



[Commission Name]

CONSENT CALENDAR

December 3, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Mental Health Commission  
 Submitted by: Jesse Arreguin, Chairperson, Mental Health Commission  
 Subject: Appointment of Neal Adams to Mental Health Commission

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution approving the appointment of Neal Adams to the Mental Health Commission, as a representative of the General Public Interest Category for the three year term beginning December 4, 2013 and ending December 3, 2016.

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 four 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 fill a vacancy, 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. Two members shall be residents of the City of Albany with at least one of these seats filled by a direct consumer or family member.

At its October 24, 2013 meeting, Dr. Neal Adams introduced himself to the Mental Health Commission as a psychiatrist and an active champion of changing the mental health system to a recovery orientation. He has authored the book: "Treatment

Planning for Person-Centered Care: The Road to Mental Health and Addiction Recovery.” Dr. Adams was formerly the mental health director of Santa Cruz County, currently resides in Berkeley and wants to give back to the community. The Mental Health Commission interviewed Dr. Adams and subsequently passed the following motion:

M/S/C (Davis, Kealoha-Blake) Move to recommend that City Council appoint Neal Adams to the Mental Health Commission in the Berkeley General Public Interest seat.

Ayes: Arreguin, Black, Davis, Heda, Kealoha-Blake, Marasovic; Noes: Posey;  
Abstentions: None; Absent: Black, Michel.

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

Carol Patterson, Commission Secretary, HH&CS, 510-981-7721

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

APPOINTMENT OF NEAL ADAMS AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GENERAL  
PUBLIC INTEREST CATEGORY 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, two appointments of residents of Albany (one of which shall be a representative of the special public interest category), 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, the Mental Health Commission, at its October 24, 2013 meeting, recommended the appointment of Neal Adams to the Mental Health Commission.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley appoints Neal Adams to the Mental Health Commission, as representative of the General Public Interest Category, for a three year term beginning December 4, 2013 and ending December 3, 2016.

