



Mental Health Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR

April 25, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Mental Health Commission
 Submitted by: Paul Kealoha-Blake, Chairperson, Mental Health Commission
 Subject: Appointment of Boona Cheema to Mental Health Commission

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution approving the appointment of Boona Cheema to the Mental Health Commission, as a representative of the special public interest category, for a three year term beginning April 26, 2017 and ending April 25, 2020.

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 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 seven 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.

Currently, there are four Berkeley Special Public Interest Commissioners, two Berkeley General Interest Commissioners, one Albany Special Public Interest and one Mayoral appointee.

At its February 23, 2017 meeting, the Mental Health Commission interviewed Boona Cheema who is a retired, small business owner in Berkeley. Ms. Cheema has a wealth of personal and professional experience assisting individuals with mental illness and/or homeless issues. From 1986-2013, Ms. Cheema was the Executive Director of Building Opportunities for Self Sufficiency (BOSS) in Berkeley. She is currently involved in volunteer work in various community activities to assist and support youth and individuals who have mental health and/or homeless issues. The secretary has determined that Ms. Cheema is eligible for one of the available Berkeley Special Public Interest seats on the Mental Health Commission.

On February 23, 2017 the Mental Health Commission passed the following motion:

M/S/C (Marasovic; Kealoha-Blake) The Mental Health Commission recommends the appointment of Boona Cheema to the Mental Health Commission.

Ayes: Heda; Kealoha-Blake; King; Marasovic; Michel; Posey. Noes: None.

Abstentions: None. Absent: Davila, Kerr.

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

Karen Klatt, Commission Secretary, HHCS, (510) 981-7644

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

APPOINTMENT OF BOONA CHEEMA TO THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION AS
A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SPECIAL PUBLIC INTEREST

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 February 23, 2017 meeting recommended the appointment of Boona Cheema to the Mental Health Commission.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that it appoints Boona Cheema to the Mental Health Commission, as representative of the general public interest category, for a three year term beginning April 26, 2017 and ending April 25, 2020.

