



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

March 21, 2023

Honorable Members of the City Council
c/o City Clerk
City Hall, Room 395

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have appointed Ms. Mara Cohen to the Commission for Community and Family Services for the term ending June 30, 2024. Ms. Cohen will fill the vacancy created by Jesse Noonan, whom I removed effective May 5, 2023 or at the time Mr. Noonan's successor is confirmed by the City Council.

I certify that in my opinion Ms. Cohen is qualified for the work that will devolve upon her, and that I make the appointment solely in the interest of the City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bass".

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:tga

Attachment

COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

Name: Mara Cohen
Commission: Commission for Community and Family Services
End of Term: 6/30/2024

Appointee Information

1. **Race:** Caucasian
2. **Gender:** Female
3. **Council district and neighborhood of residence:** 5 - Central
4. **Are you a registered voter?** Yes
5. **Prior commission experience:**
6. **Highest level of education completed:** Ph.D., Political Science, University of Southern California, Los Angeles
7. **Occupation/profession:** Senior Fellow, Loyola Marymount University, Center for the Study of Los Angeles
8. **Experience(s) that qualifies person for appointment:** See attached resume/bio
9. **Purpose of this appointment:** Appointment

10. Current composition of the commission (excluding appointee):

Commissioner	APC	CD	Ethnicity	Gender	Term End
Noonan, Jesse	East LA	4	Caucasian	F	30-Jun-24
Estrada, Ingrid	South LA	10	Latinx	F	30-Jun-24
Hernandez, Brenda	South LA	10	Latinx	F	30-Jun-26
Bochco, Dayna	West LA	11	Caucasian	F	30-Jun-24
Burrell, Robinne	Central	4	African American	F	30-Jun-24
Herndon, Loretta	Central	10	Latinx	F	30-Jun-26
Daniel, Jayanthi	West LA	5	API	F	30-Jun-26
Marcus, Deborah	West LA	11	Caucasian	F	30-Jun-26
Strickland, Danielle	South LA	8	African American	F	30-Jun-26
Wilson, Jesse	East LA	13	Caucasian	M	30-Jun-26
Dillon, Kelli	South LA	8	African American	F	30-Jun-26
Torres, Benjamin	East LA	13	Latinx	M	30-Jun-24
Roldan, Elmer	South LA	9	Latinx	M	30-Jun-26
Chang, Carmen	South Valley	2	API	F	30-Jun-24
Rucker-Trapp, Rashad	South LA	8	African American	M	30-Jun-26

Mara A. Cohen, Ph.D.

Academic and Advocate



About

I am a Senior Fellow at Loyola Marymount University's Center for the Study of Los Angeles, among the nation's premier undergraduate social science research centers, where I co-created the Center's acclaimed public opinion surveys and voter exit polls. I served on the faculty of LMU's Urban Studies Program. My interest as a scholar and civic activist lies in catalyzing our city's social, physical, economic and cultural assets toward making LA a place of opportunity for every Angeleno.

Currently a member of the Mayor Bass Transition Advisory Team, I seek a position as a volunteer commissioner that leverages my academic expertise and record of community engagement to advance the priorities of the Bass administration, particularly increasing the supply and affordability of housing; alleviating poverty and improving conditions for working families; and fighting hate by fostering collaborative intergroup relations.

Education

I earned my doctorate in Political Science at UCLA where I was a University Fellow and a Research Fellow in Minority Politics. I was a postdoctoral fellow at USC's Southern California Studies Center and with the Irvine Foundation's Sustainable Communities Leadership Program. I received my bachelor's degree from Colorado College where I graduated *Phi Beta Kappa* and *magna cum laude*.

Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Senior Fellow

My research on politics and public policy has been published in leading peer-reviewed academic journals and anthologies including *Urban Affairs Review* (homeownership), *California History* (public housing), *Sociological Forum* (intergroup relations and housing), *Southern California Quarterly* (community redevelopment), *Up Against the Sprawl* (urban planning), *The Development of Los Angeles City Government* (community redevelopment), *Sociological Perspectives* (race and ethnic relations), *Urban Affairs Review* (immigration politics), *Political Research Quarterly* (voting), *Public Opinion Quarterly* (voting), *PS: Political Science and Politics* (exit polling), *National Civic Review* (urban politics), *Journal of California Politics and Policy* (regional politics), *Encyclopedia of American Government and Civics* (absentee voting), *Race and Justice* (policing) and elsewhere.

