



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

July 29, 2024

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

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have reappointed Dr. Mara Cohen to the Commission on Community and Family Services for the term ending June 30, 2028. Dr. Cohen's current term expired on June 30, 2024.

I certify that in my opinion Dr. Cohen is especially qualified by reason of training and experience for the work which shall 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 on Community and Family Services
End of Term: 6/30/2028

Appointee Information

1. **Race:** Caucasian
2. **Gender:** Female
3. **Council District and neighborhood of residence:** 5 - Central
4. **Are you a registered voter in the City of Los Angeles?** 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
9. **Purpose of this appointment:** Reappointment
10. **Current composition of the commission:**

Commissioner	APC	CD	Race	Gender	Term End
Cohen, Mara	Central	5	Caucasian	F	6/30/2027
Vasquez, Luis	South LA	8	Latinx	M	6/30/2024
Roldan, Elmer	South LA	9	Latinx	M	6/30/2025
Udeh, Chinedu	South LA	8	African American	F	6/30/2026
Dillon, Kelli	South LA	8	African American	F	6/30/2028
Vasquez, Lisa	South LA	10	African American	F	6/30/2024
Herndon, Loretta	Central	10	Latinx	F	6/30/2024
Aranguren, Teresita	East LA	14	Latinx, African American	F	6/30/2026
Rucker-Trapp, Rashad	South LA	8	African American	M	6/30/2024
Torres, Benjamin	East LA	13	Latinx	M	6/30/2026
Hernandez, Brenda	South LA	10	Latinx	F	6/30/2024
Strickland, Danielle	South LA	8	African American	F	6/30/2026
Sanchez, Carola	Central	5	Latinx	F	6/30/2026
Wilson, Jesse	East LA	13	Caucasian	F	6/30/2026
Yellowhair, Alexandria	East LA	14	Native American	F	6/30/2024

Mara A. Cohen, Ph.D.

Academic and Advocate

EDUCATION

Ph.D., University of California Los Angeles, Political Science (1999)

B.A., Colorado College, Political Science, *magna cum laude*, *Phi Beta Kappa* (1990)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Loyola Marymount University

- Senior Fellow, Center for the Study of Los Angeles (2005-present)
- Assistant Professor, Urban Studies Program, Department of Sociology (2006-2009)
- Visiting Assistant Professor, Urban Studies Program, Department of Sociology (2005-2006)
- Associate Director, Center for the Study of Los Angeles (2000-2005)
- Instructor, Political Science Department and American Cultures Program (2000-2005)
- Lecturer, Political Science Department (1994)

The Center for the Study of Los Angeles is one of the nation's premier undergraduate social science research centers. As Associate Director and subsequently as Senior Fellow, I co-created the Center's acclaimed public opinion surveys and voter exit polls and engaged hundreds of undergraduate students in innovative research that informs LA's leaders and shapes the understanding of diverse urban areas.

My research has been published in leading peer-reviewed scholarly journals such as *Urban Affairs Review*, *Sociological Perspectives*, *Race and Justice*, *PS: Political Science and Politics*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *National Civic Review* and various anthologies.

Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County

- Member, Board of Directors (2022-present)

NLSLA is one of the nation's largest and most respected legal services corporations with a \$35 million annual budget, more than 200 staff and nearly 100 attorneys. I provide oversight and guidance for programs that each year provide *pro bono* legal assistance to more than 175,000 individuals and families living in poverty. The board also advises on NLSLA's impact litigation strategies that unravel entrenched disparities resulting from long-standing injustice, systemic racism and institutionalized inequality.

One LA-IAF

- Member, Board of Directors (2011-2017)
- Leader/Community Organizer (2009-present)

One LA is a nonprofit network of faith-based and non-profit institutions across Los Angeles County committed to building relational power and exercising that power to strengthen our region's diverse communities. One LA is affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation, the oldest and largest national organizing and leadership network in the United States.

I build strong relationships within and across our member institutions, equipping our members with leadership and organizing skills and formulating strategies to act powerfully together on concrete issues facing our communities. Recent successes include expansion of rental assistance funds and tenant protections, neighborhood-based organizing strategies to promote access to Covid-19 vaccines in neighborhoods that had the highest rates of infection and mortality rates during the pandemic, and expansion of the California Earned Income Tax Credit for undocumented workers and their families – including advocacy that paved the way for an effective method of administering the Golden State Stimulus that sent funds directly to undocumented families who otherwise would not have had meaningful access. I previously spearheaded an initiative to align adult education curricula and workforce development with labor needs of local manufacturers.

