

CITY OF PASADENA
City Council Minutes
February 4, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.
City Hall Council Chamber

SPECIAL MEETING

The virtual meeting was convened pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on March 17, 2020, and was held solely by videoconference/teleconference

OPENING: Mayor Gordo called the special meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was led by Councilmember Williams.

ROLL CALL:
Councilmembers: Mayor Victor M. Gordo
Vice Mayor Andy Wilson
Councilmember Tyron Hampton
Councilmember John J. Kennedy
Councilmember Steve Madison
Councilmember Gene Masuda
Councilmember Felicia Williams

Staff: City Manager Steve Mermell
City Attorney/City Prosecutor Michele Beal Bagneris
City Clerk Mark Jomsky

APPLICANT PRESENTATIONS, INTERVIEWS, AND CITY COUNCIL SELECTION OF AN APPOINTEE TO FILL A VACANCY ON THE CITY COUNCIL, REPRESENTING DISTRICT 5, PURSUANT TO CITY CHARTER SECTION 404

Mayor Gordo made introductory comments and provided an overview on the City Council District 5 interview and appointment selection process. Mark Jomsky, City Clerk, reported that the applicants will be interviewed in the following order (by random drawing order): Jessica Rivas, Michael Warner, Martha Shenkenberg, and Patrick Amsbry.

City Clerk Jomsky reported that a number of letters and emails in support of the various applicants were received, which were distributed to the City Council, posted on-line, and made part of the public record from the following individuals:

Beverly Morgan-Sandoz, Pasadena resident
Vanessa M. Terzian, residence not stated
Allison E. Laster, Ph.D., Pasadena resident
Raphael Henderson, Pasadena resident
Jennifer Thibault, Pasadena resident
Toi Treister, residence not stated
Eileen Williamson, Pasadena resident
Kris Leslie, Pasadena resident
Kevin Smith, Pasadena resident

Jill Frazee, Pasadena resident
Megan Foker, Pasadena resident
Robert D. Brugge, Glendale resident
Suzanne Gati, residence not stated
Bret Iwan, residence not stated
Jan Clifford, residence not stated
Antonella Fassi, Altadena resident
Tod Clark, San Diego resident
Lori MacPherson, Pasadena resident
Raymond Butner, Pasadena resident
Mari Berkemeier, Pasadena resident
Ellen McDonald, Pasadena resident
Jay Walters, Pasadena resident
Matt Bogaard, residence not stated
Rick Wetzel, Pasadena resident
Carolee Reiling, Pasadena resident
Rob Sheperd, Pasadena resident
Alisa Gmelich, Pasadena resident
David L. Samuels, residence not stated
Albert Alarr, Pasadena resident
Ricardo Cortez, residence not stated
Reid Leslie, Pasadena resident
Robert A. Kamins, residence not stated
Patricia Guzman, residence not stated
Joan Aarestad, Pasadena resident
Bill Thomson, residence not stated
Chipper Pastron, Pasadena resident
Noemi Orduna, Principle at Madison Elementary School
Vivian Rescalvo, residence not stated
Carl Selkin, Pasadena resident
Denise Munro Robb, Ph.D., residence not stated
Mark H. Maier, Pasadena resident
Dr. Katie Clark, representing National Women's Political
Caucus (NWPC) of Greater Pasadena
Pauline Field, Pasadena resident
Tina Fredericks, Pasadena resident
Tammy Silver, Pasadena resident
Pepi and Joe Fienblatt, Pasadena residents
Mindy Pfeiffer and Jordan Vannini, Pasadena residents
Joshua Finn, Co-Vice President Washington Square
Neighborhood Association
Marna Cornell, residence not stated
Lorena Yopez Hernandez, Pasadena resident
Beatriz Martinez Hernandez, Pasadena resident
Sandy Greenstein, Pasadena resident
Jeanette Mann, residence not stated
Edda Suzanne Barber, Pasadena resident
Joanne and Tim Wendler, Pasadena residents
Loretta Mockler, Pasadena resident
Dianne Philibosian, Pasadena resident

