



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

July 25, 2023

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

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have reappointed Ms. Tanisha Saunders to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Commission for the term ending June 30, 2026. Ms. Saunders's current term expired on June 30, 2023.

I certify that in my opinion Ms. Saunders 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: Tanisha Saunders
Commission: Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Commission
End of Term: 6/30/2026

Appointee Information

1. **Race:** African American
2. **Gender:** Female
3. **Council District and neighborhood of residence:** 11 - West LA
4. **Are you a registered voter in the City of Los Angeles?** Yes
5. **Prior commission experience:**
6. **Highest level of education completed:** B.S., Child Development, California State University, Dominguez Hills
7. **Occupation/profession:** Resident Manager, Venice Community Housing
8. **Experience(s) that qualifies person for appointment:** See attached resume/bio
9. **Purpose of this appointment:** Reappointment
10. **Current composition of the commission:**

Commissioner	APC	CD	Race	Gender	Term End
Saunders, Tanisha	West LA	11	African American	F	6/30/2023
Chinchilla, Melissa	East LA	14	Latinx	F	6/30/2023
Greuel, Wendy	South Valley	3	Caucasian	F	6/30/2023
Pearson, Booker	West LA	11	Caucasian	M	6/30/2017
VACANT					6/30/2024

Tanisha L. Saunders

PUBLIC SPEAKING EXPERIENCE

Keynote Address

UCLA CCCP Power 2 The Foster Transfer Conference (2021) • LAPC Commencement Ceremony Student Speaker (2016)

Guest Speaker

NFYI An Afternoon of Learning and Celebration Karen Bass Introduction (2021) • 3FN The Faith Foster Families Network and The Rightway Foundation G.U.I.D.E Mentor Program Orientation (2021) • SOH Woke Moments Podcast: Reflections from South Africa Trip (2020) • CSULB Guardian Scholars Fall Orientation - Co-Presenter with LACOE FYSCP (2019)

• California Foster Youth Education Summit (2019) • Education Writer's Association: Higher Education Seminar (2018)

• MEF 15th Annual Father's Day Awards Brunch (2017)

Panelist

SOH Our Vote Our Voice (2022) • UCLA CCCP Power to the transfer Foster Youth Transfer (2022) • 3FN For the Children Foster Care Townhall (2022) • SOH Woke Moments: Faith Matters in Foster Care (2021) • California FYSCP Statewide Coordinator's Meeting (2021)

• Venice Youth Network Black History Month - Black Staff Experience Working in Youth Homeless Industry (2021) • UCLA CCCP Power to the transfer Foster Youth Transfer (2020) • Young Invincibles Medical Debt Among Young People -COVID's Lasting Impact (2020) • Future x Sounds Music, Community and Activism (2020) • LAPC Business Department Monetizing Your Skills (2019) • LACOE Conference Current and Former Foster Youth (2018) • CSU Basic Needs Initiative Conference Student Panel (2018)

Moderator

SOH Woke Moments Podcast: Foster Youth Transforming the Foster Care System (2021) • SOH National Homeless Youth Awareness Month Panel Moderator (2019)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, RECOGNITION, & PUBLICATIONS

Awards/Honors

BLAYD Member of the Year (2022) • VCH Employee of the Month (2022) • SPY Employee of the Month (2021) • LA Sparks We Are Women Social Justice Award (2021) • VCH Outstanding Partner (2021) • Westside Coalition SPY Staff Honoree (2019) • CSUDH Watts Rebellion Commemorative Award for Social Justice (2018) • CSUDH Toro Guardian Scholars Achievement Award (2018) • Circle of Change Leadership Outstanding Student Award (2017) • LAPC President's Outstanding Student Award (2016) • Judge Mablean Ephriam Continuing Education Scholar (2016) • Bright Horizons Bright Future Scholar (2016)

Publication/Article/Report Features

Addressing Homelessness and Housing Insecurity in Higher Education: Strategies for Educational Leaders (2019) • LAHSA Report and Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness (2018)

• Spectrum News In Focus Feature: From Foster Child to Foster Care Advocate (2018) • CSUDH Dominguez Today Magazine Feature: Activism and Engagement (2018) • Teen Vogue Op-Ed: I Was A Foster Child Now I am A Foster Care Activist (2018) • Cosmopolitan Magazine Expose Feature: Women and College Debt (2017) • Pierce College Roundup Newspaper Feature (2016)

SKILLS & INTERESTS

Microsoft Word • Excel • PowerPoint • Social Media (Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn) • Communication (Oral and Written) • Conflict Resolution • Problem Solving • Housing First • Restorative Justice • Collaboration • Empowerment • Harm Reduction • Trauma Informed Care • Healing Centered Engagement • Public Speaking • Leadership • Mentoring • Advocacy • Policy • Child Welfare • Capacity Building • Networking • Activism • Community Organizing • Financial Literacy • Independent Living Skills • Self Care • Wellness • Social Justice • Diversity • Equity • Inclusion • Safety

Tanisha L. Saunders



EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

Venice Community Housing, Venice, CA

December 2021 – Present

Resident Manager

- Partner with Advocacy Committee to advocate for affordable housing retention , development and access
- Perform lease-up/lease-out to new tenants, including all needed documentation
- Rent collection, including follow-up with tenants' payment plans, sending three-day notices to pay or quit, and entering rents into property management software
- Perform regular site work/visits at each assigned property including, but not limited to, collecting and monitoring work orders, tenant communications, general site cleaning, and monthly tenant meetings
- Daily buildings and grounds inspections to maintain curb appeal and resident safety
- Represent VCH and interact with tenants with the intent of solving problems, enforcing house, lease, and parking rules
- Coordinate work orders and other needed maintenance repairs, with the Maintenance Team
- Work with the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles on rent and tenant issues in relevant units
- Coordinate with VCH Policy and Programs Department regarding social service needs of tenants, including participation in relevant integrated property management-social service meetings

