



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

June 22, 2020

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

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have appointed Mr. Aaron Thomas to the El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument Authority for the term ending June 30, 2021. Mr. Thomas will fill the vacancy created by Robert Vinson, who has resigned.

I certify that in my opinion Mr. Thomas is qualified for the work that will devolve upon him, and that I make the appointment solely in the interest of the City.

Sincerely,

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor

EG:dlg

Attachment

COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

Name: Aaron Thomas
Commission: El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument Authority
End of Term: 6/30/2021

Appointee Information

1. **Race/ethnicity:** African American / Native American
2. **Gender:** Male
3. **Council district and neighborhood of residence:** 1 - East
4. **Are you a registered voter?** Yes
5. **Prior commission experience:** Community Forest Advisory Committee
6. **Highest level of education completed:** University of California at Berkeley
7. **Occupation/profession:** Urban Forestry Manager, North East Trees
8. **Experience(s) that qualifies person for appointment:** See attached resume
9. **Purpose of this appointment:** Replacement
10. **Current composition of the commission (excluding appointee):**

Commissioner	APC	CD	Ethnicity	Gender	Term End
Samarjian, Natalie	Central	4	Armenian	F	30-Jun-22
DiCostanzo, Salvatore	Harbor	15	Caucasian	M	30-Jun-22
Louie, David W.	East	13	Asian Pacific Islander	M	30-Jun-22
Marez, Jesse	East	14	Latino	M	30-Jun-20
Collado, Gerlie	North Valley	12	Asian Pacific Islander	F	30-Jun-21
Vasquez, Dulce	Central	14	Latina	F	30-Jun-20
Alarcon, Patricia	East	14	Latina	F	30-Jun-21
Garcia, Fabian	North Valley	7	Latino	M	30-Jun-21

Aaron J. Thomas

EDUCATION

- University of California at Berkeley (1983-1984)
- Los Angeles City College (2000-2004)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Urban Forestry Manager (1994-present)

North East Trees, Los Angeles, CA

- Coordinate tree planting projects in resource challenged communities
- Develop and implement green job training programs for at risk youth
- Organize environmental stewardship activities for local community groups

COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

Area Representative (2002-2004)

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council

- Advocated local initiatives including the introduction of bicycle lanes, affordable housing, AIDS awareness, and environmental projects

Master Gardener (2006-present)

University of California Cooperative Extension

- Disseminate educational material and assist the public in the creation of community gardens

Volunteer Arborist (2008-2009)

Los Angeles Farm Works, Los Angeles, California

- Oversaw the planting and maintenance of fruit tree orchards for an urban, community garden organization

International Volunteer (2010-present)

Iko Poran/Verdejar, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

- Assist with a native tree reforestation project on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Includes working with volunteers from a local "favela" (slum) and raising funds for the long term sustainability of the project.

SKILLS

- Certified Arborist
- Master Gardener
- Comfortable in written and spoken French, some Spanish and Portuguese
- Extensive use of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) and some Photoshop

MEMBERSHIPS

- Western Chapter International Society of Arboriculture
- Native Plant Society of California

CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION

- United States Department of Agriculture (April 2013)
- International Society of Arboriculture (April 2013)
- California Assembly member Jimmy Gomez (April 2013)
- Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (March 2013)
- California Assembly member Holly Mitchell (December 2011)
- Los Angeles City Council member Richard Alarcon (August 2011)

