



Mental Health Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR
September 28, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Mental Health Commission
 Submitted by: Margaret Fine, Chairperson, Mental Health Commission
 Subject: Appointment of Tommy Escarcega to Mental Health Commission

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution appointing: Tommy Escarcega as a representative of the Special Public Interest, Consumer Category, to complete her first 3-year term beginning September 29, 2021 and ending September 28, 2024.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Mental Health Commission is authorized to be composed of thirteen members. However, there are presently five vacancies on the Commission. These vacancies impair the Commission's ability to adequately review and evaluate the community's mental health needs, resources, and programs.

Approval of the recommended action will keep the one position filled, and allow the Commission to move one step closer to having a full and diverse complement of commissioners to review and evaluate the community's mental health needs, resources, and programs.

BACKGROUND

California State law requires that appointments to the Mental Health Commission meet specific categories, who may serve up to nine years consecutively. The general public interest category may include anyone who has an interest in and some knowledge of mental health services. The special public interest category includes direct consumers of public mental health services and family members of consumers, which together must constitute at least fifty percent or nine of the commission seats. Direct consumers and family members shall each constitute at least 20% of the commission membership.

Tommy Escarcega is a resident of Berkeley and has experience with community advocating and organizing in the area of Re-entry and voting. She has the compassion to help others and believes in using other models of treatment such as community

engagement and consumers not only having voice but a meaningful vote in the system. She would like to join the Mental Health Commission because she has experience with Berkeley Mental Health services and homelessness. This would be her first term participating on the Mental Health Commission.

The Mental Health Commission passed the following motions at the July 22, 2021 meeting:

Interview and vote on the nomination of Tommy Escarcega on the Mental Health Commission.

M/S/C (Fine, Prichett) Make a motion to nominate Tommy Escarcega to join us on the Mental Health Commission

PASSED

Ayes: Blanton, cheema, Fine, Jones, Opton, Prichett, Noes: None; Abstentions: None; Absent: Moore, Taplin

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Approval of the recommended action will allow the Mental Health Commission to move one step closer to having a full and diverse complement of commissioners to review and evaluate the community's mental health needs, resources, and programs.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager concurs with the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report.

CONTACT PERSON

Jamie Works-Wright, Commission Secretary, HHCS, 510-981-7721

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

APPOINTMENT OF TOMMY ESCARCEGA TO THE MENTAL HEALTH
COMMISSION

WHEREAS, membership of the Mental Health Commission is composed of thirteen appointments by the City Council as a whole, including one appointment by the Mayor (*or designee*), six special public interest appointments, and four general public interest appointments; and

WHEREAS, with the ongoing implementation of the Mental Health Services Act, the City of Berkeley will need to have a full complement of diverse appointees to the Commission to review and evaluate the community's mental health needs, resources, and programs and to fulfill its mandate; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Escarcega has an investment in the community advocating and organizing and is prepared to contribute to helping others.

WHEREAS, the Mental Health Commission at its July 22, 2021 meeting recommends appointment of Tommy Escarcega.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council appoints Tommy Escarcega as a representative of the Special Public Interest, Consumer category, to complete her first-term ending September 28, 2024.

