



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 Ms. Candice Cho to the Board of Human Relations Commissioners for the term ending June 30, 2028. Ms. Cho's current term expired on June 30, 2024.

I certify that in my opinion Ms. Cho 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:** Candice Cho  
**Commission:** Board of Human Relations Commissioners  
**End of Term:** 6/30/2028

### Appointee Information

1. **Race:** API
2. **Gender:** Female
3. **Council District and neighborhood of residence:** 10 - Central
4. **Are you a registered voter in the City of Los Angeles?** Yes
5. **Prior commission experience:**
6. **Highest level of education completed:** J.D., Columbia Law School, Master of Public Policy, Georgetown University, B.A., Harvard University
7. **Occupation/profession:** Managing Director of Policy and Counsel, AAPI Equity Alliance
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
Roman-Taylorson, Maria	Central	1	Latinx	F	6/30/2024
De La Cruz, Enrique	Central	5	API	M	6/30/2024
Arreola, Pierre	North Valley	7	Latinx	M	6/30/2024
Reed, Michele	South LA	8	African American	F	6/30/2026
Cho, Candice	Central	10	API	F	6/30/2024
Grant, Melissa	West LA	11	Caucasian	F	6/30/2026
McKinley, Brittany	West LA	11	African American	F	6/30/2026
Morgan Green, Courtney	South LA	10	African American	F	6/30/2028
Russell, Rosa	South LA	10	African American	F	6/30/2024
Solis-Montero, Angelica	East LA	14	Latinx	F	6/30/2027
Wirtschafter, Brooke	South Valley	3	Caucasian	F	6/30/2025

# CANDICE CHO

Policymaker, lawyer, and executive with over a dozen years of high-level experience in the government and nonprofit sector successfully leading systems change for underrepresented communities.

Skilled at developing and implementing policy, translating policy and law for audiences ranging from media to voters, balancing big picture strategic thinking with day-to-day project management of complex initiatives, and collaborating with cross-functional and multi-generational teams.

## **EXPERIENCE**

### **CITY OF LOS ANGELES HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, Los Angeles, CA, 2023-current**

*Commissioner*

Appointed by Mayor Karen Bass and confirmed by City Council to advise LA Civil Rights Department

### **AAPI EQUITY ALLIANCE AND STOP AAPI HATE, Los Angeles, CA, 2021-current**

*Managing Director of Policy and Counsel*

Lead development of data-based, people-centered policy for Stop AAPI Hate, largest center tracking acts of hate reported by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) nationwide, and AAPI Equity Alliance, coalition of 40+ nonprofits serving 1.5 million AAPIs in Los Angeles

- Provide strategic direction and vision on policy advancing racial justice for AAPIs and communities of color, including:
  - Led and co-authored [Righting Wrongs: How Civil Rights Can Protect Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders Against Racism](#), landmark nationwide survey and report on AAPIs, discrimination, and civil rights, and presented findings and recommendations to 1,000+ attendees across 30+ briefings of government agencies, private companies, and community-based organizations
  - Led [policy development](#) for [No Place for Hate California](#), campaign to address the verbal harassment of women of color and other vulnerable communities in public, including reviewing more than 4,000 reports of anti-AAPI hate, drafting first-in-the-nation state legislation, successfully advocating for three new laws to make public transit and businesses safer, and supporting implementation by public agencies
- Advise U.S. Department of Justice, California Civil Rights Department, and other federal, state, and local government partners on policy impacting AAPIs
- Oversee civic engagement of AAPI communities in LA on voting and redistricting, including biennial [voter guide](#), in-language community forums, and advocacy in legislatures and commissions
- Recruit, hire, and manage four staff members, contractor, two interns, and five pro bono teams
- Serve as spokesperson in print, TV, radio, and online media
- Present before corporate, academic, government, and media audiences

### **NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT, New York, NY, 2012-2020**

*Deputy Chief of Staff*

Advised Corporation Counsel Zachary Carter (appointed by Mayor Bill de Blasio as chief lawyer for the city) and executive leadership team in developing city's legal and policy positions and managing office with 1,900 attorneys and support professionals and \$250 million budget

- Served as city's chief legal advisor on immigration, managing multi-year and interagency strategic efforts to protect immigrant New Yorkers during the Trump Administration, including sanctuary city laws and impact litigation
- Co-managed executive-level team of six focused on criminal justice and DEI

- Supported Press Secretary in public relations strategy for cases before U.S. Supreme Court
- Managed highly competitive honors fellowship program for recent graduates
- Advised Mayor's Office, agency heads, and agency general counsels
- Developed capacity-expanding partnerships with law firms, law schools, and other jurisdictions
- Lectured on local government and immigration at law schools

#### *Assistant Corporation Counsel, Legal Counsel Division*

Advised Mayor's Office and city officials and agencies across two mayoral administrations on legal issues related to wide array of policy initiatives, ranging from affordable housing to tobacco regulation

- Drafted, reviewed, and negotiated city and state legislation
- Recruited applicants from underrepresented communities as member of Diversity Committee

#### *Corporation Counsel Honors Fellow*

Selected from more than 400 candidates to assist Corporation Counsel Michael Cardozo (appointed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg) on special projects while representing city in trial and appellate litigation

### **NEW YORK CITY CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION, New York, NY, 2018**

#### *Chief of Staff and Special Counsel*

Supported Mayor-appointed Executive Director in reviewing city's constitution, conducting extensive public outreach and engagement process, and proposing amendments to increase democratic participation in city government, all of which were approved by voters into law

- Managed team of twenty, including determining workflow, deadlines, and staffing and handling procurement and other operational needs
- Conducted stakeholder outreach, developed charter amendments related to civic engagement and community boards, and drafted excerpts of [preliminary staff report](#) and [final commission report](#)

### **U.S. SENATOR RICHARD J. DURBIN, Washington, DC, 2006-2009**

#### *Legislative Assistant*

Developed and advanced Senator's legislative priorities in food safety, consumer product safety, disaster relief, and telecommunications

- Drafted bills, amendments, floor statements, and letters to federal agencies
- Conducted outreach to White House, federal agencies, stakeholders, and constituents
- Staffed Senator at meetings with Cabinet Secretaries and agency heads

#### *Legislative Correspondent*

Responded to constituent mail on health policy and nutrition

### **BAR ADMISSIONS – California, New York**

**EDUCATION** – Harvard College, AB, Government; Georgetown University, MPP, Health Policy; Columbia Law School, JD

**INTERESTS** – Cycling (completed five century rides and cycle-toured Norway, New Zealand, Scotland, Austria, and New York State), running (completed 12 marathons and five ultramarathons), triathlons (completed six races ranging from sprint to half-Ironman distances), and memorizing poetry



KAREN BASS  
MAYOR

July 29, 2024

Dear Ms. Cho:

I am pleased to inform you that I am reappointing you to the Board of Human Relations Commissioners 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, Heather Hutt, 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](mailto: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](mailto:myr-commissions@lacity.org).

Ms. Candice Cho  
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](mailto: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  
Ms. Candice Cho  
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](mailto: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 Heather Hutt
- ☐ 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