



Board Report

File #: 2015-1224, **File Type:** Program

Agenda Number: 44.

**SYSTEM SAFETY, SECURITY AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 17, 2015**

SUBJECT: MEMBERSHIP ON METRO SERVICE COUNCILS

ACTION: APPROVE NOMINEES FOR APPOINTMENT TO METRO SERVICE COUNCILS

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVING nominees for membership on Metro’s San Gabriel Valley, South Bay, and Westside Central Service Councils.

ISSUE

Each Metro Service Council is comprised of nine Representatives that serve a term of three years; terms are staggered so that the terms of three of each Council’s nine members expire annually on June 30. Incumbent Representatives can serve additional terms if re-nominated by the nominating authority and confirmed by the Metro Board.

DISCUSSION

Metro seeks to appoint Service Council members reflective of the demographics of each respective region. The 2010 Census demographics of each of the Service Council regions are as follows:

% Sector Total	Hispanic	White	Asian	Black	Other	Total Pop
SGV	50.0%	19.9%	24.9%	3.3%	2.0%	100.0%
SFV	41.0%	42.0%	10.7%	3.4%	2.9%	100.0%
South Bay	42.5%	23.8%	12.0%	18.3%	3.4%	100.0%
Westside/Central	43.5%	30.7%	13.0%	10.0%	2.8%	100.0%
Gateway Cities	63.9%	16.7%	8.5%	8.6%	2.3%	100.0%
Service Area Total	48.5%	26.8%	14.0%	8.2%	2.6%	100.0%

The individuals listed below have been nominated or re-nominated to serve by their respective Council’s appointing authorities. If approved by the Board, these appointments will serve a three-year term or the remainder of the seat’s three-year term as indicated. A brief listing of qualifications for new nominees is provided along with the nomination letter(s) from the nominating authorities for all

nominees:

- A. Ben Wong, San Gabriel Valley Service Council, New Appointment
Nominated by: First District Supervisor Hilda L. Solis

Term Ending: June 30, 2018

The demographic makeup of the San Gabriel Valley Service Council with the appointment of these nominees will consist of five (5) White members, one (1) Hispanic member, two (2) Asian members, and one (1) Native/Other member as self-identified by the members in terms of racial/ethnic identity. The gender breakdown of the Council will be nine (9) men and zero (0) women.

- A. Paula Faust, South Bay Service Council, New Appointment
Nominated by: South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Term Ending: June 30, 2016

The demographic makeup of the South Bay Service Council with the appointment of this nominee will consist of six (6) White members, one (1) Hispanic member, and two (2) Black members as self-identified by the members in terms of racial/ethnic identity. The gender breakdown of the Council will be six (6) men and three (3) women.

- A. Martha Eros, Westside Central Service Council, New Appointment
Nominated by: Westside Cities Council of Governments

Term Ending: June 30, 2018

- A. Jeremiah LaRose, Westside Central Service Council, New Appointment
Nominated by: Third District Supervisor Sheila Kuehl

Term Ending: June 30, 2017

The demographic makeup of the Westside Central Service Council with the appointment of these nominees will consist of two (2) Hispanic members, four (4) White members, one (1) Asian member, and two (2) Black members as self-identified by the members in terms of racial/ethnic identity. The gender breakdown of the Council will be six (6) men and three (3) women.

DETERMINATION OF SAFETY IMPACT

Maintaining the full complement of representatives on each Service Council to represent each service area is important. As each representative is to be a regular user of public transit, and each Council is composed of people from diverse areas and backgrounds, this enables each Council to better understand the needs of transit consumers including the need for safe operation of transit service and safe location of bus stops.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact imparted by approving the recommended action.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The alternative to approving these appointments would be for these nominees to not be approved for appointment. To do so would result in reduced effectiveness of the Service Councils, as it would increase the difficulty of obtaining the quorum necessary to allow the Service Councils to formulate and submit their recommendations to the Board. It would also result in each of the Service Councils having less diverse representation of their respective service areas.

NEXT STEPS

There is one (1) vacant Service Council seat on the San Fernando Valley Service Council for which no nomination has been received. Staff will continue to work closely with the Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, the nominating authority, to identify candidates for the vacant position. Staff will also continue to monitor the major contributors to the quality of bus service from the customer's perspective, and share that information with the Service Councils for use in their work to plan, implement, and improve bus service in their areas and the customer experience using our bus service.

