



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

RECEIVED

2023 SEP 28 PM 1:14

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.*

Applicant Name: Ken Chawkins

Home Address: **REDACTED** Pasadena, CA 91105

Mailing Address: **REDACTED** Pasadena, CA 91105

Email Address: **REDACTED**

Business Phone: **REDACTED** Date Available to Start: Immediately

Home Phone: **REDACTED** 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 6
- At-large Representative City Council District _____
- 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.

Chair, Pasadena Media; Board Member, The Children's Partnership; Board Member, Coro Southern California, Task Force Member, Pasadena Charter Review (Citywide elected Mayor), Chair, Pasadena Unified School District - Districting; Board Member, Pasadena Chamber of Commerce; Founding Board Member, Leadership Pasadena; Board Member, Measure CC and TT (PUSD); Board Member, San Rafael Neighborhood Association.

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

(See attached)

Education – Include professional or vocational licenses or certificates.

BA, UCLA - Political Science; MA, Claremont Graduate University - Public Policy;
Coro Fellow - New York City

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, appointed or elected official of the City of Pasadena? (If yes, please indicate name and relationship) YES NO

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

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:**

I served on the Charter Reform Task Force that brought the Citywide elected Mayor to Pasadena. I Chaired the Task Force that brought District elections (from an at-large system) to Pasadena Unified School District. My Master's Thesis focused on the Commission Form of municipal government in California. I have been deeply involved in numerous civic activities in Pasadena and care deeply about issues that impact our system of self-governance. I have served on numerous boards/task forces and understand the responsibilities that go along with serving.

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


The Task Force should follow the direction of the City Council. The City Charter sets the rules for all governance issues in Pasadena. That said, the specific direction for this Task Force is determined by the City Council and the Task Force should be focused on those issues directly. Given the limited amount of time and resources we have, staying focused on the issues called out will be key to getting our work done and providing a quality product for the Council's consideration.

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?**

Given the dynamic nature of politics, it is very important to define clear and concise guidelines about transition of elected office. Additionally, given the increasing amount of time required to serve as Mayor and/or City Council, it is critical to determine if the City Charter allows for the recruitment and election of the City's best citizens. If the time and/or financial requirements keep good people from serving, the Task Force should consider ways to alleviate those restrictions. Additionally, it is important to consider whether/how we might limit the terms of office to allow for a required term limit option in the City Charter. These are critical elements to allow those who are governing the time and space to govern effectively.

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?**

What is critical for the Task Force is clarity. We must have a clear idea of what is being asked of us, sufficient staff support and a clear path to achieving our goals. While there are many other important issues to consider, the Task Force must stay focused on the issues at hand. Additionally, we would be best served to have Task Force meetings outside of City Hall. We must reach out to the residents of the city, engage their feedback and integrate that into the work we do. Rather than conjecture, we must gather information and ensure the community voices are heard.

Signature: 

Date: September 27, 2023

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

.....

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: 27



Ken Chawkins

REDACTED

Pasadena, CA 91105

REDACTED

Ken Chawkins is Principal at Chawkins Communications Consulting, Inc. His current retained clients include **Gemini Motors** and **South Coast Air Quality Management District**. He is Project Lead for the **City of South Pasadena** in their transition to become the first city in the US with an all zero-emissions Police Force. He is a consultant with **National Demographics Corporation** helping public jurisdictions in California navigate the development of electoral maps. He teaches Stakeholder Engagement at **UCLA's Luskin School of Public Affairs**.

Chawkins served as the Government Relations Manager for **Air Products and Chemicals**, a world-leading Industrial Gases company. He acted as the principal liaison to local and state policymakers to advance company priorities and all growth platforms, with special focus on Hydrogen for Mobility and Carbon Capture and Sequestration. Additionally, Chawkins supported business development activities by developing advocacy campaign strategies, crafting appropriate and effective messaging, and planning and executing strategic government engagement plans. As Government Relations Manager, Chawkins designed and executed stakeholder engagement plans and managed overall communication strategies,

His work with **Southern California Gas Company** as Manager of Public Policy and Business Policy Manager relied on Chawkins' expertise within the energy/utility industry. SoCalGas is the largest national gas distribution company in the United States, and Chawkins was responsible for advancing the company's policy agenda with external stakeholders at the local and state governmental levels. Additionally, he framed the public engagement strategy and worked with various organizations and interest groups to build coalitions seeking the safe, clean and affordable use of natural gas as an energy source.

Chawkins started his journey in the Energy/Utility industry at **Southern California Edison** where he built a foundation of knowledge in one of the largest electric utilities in the country. Chawkins spent with Southern California Edison, starting as a region manager for public affairs, serving as Special Assistant to the CEO, managing a local district and overseeing corporate training units.

Chawkins is civically active in Southern California currently serving on the Board of The Children's Partnership, Chair of Pasadena Media, a trainer for Water Education for Latino Leaders and an advisor to the Glendale Education Foundation. He has previously served on many other boards, including Coro Southern California, Leadership Southern California, Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation, Legacy Los Angeles, Environmental Leadership Institute and Sustain Southern California. Chawkins holds a BA in Political Science from UCLA, a MA in Public Policy from Claremont Graduate University and was a Coro Fellow in New York City in 1989. He lives in Pasadena with his wife, Dr. Lan Nguyen Chawkins and has two adult daughters, Dania and Emma.