



DAVID E. RYU
COUNCILMEMBER, FOURTH DISTRICT

September 22, 2020

Holly Wolcott
City Clerk
200 North Spring Street, Room 360
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Sharon M. Tso
Chief Legislative Analyst
200 North Spring Street, Room 255
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Appointment of Councilmember Michael Woo to the 2020 Los Angeles Redistricting Commission for Council District 4

Dear Ms. Wolcott and Ms. Tso,

It is my pleasure to appoint former Councilmember Mike Woo to the 2020 Los Angeles Redistricting Commission. Councilmember Woo is uniquely qualified for this role, having served two terms on the Los Angeles City Council, including during the rare mid-decade redistricting process in 1986 as well as the standard redistricting process following the 1990 census.

Councilmember Woo was the lead author for Measure H in 1989, an ethics reform package that was the most stringent in the nation. In 1991, Councilmember Woo was the first elected official in Los Angeles to call for the resignation of LAPD Chief Daryl Gates following the beating of Rodney King.

Councilmember Woo is a person of great integrity and resolve, who has proven himself to be an unwavering advocate for justice, fairness, and clean government. The people of District 4 are fortunate that he has accepted this position that will help determine the representative makeup of our communities for the decade to come. Councilmember Woo is a District 4 resident, residing in the community of Silver Lake.

If you have any questions about Councilmember Woo's appointment, please reach out to my Chief of Staff, Nick Greif at nick.greif@lacity.org.

Sincerely,

David E. Ryu
Councilmember, District Four

Michael Woo

Michael Woo served two terms as a Member of the Los Angeles City Council, from 1985 – 1993. The first Asian American and the first trained urban planner elected to the city’s governing body, Woo also served six years as a Los Angeles City Planning Commissioner and was honored this year as a “Planning Pioneer” by the California Chapter of the American Planning Association. For 10 years, Woo was Dean of Cal Poly Pomona’s College of Environmental Design, one of the leading regional schools producing architects, urban planners, landscape architects, and graphic designers, until his retirement in 2019.

Woo played a central role in many of the most contentious issues facing the City of Los Angeles. In response to allegations of official misconduct in City Hall in 1989, Woo became the lead author of Measure H, then the farthest-reaching local ethics and campaign finance reform law in the country, that was approved by L.A. voters in 1990. After the infamous beating of Rodney King by LAPD officers in 1991, he was the first elected official in City Hall to call for the resignation of LAPD chief Daryl Gates. Woo introduced and assembled the votes to enact a resolution declaring Los Angeles a sanctuary city, making Los Angeles one of the first large U.S. cities to offer sanctuary to political refugees from Central America. He introduced the first Council motion to legalize street vending.

In his Council district, Woo spearheaded the Hollywood Redevelopment Plan that laid the legal, financial, and planning framework for Hollywood’s current revitalization. He was pivotal in the selection of the route and station locations of the Metro Red Line subway, and was a cofounder of the Hollywood Farmers Market, now the largest certified farmers market in the City of Los Angeles.

Woo gave up his Council seat in 1993 to become one of 24 candidates for Mayor of Los Angeles. He eventually reached second-place in the citywide run-off, achieving 46 percent of the citywide vote in a hotly-contested, nationally-observed campaign.

Woo first won election to the Council in a version of CD13 that ran from Hollywood and the Hollywood Hills on the west to Silver Lake, Los Feliz, Elysian Valley, Atwater, Mount Washington, and Glassell Park on the east. When the City Council initiated a rare mid-decade redistricting process in 1986 in response to demands for more Latino representation, Woo’s district became a focal point of the deliberations and was radically redrawn twice, eventually adding Studio City, Sherman Oaks, and the hills west to Coldwater Canyon.

After leaving the City Council, Woo chaired the boards of several community and nonprofit organizations, including Sustainable Economic Enterprises of Los Angeles (SEE-LA), the nonprofit group that runs the Hollywood Farmers Market; Smart Growth America; and Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center. A native of Los Angeles, Woo has been a resident in the Silver Lake area since 1980 and lives in Council District 4.
