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OFFICIAL APPLICATION FORM

Mark Jomsky
City Clerk or Deputy City Clerk

12/22/2020
Date

CITY OF PASADENA

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 5

The information contained on this form will be used by the City Council to fill a vacancy on the City Council for the District 5 seat. All applicants must be a resident living in Council District 5, of voting age, and registered to vote in Council District 5 at the time the application is issued by the City Clerk. Applicants are invited to attach additional pages, a copy of your resume, or submit supplemental information which you feel may assist the City Council in its evaluation of your application.

Applicant Name: Jessica Rivas

Home Address: [Redacted]

Home Phone: (661) 904-7824

Employer: County of Los Angeles

Work Phone: [Redacted]

Work Address: [Redacted]
Los Angeles, CA 90012

E-mail: [Redacted]

Community Service - List boards, commissions, committees, and organizations on which you are currently serving or have served, offices held, and in what city.

see attached

Employment - Title and duties, current and past.

" "

Education - Include professional or vocational licenses or certificates.

" "

Application for Appointment - continued

Personal – Answer “yes” or “no” to the following questions:

1. Have you ever worked for the City of Pasadena? *(If yes, please list dates/department)* YES NO

2. Are you related to any employee or appointee of the City of Pasadena? *(If yes, please indicate name and relationship)* YES NO

3. Are you aware that financial disclosure will be required to serve? *(e.g. sources of income, loans and gifts, investments, interests in real property)* YES NO

4. Rules of law and ethics prohibit members from participating in and voting on matters in which they may have a direct or indirect financial interest. Are you aware of any potential conflicts of interest which may develop from your occupation or financial holdings in relation to your responsibilities as a member of the City Council, to which you seek appointment? *(If yes, please indicate any potential conflicts)* YES NO

5. Have there been or are there now, any personal or business circumstances which might reflect adversely on the propriety of your serving as a member of the City Council to which you might be appointed? YES NO

6. Are you aware of the time commitment necessary to fulfill the obligations of the City Council, District 5 seat, to which you seek appointment? YES NO

Application for Appointment - continued

7. What specifically in your background, training, education, or interests qualifies you as an appointee?

See attached

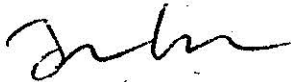
8. What do you see as the objectives and goals of the City Council?

Application for Appointment - continued

9. How would you help achieve these objectives and goals? What special qualities would you bring?

See attached

Signature:



Date: 12 JAN 2021

I hereby certify that the following information is correct to the best of my knowledge.

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*Prior to January 14, 2021 at 5:30 p.m., submit original application to: Mark Jomsky, City Clerk
100 N. Garfield Ave., Room S228
Pasadena, CA 91109*

Applications not received by the above stated deadline will not be accepted or considered for appointment.

Community Service - List boards, commissions, committees, and organizations on which you are currently serving or have served, offices held and in what city.

Northwest Commission – Pasadena, California – Commissioner
Commission on the Status of Women – Pasadena, California – Commissioner, Vice-Chair
Washington Square Neighborhood Association – Pasadena, California – Secretary

Employment - Title and duties, current and past.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

Deputy County Counsel, May 2014 – present

- Litigation Monitoring Team (May 2020 – present): Provide analysis, advice, resources, and assistance relating to litigation to the County Counsel, senior management, and the County Counsel Divisions. This includes monitoring and reviewing all significant litigation, identifying and evaluating new or different strategies to more favorably resolve County litigation, and developing and implementing litigation protocols to achieve the most favorable results in County litigation. Supervise attorneys, paralegals, and third-party adjusters processing claims presented to the County pursuant to the California Government Claims Act.
- General Litigation Division (May 2014 – May 2020): Directly litigated and supervised outside counsel handling civil lawsuits filed against the County and its employees, primarily in the areas of vehicle liability and dangerous condition of public property. Enforced judgments against sureties in bail bond forfeiture proceedings conducted in the criminal courts.

UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE

Major, Judge Advocate, March 2012 – present

- 75th and 78th Legal Operations Detachments (March 2012 – May 2017, December 2019 – present): Provide legal assistance to soldiers and dependents primarily in the areas of family law and consumer law. Planned multi-day field training exercises and military law conferences. Received instruction in administrative and civil law, contract and fiscal law, international and operational law, and criminal law at The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School.
- 311th Sustainment Command, Expeditionary (June 2017 – December 2019): Served as legal advisor to command comprised of 62 subordinate units and over 6,100 reserve soldiers in Arizona, California, and Nevada. Represented the command in administrative separation boards conducted pursuant to Army regulations.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Deputy Attorney General, May 2012 – May 2014

- Served as litigation counsel for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in actions filed by state prisoners, primarily concerning alleged violations of the United States Constitution, and generally filed in Federal Court.

Education – Include professional or vocational licenses or certificates.

Princeton University, A.B. in Philosophy (2008)

New York University School of Law, J.D. (2011)

Member of the State Bar of California

Admitted to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Central District of California, and Eastern District of California

Personal

7. What specifically in your background, training, education, or interests qualifies you as an appointee?

Public Service – I have been extremely fortunate in the opportunities and experiences I have had in life and have dedicated my career to public service as a way to give back and help others. I have served as a deputy attorney general, deputy county counsel, army reservist, and City commissioner. Serving on the Council would be a natural extension of my years of service and I would be honored to serve in this new role.

Experience in Government – My experience in government at the local, state, and federal levels will make me an effective advocate for my district and an asset to the Council from day one. I have developed a deep understanding of the day to day functions of government and awareness of the larger statutory, regulatory, and political context. In short, I have honed my practice of what Ken Burns has described as the “much maligned, but subtle art of governance.”¹

Representation – It is important for our governing bodies to reflect the people they represent and the Council should represent the rich diversity of Pasadena. As a working mother with a small child, I will add an important perspective to the Council, which has had very few women members through the years. Additionally, as a Latina and someone who comes from a family of immigrants, I will strive to ensure that these underrepresented communities have a voice on the Council.

8. What do you see as the objectives and goals of the City Council?

The City’s mission reads: “The City of Pasadena is dedicated to delivering exemplary municipal services responsive to our entire community and consistent with our history, culture and unique character.” Additionally, per our Charter, “The City Council is empowered to carry into effect the provisions of this Charter, to execute the powers vested in the City, and to perform all duties and obligations imposed upon the City by State law.” These guiding principles clearly set out the Council’s objectives and goals. However, I would add that during these incredibly trying times, it is paramount that the Council also set an example of steady leadership that respects the dignity and worth of each resident.

9. How would you help achieve these objectives and goals? What special qualities would you bring?

I have extensive experience working with the various individuals, entities, and stakeholders that the Council regularly engages with: different departments, commissions, workgroups, community groups, constituents, other public entities, joint powers authorities, insurers, attorneys, etc.

I am able to thoroughly review and process a large amount of information without losing sight of the big picture. I would be able to review the materials prepared by staff and feedback from constituents in order to collaborate with the other Councilmembers to find solutions to the challenges we face.

Finally, both my civilian and military experience has instilled in me the discipline necessary for this new responsibility. I prioritize teamwork, comradery, and focusing on accomplishing the mission.

In short, I will immediately be a helpful colleague to the Mayor and Councilmembers as well as an effective representative for my District 5 neighbors.

¹ Prepared text of the June 12, 2016 Stanford Commencement address by Ken Burns (<https://news.stanford.edu/2016/06/12/prepared-text-2016-stanford-commencement-address-ken-burns/>).