



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

July 29, 2021

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

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have appointed Mr. Harry Harout Semerdjian to the South Valley Area Planning Commission for the term ending June 30, 2026. Mr. Semerdjian will fill the vacancy created by Rebecca Beatty, whose term has expired.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Garcetti', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor

EG:dlg

Attachment

COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

Name: Harry Harout Semerdjian
Commission: South Valley Area Planning Commission
End of Term: 6/30/2026

Appointee Information

1. **Race/ethnicity:** Armenian
2. **Gender:** Male
3. **Council district and neighborhood of residence:** 2 - South Valley
4. **Are you a registered voter?** Yes
5. **Prior commission experience:** Human Relations Commission
6. **Highest level of education completed:** M.A., University of California, Los Angeles
7. **Occupation/profession:** Senior Public Policy Manager, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
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
Dierking, Mark	South Valley	4	Caucasian	M	30-Jun-22
Kichaven, Ilyanne	South Valley	4	Caucasian	F	30-Jun-23
Torres, Juana	South Valley	5	Latina	F	30-Jun-25
Mather, Lydia	South Valley	6	Caucasian	F	30-Jun-24

HARRY HAROUT SEMERDJIAN

PROFILE

I am a highly dynamic and seasoned professional with extensive experience in government, government affairs and public service at the local, state and national levels. I am highly analytic with a rich portfolio in legislation, policy formulation and articulation, executive leadership and extensive writing and publication. My work reflects the highest level of distinction and acute universal depth. I am seeking a position in public service where I will have the distinct honor of serving society in an area where my passion, extensive training and expertise lies.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

Los Angeles, CA

Senior Public Policy Manager

2021-Present

- Portfolio and areas of responsibility include energy and environmental policy, transportation and goods movements policy, and global initiatives at the local, regional, state and federal levels
- Track and conduct thorough analysis of legislative bills, regulatory and funding policies and provide recommendations to Chamber's leadership and Board of Directors
- Prepare policy analysis reports and advise leadership on setting the Chamber's public policy agenda and advance its goals
- Staff the Chamber's public policy councils as well as special task forces and industry councils
- Serve as an advocate for the Chamber through coalition work, direct advocacy, and grass roots organizing
- Develop outreach plans that advance the Chamber's priorities

U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Foreign Affairs

Washington, DC

Policy Analyst

2019-2021

- Portfolio and areas of responsibility: global energy and environmental issues, including climate change, green energy, environmental/land human rights defenders, the Arctic, energy & pipeline geopolitics, mining
- Served as a Committee subject matter expert and advisor on global energy and environmental issues
- As part of Committee oversight duties over the US State Department and USAID, monitored and assessed programs of these agencies related to energy and the environment
- Worked with House and Senate Offices as well as international organizations and NGOs on legislation related to energy and environmental issues
- Organized Congressional Briefings, assist with Hearings, participate in events, meetings and conferences on and off the Hill
- Primary staffer and point of contact for the Congressional Energy & National Security Caucus founded and Co-Chaired by Congressman Eliot Engel

MySafe:LA/California Fire Prevention Organization

Los Angeles, CA

Education partner of the Los Angeles Fire Department

2016-2019

Director of Government Affairs & Outreach

- Plan and execute a comprehensive government affairs and community engagement strategy with local, state, and federal offices and neighborhood councils
- Create and monitor a Resilience Action Plan including strategic goals and viable strategies across disciplines that promote municipal and community resilience in the face of natural and man-made disasters
- Monitor legislation, advise Board and leadership on relevant policy proposals and actions, field outreach, and analyze potential public safety impacts on communities across the City and State

City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles City Council, CD13

Los Angeles, CA

Legislative Deputy

2013-2016

- Covered City Council meetings as well as Committees on public safety, innovation and technology, human relations and general services
- Monitored, researched, analyzed and proposed policy and legislation
- Prepared briefing, drafted Motions and Resolutions, helped coordinate policy matters and strategies affecting the 13th Council District

City of Los Angeles, Hollywood Studio District Neighborhood Council**Los Angeles, CA***Executive Manager*

2012-2013

- Responsible for HSDNC administration, including providing technical, educational and logistical support
- Developed procedures for greater efficiency in Communications & PR and identifying areas of growth
- Provided programmatic and administrative support to members of the Board and all Committees
- Provide liaison with the Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment
- Preparation and distribution of all agenda items and other materials for Board and Committee meetings

SOS International, Ltd.**Reston, VA***A U.S. Government Defense Contractor*

2009-2011

Program Analyst

- Provided analytic support for U.S. government contracts covering Iraq, Afghanistan & Foreign Media Analysis
- Analyzed operational, financial and administrative data to evaluate cost, schedule and performance
- Implemented, monitored and adjusted policy options in line with the company's strategic and business development objectives, attended meetings and worked with the business development team
- Ensured business efficiency and compliance with federal laws, regulations and guidelines
- Delivered direct recommendations to Vice President of the company regarding areas of improvement & budgets

The Stern Group**Washington, D.C.***An International Trade Advisory Firm*

2009-2009

Research Analyst

- Collected, researched and analyzed literature on global economics, trade, and international relations
- Prepared policy briefs, analytic reports and policy recommendations for international clients
- Represented the firm at seminars and conferences on behalf of clients, including Capitol Hill
- Produced advanced research and analysis covering international trade agreements, global WTO accession issues and current Economic Recovery plans, including Obama's Stimulus Package