Vice Presidential Special Projects Advisory Committee

- Advisor (2022-present)

I work closely with the Office of the U.S. Vice President on public events and communications. I have built lists of attendees for the Vice President's official (non-campaign) events, particularly when she travels to Los Angeles, and have participated in workshops at the White House. I am proud to have extended opportunities to hundreds of people to meet and interact with the Vice

President, including young people and residents of some of Los Angeles's highest-poverty areas, who ordinarily would not have access to high-ranking public officials.

Kids in Need of Defense

- Founding Member, Los Angeles Advisory Board (2018-present)

KIND is the preeminent U.S.-based nongovernmental organization devoted to the protection of unaccompanied and separated immigrant 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.

As a founding member of KIND's Los Angeles advisory board, I have led efforts to build local relationships and to raise funds for special initiatives.

City of Los Angeles Commission on Community and Family Services

- Commissioner (2023-present)

As a member of one of the three commissions advising the Los Angeles Community Investment for Families Department, I contribute to the department's efforts to end generational poverty in Los Angeles and to build community wealth through investments in the city's social and physical infrastructure. During my tenure, I have created unique opportunities for young people served by Family Source Centers to engage with high-ranking elected officials. I am building coalitions with leaders of community organizations to provide avenues for information and collaboration, including with Family Source Centers and human trafficking services.

Mayor Karen Bass Transition Advisory Team

- Advisor (2022)

When Mayor Bass prevailed in her 2022 runoff election to become Los Angeles's 43rd mayor, she had just three weeks to staff her administration and commissions. As a member of her transition advisory team, I was proud to assist her efforts to build an effective, diverse and inclusive city administration.

Peace Over Violence

- Member, Board of Directors (2007-2010)

POV protects and supports 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 Hollywood Arts, the nation's first educational facility to use arts-based learning so unhoused, transitional-age youth can become self-invested – ready for secondary education, internships and employment in the then-new video gaming industry and other arts-based industries.



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

July 29, 2024

Dear Dr. Cohen:

I am pleased to inform you that I am reappointing you to the Commission on Community and Family Services for the term ending June 30, 2028, subject to confirmation by the City Council.

To begin the reappointment process, please review, sign, and return the enclosed Remuneration Form and undated Letters of Separation **within one week** of receiving this letter. These documents are necessary to ensure the most efficient, open, and accountable city government possible.

As part of the reappointment process, Katy Yaroslavsky, your Councilmember, and Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez, the Chair of the Civil Rights, Equity, Immigration, Aging, and Disability Committee, may wish to meet with you to answer any questions they have. Our office will assist with arranging these meetings.

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 via the California Fair Political Practices Commission's eDisclosure website, or by mailing the forms to City Hall at 200 N. Spring Street, 24th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90012. Any inquiries regarding this form should be directed to Nicole Enriquez at the City Ethics Commission by email at nicole.enriquez@lacity.org.

Additionally, you will be required to attend public meetings at City Hall where your reappointment will be considered. You will be hearing from our office and a City Council Clerk who will let you know when your reappointment will be considered by the Civil Rights, Equity, Immigration, Aging, and Disability Committee. Sometime thereafter, you will be notified of the date when your reappointment will be presented to the full City Council. Immediately following the meeting, you will again be required to take the Oath of Office in the City Clerk's Office located in Room 395 of City Hall. If you require parking for these meetings, please contact my Commissions team by email at myr-commissions@lacity.org.

Dr. Mara Cohen
July 29, 2024
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Per the City Charter, most commissioners must be registered voters of the City of Los Angeles, and must therefore reside within Los Angeles. If you move at any point during your term, or your contact information changes, please contact my Commissions team immediately at the email listed below. While we hope that you complete a successful term, if for some reason you intend to resign, please do so in writing to my Commissions team at myr-commissions@lacity.org.

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
Dr. Mara Cohen
July 29, 2024

Nominee Check List

I. Within 7 days:

- ☐ Email the below completed documents, found on the last three pages of this letter, to: myr-commissions@lacity.org OR mail them to:

Office of the Mayor
Attn: Thomas Arechiga
200 N. Spring Street, Room 303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

- Remuneration Form
- Undated Separation Letters (2)

II. Before your appointment is heard in committee or full council (you will be contacted by the Clerk's Office with this date):

- ☐ 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. Be sure to take no more than 21 days to file, per City law.

- 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 Hugo Soto-Martinez, Chair of the Council Committee considering your nomination

IV. Public Meetings at City Hall:

- ☐ Civil Rights, Equity, Immigration, Aging, and Disability Committee Hearing
- ☐ Full Council Hearing