To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Mental Health Commission
Submitted by: boona cheema, Chairperson, Mental Health Commission
Subject: Appointment of Andrea Pritchett to the Mental Health Commission

RECOMMENDATION
Adopt a Resolution approving the appointment of Andrea Pritchett to the Mental Health Commission, as a representative of the general public interest category, for a three year term beginning September 11, 2019 and ending September 10, 2022.

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 seven 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, the Mental Health Commission consists of the following: two Berkeley Special Public Interest Commissioners; two Berkeley General Public Interest Commissioners; one Albany General Public Interest Commissioner; and one Mayoral appointee.
At its June 27, 2019 meeting, the Mental Health Commission interviewed Andrea Pritchett who is a teacher with the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD), a board member of the Berkeley Flea Market, and a police accountability advocate. Ms. Pritchett is interested in serving on the Commission to help improve the delivery of mental health services to people who are poor, homeless or underserved. She has worked with diverse populations and homeless and marginalized individuals for approximately 40 years and has experience working with individuals who are managing mental illness and other disabilities. The secretary has determined that Ms. Pritchett is eligible for a General Public Interest seat on the Mental Health Commission.

On June 27, 2019 the Mental Health Commission passed the following motion:

M/S/C (Kealoha-Blake, Heda) Move that the Berkeley City Council appoint Andrea Pritchett to the Mental Health Commission in a general public interest seat.

Ayes: cheema; Castro; Fine; Heda; Kealoha-Blake; Noes: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Davila.

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 takes no position on the content and recommendations of the Commission’s Report.

CONTACT PERSON
Jamie Works-Wright, Commission Secretary, (510) 981-7721

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

APPOINTMENT OF ANDREA PRITCHETT 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, the Mental Health Commission, at its June 27, 2019 meeting recommended the appointment of Andrea Pritchett to the Mental Health Commission.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council appoints Andrea Pritchett to the Mental Health Commission, as representative of the general public interest category, for a three year term beginning September 11, 2019 and ending September 10, 2022.