



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 CLERK
 CITY OF PASADENA

Applicant Name: Lena Louise Kennedy

Home Address: REDACTED Pasadena, CA 91103

Mailing Address: REDACTED a, CA 91114

Email Address: REDACTED

Business Phone: _____ Date Available to Start: 10-20-23

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 **1 Hon. Tyron Hampton**

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.

One Arroyo Foundation

Los Angeles County Commission on Women and Girls

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

L. Kennedy & Associates Consulting

CEO/President

Education – Include professional or vocational licenses or certificates.

Blair High School, PCC, Swayer College, and UCLA [attended]

Nonprofit management Certificate Indiana School of Philanthropy

1. **Have you ever worked for the City of Pasadena?** (If yes, please list dates/department) Yes, 2019, Census 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:**

While I don't have experience with the City of Pasadena-specific Charter Study, I can provide insights, and I have a background and interest that would make me relevant for such a role. I possess a strong foundation in political science and public engagement and issues related to the review areas. I am aware of the governmental structures and the principles; my knowledge and experience in State Government have given me insights into the dynamics of local governance. Many municipalities share common challenges and principles, making this experience transferable. I can help identify best practices and assess the impact of potential changes.

I have a genuine passion for public service and a commitment to improving our communities, which is a crucial qualification. I am motivated to serve on the Charter Study Task Force to contribute my skills and knowledge to enhance the governance of Pasadena.

My experience working with elected demonstrates an understanding of the complexities of governance, including the importance of city charters. My experience allows me to work collaboratively with others and make informed decisions.

I approach governance matters with an objective and impartial mindset, ensuring that decisions are made in the community's best interests and adhering to legal and ethical standards. I represent my Councilmember and will present his views and values as I serve.

I have strong communication skills, essential for working within a task force, interacting with stakeholders, and presenting findings and recommendations to the public.

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

The goals and objectives to review the Charter Reform should be considered based on particular circumstances from community feedback and stakeholders affected by the charter. We should consider the fiscal impact on the City's Budget. Evaluate the existing charter and determine strengths, weaknesses, and areas of improvement. Our overarching goals should align with the City's Mission, Values, and long-term vision for the community. Transparency, accountability, and community engagement should be part of creating the goals and objectives.

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?

Where I may have personal opinions, I can provide an objective perspective on the importance of the scope and charge of a Charter Study Task Force as approved and assigned by the City Council. The importance of the scope and charge of such a task force can be summarized as follows:

Clear goals and Objectives must be set for us to study and comply with.

The task force must know what specific issues or aspects of the city's charter they are meant to examine and potentially recommend changes.

We must be transparent in how we define the scope and charge of our assignment, that we are accountable in our work, and the public must understand the purpose and limitations of the study and what to expect from the outcomes.

We need a clear scope of our assignment to stay within the purview of our work and focus on the most pertinent issues, which will allow us to be effective. We do not want to expand beyond our purpose, and it is essential to maintain control of our study's objectives.

The scope and charge should include provisions for community engagement, ensuring that the public's input is considered in the study. This enhances the democratic process and gives residents a voice in charter revisions, and accountability is essential to ensure that the task force fulfills its mandate effectively. And, of course, we want to conduct our work and study in compliance with the city's laws and regulations.

The scope and charge of the Charter Study Task Force are crucial in guiding the study process, maintaining transparency, and ensuring that the task force remains accountable to the City Council and the community it serves.

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?

First and foremost, I would thoroughly familiarize myself with the City Council's approved Scope and Charge. This document outlines the Charter Study Task Force's specific objectives, goals, and limitations.

I think having a Diverse and Informed group assembled to serve is essential.

I hope the city staff thought through the working process and developed a comprehensive Timeline/Work Plan outlining detailed outcomes, tasks, timelines, and responsibilities for the Task Force that position the Task Force to be successful in expected outcomes. This should include established clear Objectives, defined and measurable, aligned with the City Council’s Scope and Charge.

I would want the Charter Reform Task Forces to have the proper support team, and I hope we have legal experts/counsel to review our work, highly qualified Charter Reform Task Force Consultants to guide us in our decision-making process, and support staff to create our presentation to the City Council for approval and review. We want our final proposed changes to the city charter to ensure that any proposed changes to the city charter are legally sound and comply with state and federal laws.

I would include research and data showing successful Charter Reform Task Forces and their decision-making process by exploring best practices from other cities and municipalities that have successfully updated their charter. Gathering relevant data and information on the current city charter, best practices from other municipalities, and potential areas for improvement can provide valuable insights and guidance. Could you provide us with historical data on Pasadena City Charter Recommendations, which were not successful, and why?

Public Engagement is critical. Hold public hearings forums and gather input and feedback from residents. This ensures that the study reflects the needs and desires of the community, as this will be voted on in November 2024.

The Task Force will present its findings, recommendations, and a comprehensive report/proposal to the City Council for review and approval. As we develop recommendations, we want to work closely with our council members to ensure their understanding of the benefits and implications of the recommendations we will make and be prepared to address any questions or concerns raised by the City Council to make necessary revisions to the recommendations based on their feedback. We want our communication and recommendations to align with the Scope and Charge.

By aligning with the City Council's Scope and Charge, the Charter Study Task Force can effectively achieve its objectives and goals while ensuring a transparent and community-driven process.

Signature: *Jena Louise Kennedy*

Date: 10-19-23

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** Ethnicity: **REDACTED**

If City resident, number of years: 66