My op-eds and commentaries have appeared in the *Los Angeles Daily News* (home foreclosures), *La Opinión* (immigration and human relations), *Los Angeles Business Journal* (workforce development), *New America Media* (workforce development, immigration), *National Civic Review* (regional politics) and elsewhere.

I have led teams in polling, public sector research consultancies and presentations to nonprofits and private industry including the United Way of Greater Los Angeles (Latinos and housing affordability), Southern California Association of Governments (housing), San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (housing), the Los Angeles Human Relations Commission (demographic analysis), Los Angeles World Airports (public opinion research), Los Angeles Conventions and Visitors Bureau Sister Cities Journalists Program (LA overview), Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters (polling sites assessment), California Department of Motor Vehicles (online user survey), National Conference of State Legislatures (state-tribal relations), Jewish Community Relations Committee New Leaders Project (LA overview), History Channel (urban design competition juror), State Farm Insurance Central Area (keynote speaker, demographics and survey research), Insurance Network of California (keynote speaker, demographics and survey research).

I have served as a panelist, discussant or section head at numerous academic conferences in political science and urban studies including the annual meetings of the American Political Science Association, the Midwest Political Science Association, the Western Political Science Association, the Urban Affairs Association, the Pacific Sociological Association and others.

My interviews and media appearances include foreign outlets such as BBC Weekly News, BBC Scotland, BBC Online News, *Agence France Press*, *Kyodo Newswire*, *America Journal*; national outlets including AP, Reuters, NPR *Day to Day* and the History Channel; and local outlets including KNBC, KCET *Life and Times*, FOX-11, 89.3 KPCC *Talk of the City*, 89.9 KCRW *Which Way LA?*, *Los Angeles Daily News*, *Los Angeles Business Journal*, *La Opinión*, *Korea Times*, *California Real Estate* and others.

Community Service

Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County – Board of Directors (2022-present)

NLSLA's fearless advocates fight the injustice and indignity that results from poverty in the diverse neighborhoods of Los Angeles County, changing lives and transforming communities. NLSLA's compassionate individual representation, impact litigation, public policy advocacy, community education and collaborative projects on workforce development, affordable housing and more, make it a recognized leader in innovative legal services.

Kids in Need of Defense – Los Angeles Advisory Board (2018-present)

KIND is the preeminent U.S.-based nongovernmental organization devoted to the protection of unaccompanied and separated children. KIND provides pro bono legal representation for

refugee and migrant children across the country. Since its inception, KIND has received referrals for more than 30,000 cases and now serves over 5,000 children annually in partnership with over 755 law firm, corporate, law school and bar association partners. KIND has connected thousands of children and their caretakers with essential medical care, mental health care, educational opportunities, and crisis intervention to ensure their safety and well-being.

One LA-IAF - Board of Directors (2010-2017), Member leader (2009-present)

One LA-IAF is a network of diverse religious and non-profit institutions across LA County that builds strong relationships within and across our communities, equips members with leadership and organizing skills, and exercises power on concrete issues identified by One LA members. One LA organizing has achieved significant victories in the areas of vaccine access, housing and homelessness, justice for working families, public transportation, health care for all, and education and job training. During my board tenure, I played a lead role in establishing a pilot project in Pacoima to restructure mortgages to enable borrowers to remain in their homes, and I pursued workforce development initiatives in the precision machining and healthcare fields.

Peace Over Violence – Board of Directors (2007-2010)

POV provides support and protection of domestic violence survivors through emergency response, counseling, intervention, education, legal services and advocacy. POV is dedicated to changing the pervasive culture of violence.

Hollywood Arts – Board of Directors (2006-2008)

I was a founding board member of the nation's first educational facility to use arts-based learning to entice unhoused, transitional-age youth to become self-invested – ready for secondary education, internships and employment in the video-gaming and other arts-based industries.

