

# CITY OF PASADENA APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE

The information contained on this form will be used by the City Council to appoint members to the Charter Study Task Force. Please answer all questions. You 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. **Please note that, once submitted, this form, and all attachments, will become subject to public access under the Public Records Act, with the exception of personally identifiable information.**

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CITY OF PASADENA  
NOV - 2 11 06:55  
CITY CLERK

Applicant Name: Gina Dance

Home Address: [REDACTED] Pasadena, CA 91103

Mailing Address: [REDACTED] Pasadena, CA 91103

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Available to Start: Immediately

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: [REDACTED]

Indicate if you wish to be considered for a District, At-Large, and/or Mayoral Nomination (mark one or more):

**District Representative** representing City Council District 3

**At-large Representative** City Council District 3

**Mayoral Representative**

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

SoCal Alumnae Chapter of Kappa Delta Chi, Inc. President, Los Angeles: 2021-Present

Yes on H & Pasadena Teant Justice Coalition, Organizer: 2021-2022

**Employment** – Title and duties, current and past (acceptable to attach resume as an alternative).

Policy Analyst/Project Administrator at Rising Communities, 2023 to Present

Duties: Conduct background policy research and analysis and work with partner organizations to push policies and provide administrative support to team members. *Resume attached.*

**Education** – Include professional or vocational licenses or certificates.

Bachelor of Science, Animal Science, University of Arizona: May 2015

1. **Have you ever worked for the City of Pasadena?** *(If yes, please list dates/department)*

YES  NO

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2. **Are you related to any employee, appointed or elected official of the City of Pasadena?** *(If yes, please indicate name and relationship)*

YES  NO

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3. **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 circumstances which may develop from your occupation or economic holdings, that might relate to your service as a member of a Charter Study Task Force?** *(If yes, please indicate any potential conflicts)*

YES  NO

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4. **Have there been, or are there now, any personal or business circumstances which might reflect adversely on your service as a member of a Charter Study Task Force?**

YES  NO

5. **Are you aware of the time commitment necessary to fulfill the obligations of a member on a Charter Study Task Force, including meetings on nights and weekends?**

YES  NO

6. **What specifically in your background, training, education, or interests qualifies you to serve on the Charter Study Task Force? Please highlight any relevant experience with the City of Pasadena or other municipality that involves Charter Study, elected experience, or knowledge of City Charter laws and provisions:**

Most of my professional career has been spent on organizing and civic engagement. I have spent years speaking to residents and educating them on laws/policies in Los Angeles. At my current job, I analyze bills and support policies that fall under my organization's focus areas. I have a background working with diverse populations and informing them that they play a role in decision-making. Here in Pasadena, I spent months educating residents in both Spanish and English on the proposed Charter Amendment around Rent Control. The perspective I bring is this ground-level resident experience and reacting to policies/laws.

7. **What objectives and goals should the Charter Study Task Force consider?**

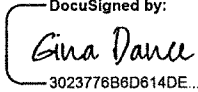
The Charter Study Task Force should consider the goals of Public Engagement, Stakeholder Engagement, and Transparency. Public Engagement is the main priority, soliciting input from residents, local organizations, and stakeholders. The city is accountable and able to work because of residents; we need to prioritize them in the charter study process. The Task Force should be open to publicly suggested topics for its scope that they could recommend to the city council. Stakeholder engagement, working closely with city officials, legal experts, local organizations, and advocacy groups. Seek their input and expertise to ensure a well-rounded perspective on the charter study. Lastly, maintain high transparency, keep the public informed, and ensure decisions are made openly.

**8. In your opinion, what is the importance of the scope and charge of the Charter Study Task Force, as approved and assigned by the City Council?**

The Task Force will review possible charter amendments, this should be conducted through thorough research, and gathering relevant data to inform the charter study will be critical for this work. One item on the current scope could take months to discuss, and they are topics that could see significant change for residents and how the city works. Reviewing the existing charter will be necessary, as abiding by legal requirements, looking at best practices from other municipalities, and input from city experts. The task force's work is to lead this conversation and help the city council/voters make informed decisions.

**9. How would you help to achieve the Charter Study Task Force's objectives and goals while adhering to the City Council's approved Scope and Charge?**

In my professional career, I have worked in 3 different state coalitions working towards transformational social equity models and systems to service the BIPOC communities. While in my sorority, we went through a similar charter process. I supported the national Greek organization through objectives and goals that had lingering effects on the organization and thus voted for by its members. Based on my past experiences and work during Measure H – Rent Control Campaign, I find that I bring a voice to my community and those with similar experiences and backgrounds to me. I will hold myself accountable to continuously assess the task force's activities to ensure they align with the approved Scope and Charge while being adaptable and responsive to this city's changing circumstances and needs.