Charlotte Bland, Pasadena resident
Betty Sword, Pasadena resident
Tamara Kohnke, Co-Vice President Washington Square
Neighborhood Association
Ira West, Pasadena resident
Patricia Rees, Pasadena resident
Anne Wolf, Pasadena resident
Susan Kane, Pasadena resident
Gloria G. Medel, Pasadena resident
Betty Ann Jansson, Pasadena resident
Jacque Robinson Baisley, residence not stated
Nancy Gibbs, MD, residence not stated
Carolina Caro, Pasadena resident
David Aguilar, Pasadena resident
Alma Apodaca, residence not stated
Deb Raupp, residence not stated
Kaya (Haig) Plansker, Pasadena resident
Greg Apodaca, representing Leadership Pasadena
Elizabeth Dever, residence not stated
Carol Hunt Hernandez, residence not stated
Tanja Sacco, residence not stated
Cindy Clark-Schnuelle, Pasadena resident
Elise Pomerance, residence not stated
Chris Robertson, Pasadena resident
G. William Birrell, residence not stated

In addition, he read aloud comments in support of the various applicants from the following individuals:

David Coher, Pasadena resident
Ruth Calichman, Pasadena resident
Dr. Alicia Gonzalez, Pasadena resident
Lisa Bogaard, Pasadena resident
Sonja Alarr, Pasadena resident
Alma Juarez, Pasadena resident
Peter Pannell, Altadena resident
Dr. Katie Clark, representing National Women's Political
Caucus (NWPC) of Greater Pasadena

Councilmember Williams provided a statement regarding knowing Ms. Jessica Rivas through her community work, as well as Ms. Rivas volunteering on Councilmember Williams' 2019-20 City Council campaign; and has provided Ms. Rivas with information related to the logistics and experience of the City Council office. Councilmember Williams reported that she is not biased towards any applicant and will make an informed decision on the information presented today.

Mayor Gordo reported that he is familiar with all four applicants who live in his district, and acknowledged that some have volunteered on his Mayoral campaign, and noted that he contacted all four applicants to thank them for their interest in serving their community.

In response to Councilmember Madison's concern related to Ms. Rivas' and all other applicants' ability to serve on the City Council, Michele Beal Bagneris, City Attorney/City Prosecutor, stated per an Attorney General's Opinion, it would not be a conflict for Ms. Rivas to serve in her Los Angeles County employment capacity and also serve on the City Council. In addition, she stated that the Mayor may ask the candidates to confirm they have cleared any conflict of interest related to their current employment status.

Jessica Rivas, Michael Warner, Martha Shenkenberg, and Patrick Amsbry, District 5 applicants, provided an overview of their personal and professional experiences, and responded to questions asked by each member of the City Council.

Following all presentations and interviews, the City Council deliberated on the qualifications of each applicant for the District 5 vacancy. The Mayor and City Council each noted with admiration the strength of the applicant pool, and congratulated Jessica Rivas, Michael Warner, Martha Shenkenberg, and Patrick Amsbry for representing District 5 in such a positive and distinguished manner.

MOTION: Following discussion, it was moved by Councilmember Hampton, seconded by Councilmember Kennedy, to nominate Mrs. Martha Shenkenberg as City Council District 5 Representative.
(MOTION WITHDRAWN)

MOTION Following further discussion, it was moved by Mayor Gordo, seconded by Councilmember Madison, to nominate Ms. Jessica Rivas as City Council District 5 Representative:

AYES: Councilmembers Hampton, Kennedy, Madison, Masuda, Williams, Vice Mayor Wilson, Mayor Gordo
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

Mayor Gordo expressed his strong appreciation to Michael Warner, Martha Shenkenberg, and Patrick Amsbry for their willingness to serve their community and the City.

The City Council congratulated and welcomed Ms. Rivas as the newly appointed Pasadena City Councilmember for District 5.

**OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO NEWLY APPOINTED
DISTRICT 5 COUNCILMEMBER BY CITY CLERK**

City Clerk Jomsky administered the oath of office to Jessica Rivas as Pasadena City Councilmember representing District 5.

Ms. Rivas thanked the City Council and the community for the opportunity to serve her community and the residents of District 5.

ADJOURNMENT

On order of the Mayor, the special meeting of the City Council adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Victor M. Gordo, Mayor
City of Pasadena

ATTEST:

City Clerk