



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 2024

FROM: CITY CLERK'S OFFICE WARDS: ALL

SUBJECT: BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS, REAPPOINTMENTS AND REDESIGNATION

ISSUE:

Approve appointments, reappointments, and redesignation for March 1, 2024, annual board and commission recruitment.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Mayor and City Council:

1. Approve the following reappointments for terms through March 1, 2028;
 - a. Debra C. Keller to the Citywide and Mark D. DeBus to the Ward 3 seats on Commission on Aging;
 - b. Briggs A. H. Gamblin to the Citywide seat on Airport Commission;
 - c. Scott Langner to the Citywide (Business), Ezekiel Swayzer to the Citywide (Business), Melinda A. Weinrich to the Ward 1 (Resident), Gregory B. Hutchins to the Ward 4 (Resident), and Willie Holley to the Ward 7 (Resident) seats on Budget Engagement Commission;
 - d. Gil Vega to the Ward 5 and Jessica Newman to the Ward 7 seats on the Board of Ethics;
 - e. Aram Ayra, Brock W. Cavett, Orion S. Goe, and Aaron Agramon to the Citywide seats on Human Relations Commission;
 - f. Austin C. Attaway and Brian D. Baird to the Citywide seats on the Human Resources Board;
 - g. Cynthia S. Zdilor to the Citywide and Rich M. Gardner to the Ward 4 seats on Museum of Riverside Board;
 - h. Launa K. Wilson to the Citywide and Raj K. Singh to the Ward 7 seats on Planning Commission; and
 - i. Peter M. Wohlgemuth to the Citywide and Rebecca A. Goldware to the Ward 2 seats on the Board of Public Utilities;

2. Approve the following reappointment for a term until member becomes eighteen years of age or at the end of the school year, which ever occurs first:
 - a. Macy S. Pulos to the Youth Ex Officio seat;
3. Approve the following appointments for terms through March 1, 2028:
 - a. Debora Mickelson to the Citywide seat on the Commission on Disabilities;
 - b. Ruthan Smith to the Citywide seat on the Board of Library Trustees;
 - c. Mary Sue Berkley to the Citywide seat on the Museum of Riverside Board; and
 - d. Tracy Barlogio to the Citywide seat on the Park and Recreation Commission
4. Redesignate Sandra Polichetti from the Human Relations Commission to the Board of Public Utilities Ward 1 seat for a term through March 1, 2028;
5. Approve the following appointments to the Ward 3 seat:
 - a. Tim Hennessey to the Commission on Disabilities for a term through March 1, 2028;
 - b. Bedan Kamau to the Human Resources Board for a term through March 1, 2025;
 - c. Julian Turner to the Human Relations Commission for a term through March 1, 2026;
 - d. Steven Cason to the Transportation Board for a term through March 1, 2027; and
6. Refer remaining board and commission vacancies for Citywide seats to the Mayor and Ward specific seats to respective Councilmembers for appointment.

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

The Rules of Procedure and Order of Business allow the Mayor and City Council to select applicants for direct appointment for Citywide or Ward-specific vacancies by five affirmative votes with a full quorum and four affirmative votes with less than a full quorum for the boards and commissions not requiring interviews.

Riverside City Charter Section 802 provides that each board and commission have one representative from each Council Ward. Further, Section 803 provides that all vacancies shall be filled as described in this Article except that when a position on a board or commission has remained vacant for sixty days the Mayor shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy.

The board and commission annual recruitment process begins in August of each year. The City Clerk's Office initiates a marketing campaign to solicit applications by posting vacancies and terming out seats on the City's website, in the newspaper electronically and in paper format, and on bill inserts.

DISCUSSION:

Members eligible to serve a second term are contacted to confirm they wish to continue serving on their respective board or commission. Those members confirmed are submitted for the Mayor and City Council approval for reappointment.

Boards and commissions are a substantial piece of City government as they provide advice to the City Council. Vacancies lead to quorum issues resulting in cancelled meetings. It is crucial that all vacancies be filled in a timely manner to reduce cancelled meetings and demonstrate an appreciation for the members who contribute to the community through their partnership with the City on the boards and commissions.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

The Mayor and City Council appointment and reappointments for the board and commission annual recruitment contributes to the City Council's Envision 2025 Strategic Plan Priority and Goal: **High Performing Government** - Provide world-class public service that is efficient, accessible, and responsible to all, and the following goal:

Goal 5.3 - Enhance communication and collaboration with community members to improve transparency, build public trust, and encourage shared decision-making.

The appointments and reappointments of board and commission members aligns with the Envision 2025 Cross-Cutting Threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – Riverside is transparent and makes decisions through sound policy, inclusive community engagement, involvement of City Boards and Commissions, and provides timely and reliable information. The City's involvement with the reappointment process is transparent and serves the public interest, as these members have expressed interest in continuing to serve their City.
2. **Equity** – Riverside residents are encouraged to apply to all City Boards and Commissions. The City supports racial, ethnic, religious, sexual orientation, identity, geographic, and other diversity attributes and is committed to advancing equity through fair treatment and recognition of rights. The demographics section is removed from all applications when selecting applicants, allowing for an unbiased selection process.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – Riverside is a prudent steward of public funds and ensures responsible management of the City's financial resources while providing quality public services to all. Boards and commissions ensure quality services are provided to all with fiscal responsibility as a priority. The City Clerk's Office annual budget includes funding to support and maintain Boards and Commissions processes.
4. **Innovation** – Through collaborative partnerships and adaptive processes, board and commission reappointments allow members to bring innovative ideas to meet the community's changing needs and prepare for the future.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – Riverside is committed to meeting the present needs without compromising the needs of the future and ensuring the City's capacity to persevere, adapt and grow during fluctuating times alike. It is essential to keep boards and commissions active and engaged in maintaining sustainable and resilient programs and services and monitoring and promoting innovation for a more sustainable future.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Recruitment and appointment costs are funded in the City Clerk's Office budget.

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