Other Community Service

Temple Israel of Hollywood Spearheaded the social justice task force, Dorot Tzedek (2010-2015), at Los Angeles's large, historic synagogue where my family and I are Patron Members. I organized speaker events and led congregational outreach and collaborative interfaith initiatives with other community organizations.

Anchor host for Democratic candidate fundraisers (various dates) Raised crucial funds and hosted events for the electoral campaigns of Mayor Karen Bass, Vice President Kamala Harris (including campaigning in Iowa), Senator Cory Booker, Congress Member Beto O' Rourke, California Assembly Member Christy Smith and others.

ACLU Freedom Cities/People Power (2017-2018) Activated hundreds of Angelenos, organizing volunteer training and information sessions and convening meetings with local chiefs of police and with then-LA County Sheriff Jim McDonnell. Our objective was to advocate against local law enforcement's cooperation with the Trump administration's mass deportation agenda and to respectfully demonstrate broad grassroots engagement with the issue.



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

March 21, 2023

Dear Ms. Cohen:

I am pleased to inform you that I hereby appoint you to the Commission for Community and Family Services for the term ending June 30, 2024, subject to confirmation by the City Council. In order to complete the process as quickly as possible, there are several steps that must be taken, many of which require visiting City Hall. If you require parking during these procedures, please contact my Commissions team by email at myr-commissions@lacity.org, to make arrangements for you.

To begin the appointment process, please review, sign, and return the enclosed Remuneration Form and Undated Separation Letters **within one week** of receiving this letter. These documents are necessary to ensuring the most efficient, open, and accountable City government possible. Further, Mayor's Office policy requires all potential commissioners to be fingerprinted as part of the background check. The Commissions Team will assist in connecting you with the Personnel Background Unit so that you may schedule an appointment to have this done. You must schedule the appointment **within one week** of receiving this letter.

Should this apply to your Commission, you will be receiving a packet from the City Ethics Commission containing information about the City's conflict of interest laws, and a copy of the State Form 700/Statement of Economic Interests. You are required to complete and return this form **within 21 days** of your nomination to the City Ethics Commission at 200 North Spring Street, City Hall, 24th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90012. Any inquiries regarding this form should be directed to Nicole Enriquez at the Ethics Commission by email at nicole.enriquez@lacity.org.

Ms. Mara Cohen
March 21, 2023
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As part of the City Council confirmation process, meetings will be offered to Katy Yaroslavsky, your Councilmember, and Councilmember Curren Price, the Chair of the Economic and Community Development Committee, to answer any questions they may have.

You will be hearing from a City Council committee clerk who will let you know when your appointment will be considered by the Economic and Community Development Committee. Sometime thereafter, you will be notified by the committee clerk when your appointment will be presented to the full City Council for confirmation. Once you are confirmed, you will be required to take the oath of office in the City Clerk's Office in Room 395 of City Hall.

Per the Charter, Commissioners must be residents of the City of Los Angeles. If you move at any point during your term, have any changes in your telephone numbers, or in the future plan to resign (resignation must be put in writing), please contact my office immediately.

Congratulations and thank you for agreeing to serve the people of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bass". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and the last name "Bass" clearly distinguishable.

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:tga

Attachment I
Ms. Mara Cohen
March 21, 2023

Nominee Check List

I. Within 7 days:

_____ Schedule an appointment to get fingerprinted to complete a background check. The Commissions team will assist in connecting you with the Personnel Background Unit.

_____ Email the completed forms, found on the last three pages of this letter, to: myr-commissions@lacity.org OR mail them to: Commissions Team, Office of the Mayor, City Hall – Room 303, 200 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

- Remuneration Form
- Undated Separation Letters

II. Within 21 days:

_____ File the following forms with the City Ethics Commission. *If you are required to file, you will receive these forms via email from that office.*

- **Statement of Economic Interest (“Form 700”)**
IMPORTANT: The City Council will not consider your nomination until your completed form is reviewed by the Ethics Commission.
- **CEC Form 60**

III. The Mayor’s Office will notify the below Councilmembers of your nomination, so that they may reach out to schedule a meeting with you should they wish.

_____ Your City Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky

_____ Councilmember Curren Price, Chair of the Council Committee considering your nomination