KNOW Genocide Coalition**Belmont, MA***Executive Director*

2006-2007

- Led community education project on global Human Rights issues involving the Massachusetts State legislature
- Provided direction and advice to coalition partners on international conflict resolution and social justice projects, peace-building measures, and economic divestment initiatives to genocidal regimes such as Sudan
- In charge of all program oversight and management, government relations and financial administration
- Developed and implemented policy, outreach, finance, communication and public relations strategy
- Responsible for web site management, writing Press Releases and articles, mentoring interns

PUBLIC SERVICE EXPERIENCE**MySafe:LA/Safe Community Project****Los Angeles, CA***Director, Board of Directors*

2016-Present

- Help build partnerships with government, private and non-profit agencies to deliver effective fire and public safety programs throughout Los Angeles City and County
- Develop and oversee the strategies, mission and goals of the organization as well as guide its growth and development

Human Relations Commission, City of Los Angeles**Los Angeles, CA***Commissioner*

2018-2019

- Appointed by Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti to provide the City's elected leadership with expert advice and direction on racial, ethnic, religious, minority, and immigration issues
- Promote intergroup peace-building, equity, and human rights in the City by transforming community engagement and dialogue into sustainable programs and policy

Community Affairs Council**Los Angeles, CA***Founding Chairman*

2016-2019

- Promote bridge-building between the Armenian Community via the Consulate General of Armenia and the diverse ethnic communities of Los Angeles and the West Coast
- Spearheaded Mexican-Armenian Cultural Week in Los Angeles, organized events with the Los Angeles Consular Corps, initiated and led the Youth Ambassadors Program

East Hollywood Neighborhood Council**Los Angeles, CA**

Governing Board Officer

2012-2013

- As a Governing Board Officer of the Council, advised the City government on issues related to diversity, development, homelessness, public safety and emergency preparedness
- Liaised between the diverse communities and the City's elected Offices to ensure that government is responsive to the needs of the people

EDUCATION**University of Oxford, St. Antony's College****Oxford, UK****Ph.D. Candidate**, International Relations

December 2021

- Concentrations: Conflict Resolution, Minorities, Foreign Affairs, Geopolitics, Middle Eastern Affairs
- Awarded Mugar Foundation Scholarship, AGBU Scholarship, NAASR Scholarship, ARS Scholarship

The Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, Tufts University**Medford, MA****M.A. in Law and Diplomacy**

May 2005

- Coursework completed at Harvard University, Tufts University and The Fletcher School
- Concentrations: International Geopolitical Studies, Global Security Studies, Middle East/Islamic Civilization
- Mirak Foundation Scholarship, Fares Fellowship, ARA Scholarship, Izmirlian Foundation Scholarship

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)**Los Angeles, CA****M.A. in History**

June 2003

- Concentration: Modern Middle Eastern History and Politics, Soviet/Russian History, Energy Diplomacy
- UCLA University Fellowship, Hovannisian Scholarship

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)**Los Angeles, CA****B.A. in History, Minor in Near Eastern Languages/Cultures, Summa Cum Laude**

February 2001

- Nominated to Phi Alpha Theta International Honor Society in History and Golden Key National Honor Society
- Graduated in top 1% of graduating class; Downing, Mangasarian, WED, and APS Scholarships

TECHNICAL AND PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- **Languages:** English (native), Eastern & Western Armenian (native), Turkish (Intermediate), Portuguese (conversational), Spanish (conversational)
- **Computer skills:** Microsoft Word, Corel WordPerfect, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Outlook, PowerPoint, Adobe Acrobat, Photoshop, Lotus Notes, Microsoft Windows, Deltek timekeeping, and national library systems
- **Specialized Participation:** Los Angeles Mayor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Employment Equity, Member; California Consulting, LLC, Associate; Southern California Armenian Democrats, Board Executive; UCLA International Visitors Bureau, Advisor; Intensive Turkish language training (Turkey); Iran Dialogue Initiative (Iran); Conference on European IT, Staff (Armenia); The Yankee Group, Internship; Tufts University, Teaching Assistant; Research Associate, Harvard University Kennedy School of Government; Campaign Advisor, multiple election campaigns in California and New York
- **Publications:** Dozens of articles published in Foreign Policy Journal, Asia Times, Moscow Times, Jerusalem Post, The Hill, Cyprus Mail, Bergen Record, Glendale News-Press, Burbank Leader, Daily Bruin, et al
- **Membership:** Middle East Studies Association, Institute for Near Eastern and African Studies, Turkish-Armenian Business Development Council, Association for Israel Studies, Simon Wiesenthal Center/Museum of Tolerance



July 29, 2021

Dear Mr. Semerdjian:

I am pleased to inform you that I hereby appoint you to the South Valley Area Planning Commission for the term ending June 30, 2026. 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. Harry Harout Semerdjian
July 29, 2021
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As part of the City Council confirmation process, you will need to meet with Paul Krekorian, your Councilmember, and Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, the Chair of the Planning and Land Use Management 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 Planning and Land Use Management 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 black ink, appearing to read "E.G." followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor

EG:dlg

Attachment I
Mr. Harry Harout Semerdjian
July 29, 2021

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 Paul Krekorian**
_____ **Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Chair of the Council
Committee considering your nomination.**

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