ATTACHMENTS

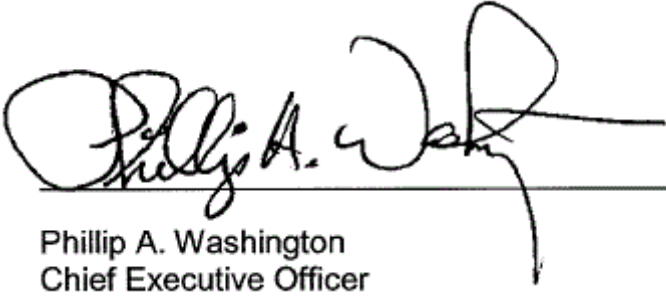
Attachment A - New Appointees Biographies and Listing of Qualifications

Attachment B - Appointing Authority Nomination Letters

Prepared by: Jon Hillmer, Executive Officer of Service Development, Scheduling & Analysis,
(213) 922-6972

Questions: Christopher Reyes, Transportation Planning Manager III, Operations, (213) 922-4808

Reviewed by: James T. Gallagher, Chief Operations Officer



Phillip A. Washington
Chief Executive Officer

NEW APPOINTEE BIOGRAPHY AND LISTING OF QUALIFICATIONS

Ben Wong, Nominee for San Gabriel Valley Service Council



Ben Wong, former Mayor and three-term West Covina Councilmember, was recently appointed to the City Council to fill a vacancy until the November general election. Ben was first elected to the City Council on April 14, 1992, and was reelected to his second and third terms. A 57-year West Covina resident, Mr. Wong is the past president of the West Covina Chamber of Commerce and Executive Board president of Foothill Transit. He has also served on the boards of directors of numerous community and nonprofit organizations including West Covina Lions Club, Citrus Valley Medical Center Foundation, Mt. San Antonio College Foundation, San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership, CAUSE (Center for Asian Americans United for Self-Empowerment), and the Institute for Local Government.

Mr. Wong currently works as a Local Public Affairs Region Manager with Southern California Edison, responsible for the utility's governmental and community relations with cities in the East San Gabriel Valley. His past experience includes: Regional Public Affairs Manager for the League of California Cities (2006 – 2007), Executive Director of the League of California Cities' Los Angeles County Division (2007-2010), and Assistant to California Board of Equalization Member John Chiang (2001-2006). For more than 20 years before that, Ben managed The Great Wall Restaurant, a West Covina family-owned business founded by Ben's immigrant parents in 1955. Mr. Wong is a graduate of Covina High School, and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and a Doctorate in Biochemistry from the University of Southern California (USC).

Paula Faust, Nominee for South Bay Service Council



Paula Faust has served as the Deputy Director of G-Trans, the City of Gardena's Municipal Bus Lines since 2010. Her responsibilities in that role include development and oversight of the Department's capital program, procurement and contract administration, scheduling and service development, and fare policy and agreements. Ms. Faust's career in transportation began with Montebello Bus Lines, where she served as Administration Division Manager. She then went on to work for Los Angeles County Metro as an Administration and Financial Services Manager for the San Gabriel Valley Sector. Ms. Faust

holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and a Master of Public Administration from Cal State Long Beach.

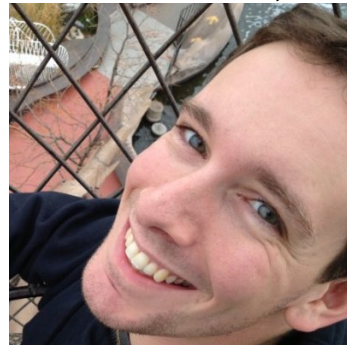
Martha Eros, Nominee for Westside Central Service Council



Martha Eros has worked with the City of Beverly Hills as a Transportation Planner since 2008. Her duties in that role include bicycle planning, local and regional transportation planning including Capital Assets projects and bus stop amenities, and management of the City’s senior transit program. Prior to her employment with the City of Beverly Hills, Ms. Eros served as a Transportation Officer with the City of Arcadia from 2001-2007. Ms. Eros began her career in transportation as an Administrative Analyst with LACMTA, serving in that role from 1999-2001. Ms. Eros holds a Master of Public Administration as well as an urban

Executive Management Graduate Certificate from Cal State Long Beach.

Jeremiah LaRose, Nominee for Westside Central Service Council



Jeremiah LaRose recently completed a Masters in Transportation Policy and Planning at UCLA’s Luskin School of Public Affairs and is currently employed as a Transit and Transportation Consultant Fehr & Peers. Mr. LaRose began his career in transit at the University of New Hampshire as a Student Transit Coordinator. He also worked as a Manager of Operations and Planning for the Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation (COAST). Mr. LaRose is a regular user of public transportation and also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Teacher Education, with emphasis in

technical writing, literature, and German.

APPOINTING AUTHORITY NOMINATION LETTERS



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

856 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration / Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: (213) 974 - 4111 / Fax: (213) 613 - 1739

Friday, July 17, 2015

Jon Hillmer
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: San Gabriel Valley Service Council Appointment

Dear Mr. Hillmer,

It is my understanding that the San Gabriel Valley Service Council reserves one appointment for the First District of Los Angeles County.

