

Communication from Public

Name: Dana Cohn

Date Submitted: 08/14/2023 12:16 PM

Council File No: 23-1200-S130

Comments for Public Posting: Please find attached a letter in support of Controller Mejia's nomination to the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission, Mrs. Jamie York.

Dana Cohn

August 14, 2023

Honorable Members
Los Angeles City Council
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Appointment of Jamie York to Los Angeles City Ethics Commission
Council File No. 23-1200-S130**

Dear Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council:

It is my pleasure to recommend the City Council appoint Mrs. Jamie York to the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission. I have known Mrs. York for over seven years and she is an ideal person to represent the City's ethical interests.

As an attorney who regularly works with municipalities across Los Angeles County, including the City, I am intimately aware of the ethical issues elected officials and local agency employees face. While many parties interact with the City in an appropriate manner, others attempt to 'color outside the lines'. The indictment of four recent Councilmembers, and ethics investigations into a number of others, shows that a strong, objective, and independent Ethics Commission is necessary in Los Angeles. Our elected officials and City employees should never even *consider* acting in any way, except in the best interests of the city we all love.

As the President of the Reseda Neighborhood Council, Mrs. York is highly familiar with the issues that the City faces, particular in regards to interactions with lobbyists. That is why her support of the Municipal Lobbying Ordinance ("MLO") is a prime example of how her appointment to the Ethics Commission will improve the City. When she took up the MLO as a cause, she knew not only that passage could increase transparency among stakeholders and the City, but also that there were numerous opposing viewpoints on the MLO, and that passage could upend 'business as usual' in the City. Despite these issues, she advocated for its passage with each Neighborhood Councils ("NC"), which resulted in over 50% of the City's 99 Neighborhood Councils (many of which are inactive!), considering the MLO, passing Community Impact Statements, and providing these statements to the Council. As the NCs are 100% volunteer-based, this is a high feat, as it requires positive relationships with diverse stakeholders, strong organizational skills, and a keen mind for detail.

Mrs. York's prior involvement with elected officials in campaign fundraising also provides significant insight into relationships candidates and elected officials have in Los Angeles. She can and will recognize the difference between a discussion based on negotiation, and inappropriate topics of discussion that do not benefit the City. Through this experience, Mrs. York will be able to quickly weed through smaller issues of concern that may be brought to the Commission, so that she and other commissioners can focus on investigating larger, more involved issues deserving of their time and the City's resources.

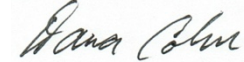
Dana Cohn

Mrs. York has the right skills, tenacity, and mindset to be a vociferous advocate, not for her personal interests, but the City at large. Due to her prior experience working with elected officials, candidates, NC leaders, and City employees, some parties might think she has her own agenda. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Transparency and objectivity are two standards she holds in high regards, both of which are supported *by* her prior experience and stances she has publicly taken on City issues.

Jamie York can and will be an ideal member of the City Ethics Commission. Therefore, I highly recommend the City Council vote, approve, and appoint her to the City Ethics Commission as soon as possible, so that she can begin providing her significant experience and insight to the City at large.

Please contact me if you have any additional questions or concerns on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dana Cohn". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Dana Cohn