



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
March 12, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
 Submitted by: Chair Behm-Steinberg, Human Welfare and Community Action Commission
 Subject: Filling Vacancies Among the Elected Representatives of the Poor

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution confirming the appointments of Catherine Huchting (District 3); and, Maria Sol (District 1) as elected representatives of the poor on the Human Welfare and Community Action Commission (HWCAC), having been voted at the HWCAC January 8, 2024 meeting, and that their terms expire November 28, 2024.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Failure to maintain full membership on the HWCAC, which also acts as the Board of the Berkeley Community Action Agency (CAA), could result in a loss of Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding. Vacancies on the Berkeley CAA Board were noted as a “finding” during the most recent desk review of this program conducted by the State Department of Community Services and Development.

BACKGROUND

The HWCAC is structured to include fifteen members, nine of whom are appointed by Berkeley City Council members and six of whom are elected representatives of the poor. Berkeley Municipal Code Section 3.78.080 stipulates that elections of representatives of the poor are held biennially in the month of November in even numbered years. The next election will take place in November 2024. Subsection C of the code states, “...the remaining representatives of the poor...shall select a person to fill the vacancy until the next election...” and that the, “...name of the selected representatives shall be submitted to the City Council for confirmation.” BMC 3.78.030 (b) also states in part, that the remaining elected commission members shall recommend to the Council that the newly elected person fill out the term of the appointment. Maintaining full membership of the HWCAC has been an ongoing challenge, and the commission currently has two members.

At the time of the January 8, 2024 meeting where representatives of the poor were on the agenda, there were no elected representatives of the poor on the Commission.

Therefore, the two existing commissioners voted:

- M/S/C: Behm-Steinberg, Lippman. Ayes – Behm-Steinberg, Lippman; Noes – None; Abstain – None; Absent: None) to select Catherine Huchting to fill one of the current vacancies.
- M/S/C: Behm-Steinberg, Lippman. Ayes – Behm-Steinberg, Lippman; Noes – None; Abstain – None; Absent: None) to select Maria Sol to fill one of the current vacancies.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no known environmental impacts associated with the recommendation of this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Failure to maintain full membership on the HWCAC is in violation of the City's CSBG revenue contract and may jeopardize future funding.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Mary-Claire Katz, Commission Secretary, HHCS, (510) 981-5414

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

FILLING VACANCIES AMONG THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE POOR ON THE HWCAC

WHEREAS, Berkeley Municipal Code Section 3.78.080 stipulates that election of representatives of the poor are held biennially in the month of November in even numbered years, and the next election will take place in November 2024; and

WHEREAS, Subsection C states "...the remaining representatives of the poor...shall select a person to fill the vacancy until the next election..." and that the "...name of the selected representatives shall be submitted to the City Council for confirmation"; and

WHEREAS, at the January 8, 2024 HWCAC special meeting, the Commission elected Catherine Huchting (District 3) to fill one vacancy with her term ending November 28, 2024; and

WHEREAS, at the January 8, 2024 HWCAC special meeting, the Commission elected Maria Sol (District 1) to fill one vacancy with her term ending November 28, 2024.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that Catherine Huchting (District 3) and Maria Sol (District 1) are confirmed as elected representatives of the poor serving on the Human Welfare and Community Action Commission until November 28, 2024.

