

Agenda Report

March 6, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: The Office of the City Manager
SUBJECT: 710 COMMUNITY ADVISORY WORKING GROUP: AT-LARGE NOMINATIONS

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

- 1) Find that the action proposed herein is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Section 21065 and State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15060(c)(2) and (c)(3), and 15378 of the State CEQA Guidelines; and
- 2) Nominate and vote for the At-Large members of the Reconnecting Communities Working Group¹.

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY:

At its meeting of February 27, 2023, The City Council appointed the following individuals to the Reconnecting Communities Advisory Working Group:

MAYOR GORDO:

1. ***Cynthia Kurtz***: Planning/Infrastructure/City Governance; and 2. ***Wayne Brandt***: Workforce Housing Owner-Operator/Real Estate Investment/Development

D1, COUNCILMEMBER HAMPTON:

Tina Williams: Community Advocacy/Former Field Representative/Harambee Ministries

¹ This is a working title – the name of this working group to be determined by the group itself.

D2, VICE-MAYOR WILLIAMS:

Nevil Green: Commercial Real Estate Advisor

D3, COUNCILMEMBER JONES:

Danny Parker: Community Advocacy/Attorney/Legal and financial services

D4, COUNCILMEMBER MASUDA:

Bryan Takeda: Civic Leader/Local Business Owner

D5, COUNCILMEMBER RIVAS:

Blair Miller: Community Advocacy Housing/Real Estate/

D6, COUNCILMEMBER MADISON:

Ali Barar: Architect/Housing Production/Affordable Housing

D7, COUNCILMEMBER LYON:

Randy Shulman: Community Relations, Huntington Library

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

The above-appointed members represent a broad cross-section of the community members. While the appointed members have a breadth of professional and volunteer experience, they *broadly* fall into a few categories:

- Community Advocacy/Engagement;
- Real Estate Development/Advisor;
- Housing Production/Affordable Housing;
- Architect; and
- City Governance

The Council directed that applications be accepted until close of business on March 1. A complete list of applications is included as Attachment A, while new applications received since your last meeting and applicants that have identified as being displaced or a descendant of displaced community members are provided as Attachments B and C, respectively. Staff does not have additional information regarding the applicants beyond what is included in the Attachments. Based on the composition of the already-appointed membership, the Council may wish to appoint the 4 at-large members in consideration of the following:

- At least two members of the total 13 members who are descendants of displaced community members. Based on the applications received to date as set forth in Attachment C, 5 candidates would satisfy this requirement: **Edgar Riddle, Barbara King, Michelle Bailey; Jose Luis Correa and Lisa Wilson.**
- Members from a diverse ethnic background and/or gender; and
- Members who would “round-out” the working group based on specialized backgrounds or expertise that might not be provided by the above Appointees.

DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE WORKING GROUP

In recognition of the city-wide significance of this planning process, the City Council has stated the importance of establishing a working group that is comprised of a diverse cross section of community members with consideration of their overall background and expertise (both professional and volunteer). The Council also asked staff to provide feedback on the composition in terms of the overall make-up of the Working Group, but not provide any specific recommendations of nominees.

Our community is very diverse in terms of age, race, ethnicity, national origin, socio-economic status, and in many other ways. Council's intent on appointing a working group that includes a diverse and representative cross-section of the community is to establish an advisory body to the Council that will bring inclusivity of the diverse opinions and ideas that reflect our community. Staff's assessment of the current membership of the working group is offered with these thoughts in mind to assist in the Council's appointment of the remaining At-Large positions:

- Of the 9 appointed members:
 - 6 have self-identified as male and 3 female;
 - 4 have self-identified White/Caucasian, 3 as African American, 1 as Asian American, and 1 of Iranian descent;
 - None of the 9 appointed members self-identified as Latino/a, even though the City is home to a significant Latina/o population; and
 - None of the current appointees are under the age of 50.
- With the exception of Ms. Kurtz, who has a tremendous breadth of expertise, none of the appointed members work in the Planning field;
- Some of the appointed members have a background in the Real Estate Finance subspecialty, but it does not appear any have had careers in the Finance field more generally; and
- More than half of the appointed members have backgrounds in Community Advocacy;

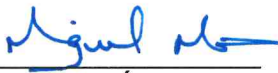
Attachment D provides a preliminary list of nominations that Councilmembers have provided to date and are subject to change pending a fuller discussion of the issue. It is anticipated that the City Council will suggest nominations, ask questions, deliberate, and vote on the appointment of the At-Large members during the discussion of this item.

Respectfully submitted,



DAVID M. REYES
Acting Assistant City Manager

Approved by:



MIGUEL MÁRQUEZ
City Manager

Attachments (4):

Attachment A – All Applications

Attachment B – Applications Received Subsequent to February 27 Council Meeting

Attachment C – Displaced or Descendant of Displaced Community Members

Attachment D – Nominations Received from Councilmembers to Date