RECENT PROJECTS

- **Ascot Hills Park Reforestation** (\$100,000 budget)- oversee the planting of hundreds native trees and work with volunteers from local schools (2014)
- **Debs Park Reforestation** (\$100,000 budget)- oversee the planting of hundreds of native trees and work with volunteers from local schools (2014)
- **Soto St. Greenbelt** (\$100,000 budget)- oversee the planting of hundreds of native trees and work with volunteers from local schools (2014)
- **Million Trees Los Angeles** (\$200,000 budget)-oversee the planting and distribution of thousands of shade and fruit trees for the City of Los Angeles (2013-14)
- **AQMD Fruit Trees** (\$20,000 budget)-oversee the planting of fruit trees in community gardens throughout the City of Los Angeles (2013-14)
- **Cal Fire Housing Authority Greening** (\$150,000 budget)- oversee the planting of 600 shade trees in low income/ public housing facilities throughout Los Angeles (2013)
- **Cal Fire Housing Authority Raingardens** (\$150,000 budget)- manage the installation of 12 native plant raingardens at the Ramona Gardens public housing facility (2013)
- **Cal ReLeaf Education** (\$10,000 budget)- conduct 3 community workshops for tree care and education (2013)
- **EEMP La Brea Greenbelt** (\$350,000 budget)- manage the planting and irrigation of 1500 native trees at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (2012)
- **Cal ReLeaf/ARRA** (\$500,000)- manage a two year at risk youth job training program for over 100 participants as well as the planting of thousands of trees throughout Los Angeles (2010 and 2011)

PAST PROJECTS

- Los Angeles River Greenbelt
- Arroyo Seco Reforestation Project
- LADWP Cool Schools Program
- San Jose Creek Greenbelt
- Elysian Park Children's Arboretum
- Elysian Park Buena Vista Restoration
- City of San Gabriel Street Tree Project
- City of Pasadena Street Tree Project
- City of Pasadena Arroyo Seco Restoration
- Environmental Affairs Department Street Trees
- Los Angeles State Historic Park Planting
- Rio de Los Angeles State Park Wetland Management

- **Arroyo Pescadero Urban Forestry Maintenance**
- **Bergamot Station Native Plant Installation**
- **Whittier Narrows Restoration Project**
- **LAUSD School Gardens Projects**



June 22, 2020

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I am pleased to inform you that I hereby appoint you to the El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument Authority for the term ending June 30, 2021. 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 call Claudia Luna in my office at (213) 978-0621 to make arrangements for you.

To begin the appointment process, please review, sign and return the enclosed Remuneration Form, Undated Separation Forms, Background Check Release and Information Sheet **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 you to be fingerprinted as part of the background check that is done on all potential Commissioners. To do so, please bring this letter to the Background Unit of Employment Services Division, Personnel Department Building, 700 East Temple Street, Room 235, Los Angeles, California 90012. The division phone number is (213) 473-9343. Fingerprints must be taken **within three working days** from the **receipt** of this letter.

Under separate cover 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, 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 at (213) 978-1960.

Mr. Aaron Thomas
June 22, 2020
Page 2

As part of the City Council confirmation process, you will need to meet with Gilbert Cedillo, your Councilmember, and Councilmember David Ryu, the Chair of the Health, Education, Neighborhood, Parks, Arts, and River 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 Health, Education, Neighborhood, Parks, Arts, and River 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. Claudia Luna will assist you during the confirmation process if you have questions.

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 dark ink, appearing to read 'E. Garcetti', followed by a horizontal line and a small mark.

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor

EG:dlg

Attachment I
Mr. Aaron Thomas
June 22, 2020

Nominee Check List

I. Within three days:

- _____ **Get fingerprinted to complete a background check.**
No appointment is necessary. Bring the Mayor's letter to:
Background Unit of Employment Services Division, Personnel
Department Building, 700 East Temple Street, Room 235, Los Angeles,
California 90012. Phone: (213) 473-9343.

II. Within seven days:

Mail or email the following forms to: Claudia Luna, Office of the Mayor, Office of Legislative and External Affairs, City Hall, 200 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 or email: Claudia.Luna@lacity.org.

- _____ **Remuneration Form**
_____ **Undated Separation Forms**
_____ **Background Check Release**
_____ **Commissioner Information Sheet/Voluntary Statistics**

III. 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**

IV. As soon as possible, the Mayor's Office will schedule a meeting with you and:

- _____ **Your City Councilmember Gilbert Cedillo**
_____ **Councilmember David Ryu, Chair of the Council Committee considering your nomination.**

Staff in the Mayor's Office will assist you with these arrangements.