

**From:** Kelekian, Jay  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2017 2:54 PM  
**To:** All Rent Board  
**Subject:** Appointment of new Rent Board Deputy Director

Dear Staff and Board Members:

I am very excited and pleased to announce the addition to our staff of Ms. Cherie Shoquist. Cherie has been selected to serve as the Program's Deputy Director and will start working with us on Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. While there were several extraordinarily strong candidates interviewed, Cherie was unanimously top ranked by both of the independent panels conducting the interviews and evaluating the candidates.

Cherie has the difficult task of following in the footsteps of a series of talented and well-loved predecessors but her warm and nurturing personality combined with over 20 years working on housing and anti-displacement issues make her well suited to meet the many demands we all place on the Deputy Director. I've attached a brief summary of Cherie's qualifications, experience, education and affiliations. What is not mentioned in the resume but was apparent from the interviews is Cherie's interest and commitment to mentoring coworkers and integrating a variety of participants in formulating policies and programs. Cherie has experience working at the state and local level and with appointed and elected officials. She understands policy and project management/implementation. Cherie has also worked with non-profits and as a legal aid attorney. She is very excited to make the Bay Area her new home and the Rent Board her new venue in contributing to making a more just, equitable and compassionate society.

Cherie will be part of our team of talent working on local, regional and state-wide policy issues that could impact the protections in our ordinance. Cherie will also take on lead responsibilities on several key projects – most notably, she'll be coordinating the completion of the current RTS efforts and head up the planning and eventual implementation of future improvements to RTS. She will assist me with personnel duties and the budget. Finally, I expect that she will utilize her interest and skills as a mentor to not just continue but build upon the efforts Deb and Drew started a few years back. I hope you all will welcome Cherie with open arms; she is a warm, talented and committed coworker.

Finally, I wish to thank former BHA Director Tia Ingram, former Rent Board Deputy Director Steve Barton, former Chief Council for the City of Santa Monica Michaelyn Jones, former Rent Board Chair Lisa Stephens and current Rent Board Vice-Chair Paola Laverde for their insights, wisdom and expertise while serving on the interview panels. Last, but not least, thanks to Deb Hutton for advice prior to the interviews about the qualities, characteristics and skills in a Deputy that would best serve me, the Program and the Board at this time.

***Jay Kelekian***

**Executive Director, Rent Stabilization Program**

City of Berkeley

2125 Milvia Street

Berkeley, CA 94704

Tel.: 510.981-4949

Fax: 510.981-4940

E-mail: [jkelekian@ci.berkeley.ca.us](mailto:jkelekian@ci.berkeley.ca.us)

# Cherie Shoquist

## Principal Project Coordinator

### QUALIFICATIONS SUMMARY

- Demonstrated ability to provide strategic direction, align diverse interests, attract resources, and inspire transformative change in community development
- Over twenty years of experience in creative, collaborative leadership across federal, state and local jurisdictions and in building partnerships between government, business, and philanthropic sectors
- Proven success at developing and financing complex, high impact, and award-winning affordable rental housing and homeownership projects and social service programs
- Strong leadership skills promoting organizational change and high achieving teams
- Career-long success in developing and strengthening community stakeholder and partner relationships
- Housing development finance professional and attorney with experience in all aspects of the affordable housing industry, including rental and ownership housing finance, development, asset management, preservation and job creation

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### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** The City department maximizes an over \$100 million annual budget to equitably grow a sustainable city.

Principal Project Coordinator, August 2008 – Present

**MINNESOTA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY** The State agency utilizes a \$954 million annual budget to end homelessness, increase home ownership for minorities, and develop and preserve affordable housing.

Policy Specialist, February 2002-August 2008

**MID MINNESOTA LEGAL AID** Legal Aid works in pursuit of helping Minnesota's most vulnerable citizens gain access to their basic rights for safety, shelter, food, health care and education.

Attorney, April 1996 – February 2002

**STAR TRIBUNE LEGAL DEPARTMENT** The Star Tribune is the largest newspaper in Minnesota with a Sunday circulation of over 580,000.

Law Clerk, November 1995 – April 1996

**MINNESOTA HOUSING PARTNERSHIP** Minnesota Housing Partnership convenes, guides, and supports a diversity of partners working to improve conditions of home and community.

Housing Advocate, March 1995-October 1995

**EDUCATION**    **WILLIAM MITCHELL COLLEGE OF LAW, SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA**  
**JURIS DOCTOR, JUNE 1995**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA**  
**BACHELORS OF ARTS, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, JUNE 1992**

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**AFFILIATIONS AND PROJECTS OR PROGRAMS**

- Minnesota Homeownership Center Board 2012-Present**
- Minnesota Homeownership Opportunity Alliance 2014-Present**
- Minneapolis Youth Cabinet 2014 - Present**
- Mayor Hodges Cradle to K Cabinet 2014-Present**
- Northside Home Fund Board 2008-Present**
- Neighborhood Stabilization Boot Camp at John F. Kennedy School at Harvard University 2010**
- Minnesota Foreclosure Partners Council 2008-2012**
- Heading Home Hennepin 2006-Present**
- HIV Housing Coalition 2002-Present**
- Minnesota Interagency Task Force on Homelessness Chair 2002-2008**
- National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies 2008-Present**
- Urban Land Institute 2002-Present**
- Governor's Military and Veterans Support Cabinet for Returning Troops 2006-2008**
- Minnesota Comprehensive Offender Re-Entry Program Advisory Committee 2007-2008**
- National Governors Association Policy Academy on Youth Aging out of Foster Care 2006**
- The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness Policy Academy on Improving Access to Mainstream Services for Families with Children Experiencing Homelessness 2003**
- Heritage Park 2000-2016**
- Parkside at Humboldt Greenway 2015-2016**
- Green Homes North 2012-2016**
- Minneapolis Plan for Foreclosure Recovery 2008-2012**
- Minnesota Overlay Enterprise Green Communities Criteria 2008**
- Minnesota Homeless Management Information System 2003**
- Minnesota's Business Plan to End Long Term Homelessness 2002**