Safe Place for Youth, Venice, CA

February 2019 – November 2021

Resident Coordinator

- Lived on site while managing general oversight of the property, cleanliness, safety, crisis responses, and conflict management for the Ashton House within the Roots to Grow Transitional Housing program for Transitional Age Youth experiencing homelessness
- Administered Covid-19 site infection control, including testing, daily house and property inspection
- Utilized housing first, trauma-informed care, harm reduction, positive youth development, restorative justice and low-barrier approaches throughout interactions with program residents
- Coordinated on site programming, meals and services across two housing sites with 20 resident capacity
- Created program reports, presentations and other official program forms
- Ensured adherence to policies and contributed to program sustainability through consistent data entry and documentation
- Established and maintained collaborative relationships among community partners, neighbors and elected officials
- Assisted leadership with hiring, development, and retention of staff members, including formal mentoring 2 staff
- Led direct service housing staff weekly sessions with focus on support, self-care, wellness and anti-burnout
- Chaired Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee which served to participate in the decision-making process for organizational culture and direction of SPY

Los Angeles County Office of Education, Downey, CA

June 2020 – March 2021

Foster Youth Voice Representative

- Co-created and facilitated monthly foster youth Roundtable for current students
- Attended collaborative meetings to share the foster youth perspective
- Upheld the values and mission of LACOE and FYSCP at meetings, trainings and within the community
- Established and maintained collaborative working relationships with committee members, FYSCP staff and community partners
- Assessed how education is engaging foster youth as leaders and made recommendations
- Identified strategies and resources which improve services to foster youth
- Worked successfully as a part of a team to develop and maintain strong working relationships

Tanisha L. Saunders



Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, Los Angeles, CA

September 2018 – February 2019

Policy and Legislative Affairs Fellow

- Researched issue areas related to homelessness, housing, and service programming trends with an emphasis on best practices and relevant regulations/statutes
- Prepared a range of materials regarding pending legislation and policy including resolutions and policy memorandums
- Expanded knowledge of local supportive housing resources, service providers through participation in community and staff meetings
- Contributed child welfare recommendations on groundbreaking report by LAHSA's Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness, which addressed racism as leading cause for disproportionality in population

Office of Councilwoman Nury Martinez, Los Angeles, CA

July 2018 - September 2018

Ready for Women Summer Fellow

- Collaborated with staff to improve positive outcomes within the district by identifying challenges and possible solutions through effective public policy and community engagement
- Prepared policy recommendations pertaining to issues city wide and within the council district with a focus on education, criminal justice, housing/homelessness, violence against women, and health
- Assisted 10-15 constituents daily in accessing benefits and services through referrals to city departments, public services, and other community resources
- Represented Councilwoman Martinez at meetings, conferences, and various community events
- Established relationships with elected officials, representatives, and staff throughout City Hall and the greater Los Angeles area

National Foster Youth Institute, Los Angeles, CA

December 2016 - June 2018

Youth Organizer

- Advocated at the local, state, and national level alongside elected officials, community leaders, constituents, and peers for the improvement of the child welfare system
- Identified community resources to support youth with in kind donations such as field trips, clothing, entertainment, food, as well as housing, employment and personal development trainings and opportunities
- Administered needs assessment survey focused on the wellbeing of foster youth to 20 Transitional Age Youth
- Assisted with the recruitment, training, and supervision of 110 current and former foster youth ages 18-30 during residential congressional advocacy program in Washington, D.C.
- Utilized trauma informed practices to rapidly respond to and resolve conflicts and ensure participant safety and adherence to program policies and procedures
- Provided technical support for youth; bi-weekly contact, one-on-one coaching around problem solving, personal sustainability and organizational skills for 15 youth ages 18 to 27

Torrid, Northridge, CA

November 2007 - November 2015

Lead Sales Associate

- Achieved \$100k sales as highest performing sales associate in the region for 2015
- Assisted management with hiring, development, and retention of new associates

Tanisha L. Saunders



EDUCATION

California State University, Dominguez Hills, Carson, CA
Bachelor of Science in Child Development | 3.7 GPA Honors in Major

May 2018

Los Angeles Pierce Community College, Woodland Hills, CA
Associate of Arts in Child Development | 3.8 GPA Dean's and President's List
Associate of Science in Early Childhood Education
Associate of Arts in Social and Behavioral Science

June 2016



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

July 25, 2023

Dear Ms. Saunders:

I am pleased to inform you that I am reappointing you to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Commission for the term ending June 30, 2026, 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, Traci Park, your Councilmember, and Councilmember Nithya Raman, the Chair of the Housing and Homelessness Committee, may wish to meet with you to answer any questions they have. Our office will assist with arranging these meetings.

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 Housing and Homelessness 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.

Ms. Tanisha Saunders
July 25, 2023
Page 2

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
Ms. Tanisha Saunders
July 25, 2023

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: Commissions Team
200 N. Spring Street, Room 303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

- Remuneration Form
- Undated Separation Letters (2)

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

II. 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 Traci Park
- ☐ Councilmember Nithya Raman, Chair of the Council Committee considering your nomination

III. Public Meetings at City Hall:

- ☐ Housing and Homelessness Committee Hearing
- ☐ Full Council Hearing