I therefore invoke my authority to appoint West Covina Councilmember, Ben Wong as the First District appointee to the San Gabriel Valley Service Council. You may contact him directly to request all necessary documentation.

Ben Wong
Ben.Wong@sce.com
(626) 476-0363 (cell)

Given his experience in the San Gabriel Valley, Mr. Wong offers a wealth of knowledge and a balanced approach to achieve regional transportation goals. I have full confidence in his ability to represent the First District. Many thanks in advance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hilda L. Solis".

Hilda L. Solis
District One Supervisor
Los Angeles County



**SOUTH BAY CITIES
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

20285 Western Avenue, Suite 100
Torrance, CA 90501
(310) 371-7222
sbccog@southbaycities.org
www.southbaycities.org

July 28, 2015

The Honorable Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair
Members of the Metro Board of Directors
Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Nominations for the Members of the South Bay Service Council

The South Bay Service Council has been extremely successful since its inception. The dedicated people on our council have worked with Metro staff to make changes in service to improve efficiency and coordination of the transit services provided by the Metro in our sector.

The South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) takes its responsibility to nominate members to the council very seriously, and with this letter we are submitting a nominee to fill the seat that has been vacated by the retirement of G-Trans Transit Manager, Jack Gabig.

Recommended to continue to represent the South Bay Municipal Operators after receiving the approval of the SBCCOG Board of Directors at the meeting of July 23, 2015, is Paula Faust, G-Trans Deputy Transit Manager. This appointment is until July, 2016.

We request that you agendize this appointment as soon as possible so that Ms. Faust may be seated by September, 2015.

Please notify us when the appointment is confirmed, or if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jim Gazeley
Chair, South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Lomita

cc: Phil Washington, CEO

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN ACTION

Carson El Segundo Gardena Hawthorne Hermosa Beach Inglewood Lawndale Lomita
Manhattan Beach Palos Verdes Estates Rancho Palos Verdes Redondo Beach Rolling Hills
Rolling Hills Estates Torrance Los Angeles District #15 Los Angeles County



Date: July 16, 2015

To: Gary Spivack
Deputy Executive Officer, Metro

From: Cecilia Estolano and Katherine Perez-Estolano
Co-Executive Directors, WSCCOG

CC: Eric Geier, Community Relations Manager, Metro
Mike Bohlke, Transportation Deputy to Metro Board Director James Butts
Martha Eros, Transportation Planner, City of Beverly Hills
Winnie Fong, Project Director, WSCCOG

Subject: Westside Cities COG Appointment to the Metro Westside/Central Service Council

In May 2015, the Westside Cities Council of Governments (WSCCOG) received a request from Metro to a replacement nomination to fill the vacancy created by Art Ida's resignation. On May 21, 2015, the WSCCOG Board nominated Aaron Kunz from the City of Beverly Hills to fill the vacancy of one of the three WSCCOG appointed positions on the Westside/Central Service Council for a 3-year term from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2018.

In late May, Mr. Kunz had notified WSCCOG staff that he is unable to serve on the council and recommended Martha Eros, Transportation Planner for the City of Beverly Hills to serve as the nominee for the position. WSCCOG recommends Ms. Eros as she holds 15 years of experience in the public transportation. Ms. Eros' current role in transportation for the City of Beverly Hills includes managing the senior transit program, planning for the Purple Line Extension, rolling out the city's bikeshare pilot program, and managing local transportation sales tax funding. Her previous experience also included working for the City of Arcadia's department of transportation and Metro's Transit Operations Division.

On July 16, 2015, the WSCCOG Board voted to approve Ms. Eros' nomination. If approved by the Metro Board, Ms. Eros will join the current WSCCOG appointees on the Westside/Central Service Council Perri Sloane Goodman from City of West Hollywood and David Feinberg from Santa Monica Big Blue Bus. Her term will begin effective immediately and end on June 30, 2018. Please accept this nomination on behalf of the WSCCOG Board. Ms. Eros can be reached by email at meros@beverlyhills.org. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the WSCCOG Project Director Winnie Fong at winnie@elpadvisors.com or at (213) 612-4545.



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

621 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
Tel: 213-917-4300 Fax: 213-525-7362 Sheila@bos.lacounty.gov

SHEILA KUEHL
SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT

August 21, 2015

Mr. Gary Spivack
Deputy Executive Officer
Metro Regional Service Councils
One Gateway Plaza MS 99-7-2
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Spivack,

On behalf of Third District, I hereby submit the nomination of Jeremiah Larose to serve as the Third District representative on the Westside Central Service Council for the term of July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2017.

Please let me know if you need any additional information. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


SHEILA KUEHL
Supervisor, Third District

MM:bc