicants who were deemed ineligible due to their responses on the application.

Ethics Commission Selection Process

City Charter Section 2505 designates the Ethics Commission as the screening panel responsible for creating a subpool of 20 to 30 applicants most qualified to perform the duties of the Commission. The Ethics Commission made each assignment to the subpool on the basis of the applicant's relevant analytical skills, familiarity with the city's neighborhoods and communities, ability to be impartial, and apparent ability to work cooperatively with other potential Commissioners. Following the selection of the subpool, the Ethics Commission Chair randomly selected nine individuals, one from each existing Council District to appoint to the Long Beach Independent Redistricting Commission.

At its August 12, 2020 Ethics Commission meeting, the Commissioners adopted the following selection process:

- The Ethics Commission was randomly divided into three ad hoc committees to evaluate applications by Council District. Using a selection process similar to the process used to select the three final commissioners appointed to the Ethics Commission, the City Clerk's Office assigned each ad hoc committee approximately one-third of the applications for review and ranking. Assignments were made to have Commissioners review applicants from Council Districts other than the one in which the Commissioners reside with names and personal information of applicants redacted to minimize any potential bias.
- City staff created an Evaluation Guide (Attachment A) for the Ethics Commission ad hoc committees to rank applicants based on their responses in the interest statement on the application, as well as information provided on the application and resume (if submitted). The three ad hoc committees met on September 3 and 4, 2020 to produce a list of five applicants from each Council District for a total of 45 applicants to be interviewed by the entire Ethics Commission.
- The interview process and the applications selected to move onto the interview process were adopted at the Ethics Commission meeting on September 9, 2020.
- Applicants were provided with three questions in advance of the interviews, which were conducted by Zoom meeting, consistent with the City's COVID-19 protocols.
- Interviews of the selected applicants were conducted by the Ethics Commission on October 7, 8, 9, and 14, 2020.
- Final selections to the subpool (Attachment B) were made by the Ethics Commission at its Special Meeting on October 14, 2020.
- At the same meeting, the Chair randomly selected the first nine Independent Redistricting Commissioners from the subpool.

Additional Random Selection

Following the appointments of the randomly selected Commissioners by the Ethics Commission, the appointed Council District 2 member withdrew from the selection process. To fulfil the City Charter requirement of nine randomly selected members, one from each existing Council District, the Ethics Commission held a Special Meeting on October 21, 2020. At the meeting, an additional random selection was made by the Chair to select another Council District 2 member from the remaining subpool.

Long Beach Independent Redistricting Commission Selection Process

City Charter Section 2505 tasks the nine Long Beach Independent Commission members selected by the Ethics Commission to select four members and two alternates from the remaining applicants in the subpool. The Commission must make each selection on the basis of the applicant's relevant analytical skills, familiarity with the city's neighborhoods and communities, ability to be impartial, and apparent ability to work cooperatively with other Commissioners.

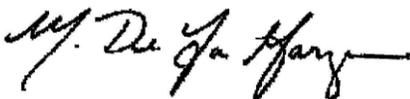
Based on the Ethics Commission selection process, staff provides the following suggestion to conduct a fair and transparent selection process:

- The Commission review the application, resume (if submitted), and Ethics Commission interview of each remaining applicant in the subpool.
- Using the same Evaluation Guide (Attachment A) created by staff for the Ethics Commissioners, to rank the remaining applicants based on the criteria outlined by the City Charter.
- At its November 20, 2020 Special Meeting, the Commission will discuss and appoint the remaining 4 members and 2 alternates to the Long Beach Independent Redistricting Commission.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

According to City Charter Section 2505, the Long Beach Independent Redistricting Commission must be fully established no later than December 1, 2020. It is therefore proposed that the remaining appointments be made at the Special Meeting on November 20, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,



MONIQUE DE LA GARZA
CITY CLERK

MD:jn

Attachment A: Evaluation Guide
Attachment B: Applicant Subpool List

Screening Panel Evaluation Guide -- Independent Redistricting Commission

Applicants for City’s Independent Redistricting Commission were requested to answer the following question:

“Please describe why you wish to serve on the Independent Redistricting Commission and share any additional experience, community activities, or other qualifications that make you a strong candidate for the Commission, including, but not limited to, analytical skills, familiarity with the City's neighborhoods and communities, ability to be impartial, and ability to work cooperatively with other potential commissioners.”

To apply consistent evaluation criteria to the selection of commissioners, it is suggested that you evaluate the responses using the following overall scale:

5 points -- Exceptional	4 points -- Strong	3 points -- Fair	2 points -- Weak	2 points -- Not Applicable
Applicant provides a thorough response to the interest statement; includes extensive experience, community activities, or other qualifications; and includes excellent analytical skills, familiarity with the City's neighborhoods and communities, ability to be impartial, and ability to work cooperatively with other potential commissioners.	Applicant provides a complete response to the interest statement; includes some experience, community activities, or other qualifications; and includes some analytical skills, familiarity with the City's neighborhoods and communities, ability to be impartial, and ability to work cooperatively with other potential commissioners.	Applicant provides an adequate response to the interest statement; includes limited experience, community activities, or other qualifications; and includes limited analytical skills, familiarity with the City's neighborhoods and communities, ability to be impartial, and ability to work cooperatively with other potential commissioners.	Applicant does not provide an adequate response to the interest statement; does not include experience, community activities, or other qualifications; and does not include analytical skills, familiarity with the City's neighborhoods and communities, ability to be impartial, and ability to work cooperatively with other potential commissioners.	Applicant does not provide a valid response.

