To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Mental Health Commission  
Submitted by: Jenne King, Mental Health Commission Chair  
Subject: Re-Appointment of Vylma Ortiz to the Mental Health Commission  

RECOMMENDATION  
Approve the re-appointment of Vylma Ortiz to the Mental Health Commission, as a representative of the General Public Interest category, to complete her three year term ending June 27, 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 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 one of the vacancies, 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.  
Ms. Ortiz was appointed to the Commission in June 2017. Ms. Ortiz is a licensed attorney that volunteers with the National Lawyers Guild and occasionally works with
private clients. She is also a volunteer radio producer and host for 94.1 KPFA community radio. Ms. Ortiz has had an interest in mental health issues ever since she was a Deputy Public Defender in San Jose in the late 1990’s, when she noticed that of all the problems that her clients faced while in the criminal justice system, having mental health issues made the situation all the more intractable.

Ms. Ortiz was dropped from the Commission in August 2017 because she was unable to complete her annual 700 form in a timely manner. She has since completed the necessary paperwork.

The Mental Health Commission passed the following motion at the October 26, 2017 meeting:

M/S/C (Marasovic, Cheema) Move to re-appoint Vylma Ortiz to the Mental Health Commission.

Ayes: Cheema, Davila, Fine, Kealoha-Blake, King, Marasovic, Posey Noes: None; Abstentions: Castro; Absent: Heda

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the subject of this project.

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, Health, Housing & Community Services, 981-7644

Attachments:
1: Resolution
RESOLUTION NO. ##.###-N.S.

RE-APPOINTMENT OF VYLMA ORTIZ TO THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GENERAL 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, Ms. Ortiz was previously appointed to the Mental Health Commission but was unable to get her paperwork in on time; and

WHEREAS, the Mental Health Commission, at its October 26, 2017 meeting, recommended the re-appointment of Ms. Ortiz.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley re-appoints Vylma Ortiz to the Mental Health Commission as a representative of the General Public Interest category, for three year terms ending on June 27, 2020.