DocuSigned by:  
**Signature:**   
3023776B6D614DE...

**Date:** 11/1/2023

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

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One of the goals of the City Council is to balance advisory body appointments in terms of geographic residence, location, ethnicity, gender, and age. *The following information is desirable, but not required for appointment.*

**Year of Birth:** **REDACTED** **REDACTED** **REDACTED** \_\_\_\_\_

**If City resident, number of years:**     30

# Gina Dance Mares

Pasadena, CA 9110

REDACTED

REDACTED

## SUMMARY OF SKILLS

- Adept at fostering leadership development skills to facilitate community growth for populations of diverse backgrounds.
- Professional experience in strategic communications, organizing, outreach, and grassroots activities.
- Experience in analyzing quantitative and qualitative data.
- Strong analytical, communication, and research skills for mission-driven projects.

## EDUCATION

**University of Arizona**, Tucson, AZ, May 2015  
Bachelor of Science, Animal Science (Emphasis: Industry)  
Minor: Spanish (Fluent)

**Midwest Academy**, Berkeley, CA March 2019  
• Completed the Midwest Academy's Organizing for Social Change.

**GIS and Geospatial Technology Certificate**, UCLA Extension, Los Angeles, CA September 2021  
• General geographic data layer creation, editing, and analysis using ArcGIS and QGIS.  
• Ability to perform spatial analysis through basic SQL and spatial queries.

## EXPERIENCE

**Policy Analyst/Project Administrator, Rising Communities**, Los Angeles, CA July 2023-Present  
• Facilitated workshops with community members to educate them on the importance of civic engagement and how to engage with policymakers, resulting in increased grassroots support for local issues.  
• Collaborated with partner state organizations to develop a coordinated advocacy strategy for reparations for black Californians.  
• Developed and maintained relationships with key stakeholders, including policymakers, advocates, and community leaders, resulting in increased support for the organization's policy priorities at the local and state level.

**Policy Administrative Coordinator, Rising Communities**, Los Angeles, CA Aug 2021-July 2023  
• Provide direct administrative support to the Policy and Government Affairs Team to effectively coordinate local strategic initiatives and special projects to support the initiative's goals.  
• Manages internal and external special projects in coordination with the Policy Team.  
• Outreach, organize, and actively engage community members in public decision-making processes at the local, state, and/or national level i.e. Redistricting Process.

**Coalition Organizer, Urban Peace Institute**, Los Angeles, CA March 2018-April 2020  
• Coordinated and facilitated meetings focused on community needs and assets, violence reduction, informal and formal service infrastructure, and general community concerns.  
• Co-authored the "Santa Ana Community Safety Assessment" report that was commissioned for The California Endowment to assess community concerns, history, political, and social landscapes.  
• Trained on community safety issues, localized community outreach, and engagement, and multi-sector collaboration with parents and community members.  
• Developed and maintained city-wide networks and partnerships with multiple sectors involved in community and public safety efforts (i.e. Stakeholder Meetings in South Los Angeles and Pacoima).

**Youth Development Specialist, Peace Corps, Caraz, Ancash, Peru**

Aug 2015–Nov 2017

- Promoted healthy lifestyle development, financial empowerment, and vocational orientation to young adults through community projects with the involvement of adults and community members.
- Assisted in implementing a Province Ordinance that created a Youth Commission to promote programming, leadership, and civic engagement.
- Designed and implemented workshops and training for youth, counterparts, and parents to promote participatory activities within schools and their communities.

**ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**President, So Cal Alumnae Chapter of Kappa Delta Chi, Inc., Lost Angeles, CA** June 2021-Present

- Managed an executive board of 8 members to oversee membership and represent the organization in the local community.
- Partnered with the Residential Advisory Committee at Imperial Courts Housing Develop to host service events, including 3 annual holiday toy collections that have resulted in over 400 gifts being distributed.

**Organizer, Measure H: Rent Control for Pasadena Campaign, Pasadena, CA** Oct 2021-Nov 2022

- Collected over 250 signatures to put Rent Control as a Measure in Pasadena.
- Phone banked, organized, and door knocked over 120 hours for the Measure H Campaign.