Consideration may also be given to effectiveness of written expression and resumes (if submitted). Commissioners should also keep in mind the “subpool should reasonably reflect the City’s diversity” and are reminded that “no quotas, formulas or ratios” may be used for this determination, per City Charter Section 2505 (g). City Charter Section 2505 (m) refers to diversity as “includes, but is not limited to, racial, ethnic, gender, and sexual orientation diversity.”

Independent Redistricting Commission - Subpool and 9 Randomly Selected Commissioners

	First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Gender	Age Range	Council District	Income	Race / Ethnicity	Multiple Ethnicity / Other	Sexual Orientation	Prefer to Self-Describe	Highest Level of Education
CD1-19	Oscar	I	Morales	Male	50-59	District 1	\$35,000 - \$74,999	Multiple ethnicity / Other	Hispanic/Asian	Heterosexual / Straight		College Experience
CD1-21	ERIC	RICHARD	OATES	Male	18-29	District 1	\$75,000 - \$124,999	White / Caucasian		Bisexual		College Experience
CD1-24	Porfirio		Remigio Arroyo	Male	18-29	District 1	Under \$35,000	Hispanic / Latino		Heterosexual / Straight		College Experience
CD2-5	Genna	Lauren	Beckenhaupt	Female	18-29	District 2	Under \$35,000	Hispanic / Latino		Homosexual / Gay or Lesbian		Graduate School Experience
CD2-21	Ryan		Giffen	Male	40-49	District 2	\$125,000 - \$250,000	White / Caucasian		Homosexual / Gay or Lesbian		Doctoral or Professional degree
CD2-38	Milton	Darnell	Smith	Male	40-49	District 2	\$35,000 - \$74,999	Black or African American		Homosexual / Gay or Lesbian		College Experience
CD3-11	Thomas	J	Cooper	Male	70-79	District 3	\$125,000 - \$250,000	White / Caucasian		Heterosexual / Straight		Doctoral or Professional degree
CD3-23	Josias	N/A	Gonzalez	Male	30-39	District 3	\$75,000 - \$124,999	Hispanic / Latino		Heterosexual / Straight		College Experience
CD4-1	Andrea	Nicole	Antony	Female	30-39	District 4	\$75,000 - \$124,999	Multiple ethnicity / Other	white/Latina	Bisexual		Graduate School Experience
CD4-17	Nicole		Lopez	Female	40-49	District 4	\$125,000 - \$250,000	White / Caucasian		Heterosexual / Straight		Graduate School Experience
CD5-14	Sharon		Diggs-Jackson	Female	60-69	District 5	\$35,000 - \$74,999	Black or African American		Heterosexual / Straight		College Experience
CD5-36	Feliza	Isabella	Ortiz Licon	Female	40-49	District 5	\$75,000 - \$124,999	Hispanic / Latino		Heterosexual / Straight		Doctoral or Professional degree
CD5-42	David		Salazar	Male	60-69	District 5	\$125,000 - \$250,000	Hispanic / Latino		Heterosexual / Straight		Graduate School Experience
CD6-11	Alejandra		Gutierrez	Female	30-39	District 6	\$35,000 - \$74,999	Hispanic / Latino		Heterosexual / Straight		Graduate School Experience
CD6-19	Kelly		Nhim	Female	40-49	District 6	Under \$35,000	Asian / Pacific Islander		Heterosexual / Straight		College Experience
CD6-34	Alisha	A	Wade	Female	60-69	District 6	\$75,000 - \$124,999	Black or African American		Heterosexual / Straight		College Experience
CD7-19	Frank	Anthony	Gutierrez	Male	60-69	District 7	\$125,000 - \$250,000	Hispanic / Latino		Homosexual / Gay or Lesbian		Doctoral or Professional degree
CD7-31	Zhelinrentice	Levels	Scott	Female	40-49	District 7	\$35,000 - \$74,999	Black or African American		Heterosexual / Straight		Graduate School Experience
CD8-1	Michele	Brenda	Anderson	Female	60-69	District 8	Over \$250,000	Black or African American		Heterosexual / Straight		Doctoral or Professional degree
CD8-20	Marissa		Martinez	Female	18-29	District 8	Under \$35,000	Hispanic / Latino		Heterosexual / Straight		College Experience
CD8-25	Melody	Elaine	Osuna	Female	30-39	District 8	\$125,000 - \$250,000	Multiple ethnicity / Other	white, Black, Spanish	Heterosexual / Straight		Doctoral or Professional degree
CD9-24	Ryan	William	O'Connell	Male	30-39	District 9	\$125,000 - \$250,000	White / Caucasian		Homosexual / Gay or Lesbian		College Experience
CD9-31	Sevly		Snguon	Non-Binary	18-29	District 9	\$35,000 - \$74,999	Asian / Pacific Islander		Prefer to Self-Describe	Queer/Demisexual	Graduate School Experience

*Please note the applicants who were randomly selected are highlighted in yellow and the applicant in red has withdrawn from the selection process.

Revised 10/21/2020