

Martinez, Ruben

From: Beverley Morgan-Sandoz < >
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Honorable Victor Gordo

Mayor, City of Pasadena

Members of the City Council

City of Pasadena

Mayor Victor Gordo and City Council Members

I write on behalf of the Commission on the Status of Women to recommend that the City Council appoint a woman to fill the District 5 seat vacated by former Councilmember Gordo.

A woman running for political office faces many obstacles. Research shows that women are less likely to have others encourage them to run for office and women often shoulder responsibilities that make it difficult to hold public office. In addition since most offices are held by men, a woman running for office also has to overcome stereotypes as well as the advantage that incumbency affords. The interest of women in serving in elected positions is demonstrated by the number serving on the PCC Board (three out of 7 positions) and PUSD (five out of seven). In addition we note the women who head City Departments and hold key administrative positions, yet we concur with former Secretary of State Madeline Albright who concluded that a precious resource is wasted when women are under represented in the political arena.

Appointing a woman to fill the District 5 vacancy will be a step towards a more representative Council. It would be movement towards correcting the in-balance in representation manifested by fact that Pasadena is 52.3% female, yet women hold only one of seven council seats (less than 15%). Further it will allow the appointee to claim incumbency and as mentioned take advantage of that factor as she seeks election to that position.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this input.

Beverley Morgan-Sandoz

Chair, Pasadena Commission on the Status of Women

Cc: City Clerk and Council members

02/04/2021
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