



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
JANUARY 30, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Submitted by: Paul Buddenhagen, Director, Health, Housing and Community Services
Subject: Appointment of Health Officer

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution to appoint Lisa B. Hernandez, M.D. as the Health Officer for the City of Berkeley.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

A full time career benefited Health Officer position is budgeted for the current and subsequent fiscal years.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In accordance with state law, as a recognized local health jurisdiction the City Council must appoint a local Health Officer who has a medical degree and holds a license issued by the Medical Board of California. For the past year, the Health Officer position has been filled as an interim appointment as the Public Health Division structure has been assessed and reorganized. During that time, Dr. Robert Benjamin has served as the City of Berkeley's Health Officer, providing guidance and direction to City leadership during this transition period.

Dr. Hernandez has degrees from Yale University, Georgetown University and the University of California, Berkeley. She completed residencies in OB/GYN and Preventive Medicine, and has served in various public sector medical roles for over ten years. Dr. Hernandez currently serves as Deputy Health Officer/Director Infectious Disease and Response Branch for Santa Clara County's Health Department where she leads a staff of 129 in Communicable Disease and Control, Tuberculosis Prevention and Control, STD/HIV Prevention and Control, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Public Health Pharmacies and Public Health Laboratory. Prior to that she served as the Health Officer/Medical Services Director for the Santa Cruz Health Services Agency. She has also held high level public health positions in the Monterey County Health Department.

Dr. Hernandez was a California Hawaii Public Health Leadership Institute Fellow in 2010/11. She is highly regarded and well known by the California Department of Public Health and other statewide health bodies. She is bilingual and bicultural and has a

strong track record of developing excellent partnerships with a wide range of diverse groups and people, and is committed to helping us continue to work to eliminate health disparities in Berkeley. We are excited at the prospect of having Dr. Hernandez's leadership for the City of Berkeley as the next Health Officer.

BACKGROUND

The permanent Health Officer position has been filled by a part-time interim Health Officer for the past year as the optimal structure for the Public Health division was determined. While we initially planned on hiring a half-time Health Officer, a recent promotion in the Public Health division allowed us to reallocate resources and increase the Health Officer position to full-time. After a rigorous search with community input, Dr. Hernandez was selected out of a very competitive field of candidates. She will serve in partnership with the Public Health Manager to lead the Public Health division as we continue to strengthen our efforts to ensure health equity within Berkeley.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No known environmental impacts.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

State Law requires City Council appoint a physician Health Officer for our local health jurisdiction.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None. State law requires a physician Health Officer for every local health jurisdiction.

CONTACT PERSON

Paul Buddenhagen, Director, Health, Housing and Community Services, (510) 981-5426

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has performed local public health functions since 1890 and is one of three City health jurisdictions in California; and

WHEREAS, local health jurisdictions must include a physician health officer; and

WHEREAS, mandatory functions of a local health jurisdiction include communicable disease control, tuberculosis control, public health emergency preparedness and response, and registration of births and deaths; and

WHEREAS, these functions can only be performed under the authority of a physician health officer; and

WHEREAS, physician health officer expertise is a resource to the Public Health, Environmental Health, and Mental Health Divisions as well as the City as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Lisa B. Hernandez, MD, is an experienced and exceptional public health physician who meets the qualifications for this position.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council authorizes the appointment of Lisa B. Hernandez, M.D. as the Health Officer for the City of Berkeley, Department of Health, Housing & Community Services, Public Health Division.

