



KAREN BASS  
MAYOR

September 13, 2024

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

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have appointed Ms. Zella Knight to the House LA Citizens Oversight Committee for the term ending June 30, 2026.

I certify that in my opinion Ms. Knight 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.

Ms. Knight will fill the vacancy created by the departure of Estuardo Mazariegos.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bass". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KAREN BASS  
Mayor

KB:tga

Attachment

## COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

**Name:** Zella Knight  
**Commission:** House LA Citizens Oversight Committee  
**End of Term:** 6/30/2026

### Appointee Information

1. **Race:** African American
2. **Gender:** Female
3. **Council District and neighborhood of residence:** 2 - North Valley
4. **Are you a registered voter in the City of Los Angeles?** Yes
5. **Prior commission experience:**
6. **Highest level of education completed:**
7. **Occupation/profession:**
8. **Experience(s) that qualifies person for appointment:** See attached resume
9. **Purpose of this appointment:** Appointment
10. **Current composition of the commission (excluding appointee):**

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>APC</b>	<b>CD</b>	<b>Race</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Term End</b>
Greenlee, Alan	South Valley	4	Caucasian	M	6/30/2026
Holland, Taylor	Central	5	African American	F	6/30/2026
Coulter, Michelle	East LA	14	Latinx	F	6/30/2025
Sanchez, Antonio	East LA	14	Latinx	M	6/30/2025
Chen, Debbie	East LA	13	API	F	6/30/2029
Lipa, Jacob	South Valley	4	Caucasian	M	6/30/2029
VACANT					6/30/2026
Gaeta, Jennifer	South Valley	4	Caucasian	F	6/30/2025
Sharma, Deepika	Central	4	API	F	6/30/2029
Jones, Zerita	South LA	10	African American	F	6/30/2026
Reed, Leilani	West LA	11	African American	F	6/30/2026
Morales, Alma	Central	13	Latinx	F	6/30/2025
Raymond, Laura	East LA	13	Caucasian	F	6/30/2029
Cea, Charlie	Central	13	Latinx	M	6/30/2025
Solano, Daniela	East LA	14	Latinx	F	6/30/2029

# Zella Knight

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## SUMMARY

Zella is a servant, leader, advocate, mentor, and policy developer for parents, students, adults with disabilities, and other marginalized populations. She has worked at the intersections of education, housing, and social and racial justice for 20+ years in varied leadership roles (federal, state and local). As a disabled activist with lived experience of homelessness and housing insecurity, Zella seeks to keep those with lived experience and expertise at the forefront of decision- and policy-making.

## SPECIALTIES

Policy development, professional development and community engagement training, strategic development.

## EXPERIENCE

**Residents United Network, Los Angeles CA** – *Regional President, Resident Leader, Steering Committee Member*

JAN 2015 – PRESENT

- Assisted in developing strategic plans and other organizational capacity building activities such as coalitions, task forces, etc.
- Participated in research and data analysis regarding homelessness, housing, racial equity.
- Developed training tools for tenant and resident leaders for political advocacy.
- As Steering Committee member, meets twice per month to discuss actions to advance RUN priority policies through the California State Legislature and to the Governor's Desk.
- As Steering Committee member, provides opinions and recommendations to the Housing California staff and Board of Directors.

**Los Angeles County Housing Authority, Los Angeles CA** – *Tenant Commissioner*

JAN 2010 – PRESENT

- Advises Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on housing policy and regulations.
- Advocates for the rights of tenants, homeless, and formerly homeless Los Angeles residents.
- Partners with varied Federal agencies to develop policies for the homeless, foster, and unaccompanied youths.
- Works with federal, state, regional, and local municipalities and agencies to develop programs, policies, and professional development

tools to analyze and assess program strengths and weaknesses related to budget, community assets, and structures.

- Partners and collaborates with varied community based organizations and local education agencies to develop strategies and coordinate workshops and public events with up to 2000 participants.
- Facilitates disputes between tenants and landlords.
- Trains tenants on their housing roles, rights and responsibilities.

**Los Angeles Unified School District, Los Angeles CA** – *Independent Consultant*

2003 – 2011

- Developed policy in Title One and State Compensatory programs.
- Developed state-wide training tools for parent and community members to strengthen activities related to parental involvement in schools.
- Presented and participated in community engagement trainings and professional development with organizations including: the Los Angeles County of Education, the California Department of Education, the Los Angeles Unified School District, the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, the County of Los Angeles Housing Authority, Pasadena Unified School District, and the City of Pasadena.
- Delivered spoken remarks to governing agencies including: the US Department of Education, US Congressional Delegates, the California Department of Education, the California State Board of Education, California Legislative Chambers, the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education, and other local education agencies.
- Trained families, including students regarding civic engagement, and organizing to participate on boards of education.

## ADDITIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

**National Low Income Housing Coalition** – *Board Member*

2021 – PRESENT

**U.S. Congressional Award of Leadership** – 1998

*Nominated by Linda Sanchez (D-CA)*

**Dedication to Improving Student Achievement (DISA) Award** – 2000–2005

*Los Angeles Unified School District*

**Recognition Award** – 2007–2020

*Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education*

## EDUCATION

**Pasadena City College, Pasadena CA**

*September 1981 – June 1983*

*Legal Assistance Course Study*



KAREN BASS  
MAYOR

September 13, 2024

Dear Ms. Knight:

I am pleased to inform you that I hereby appoint you to the House LA Citizens Oversight Committee for the term ending June 30, 2026, subject to confirmation by the City Council.

To begin the appointment 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.

Mayor's Office policy requires all potential commissioners to be fingerprinted as part of the background check. The Commissions team will assist in connecting you with Personnel's Background Unit so that you may schedule an appointment to have this done. You must schedule the appointment **within one week** of receiving this letter.

Should this apply to your commission, 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 via the California Fair Political Practices Commission's eDisclosure website, or by mailing the forms to City Hall at 200 N. Spring Street, 24th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90012. Any inquiries regarding this form should be directed to Samantha Rodriguez at the City Ethics Commission by email at [samantha.rodriguez@lacity.org](mailto:samantha.rodriguez@lacity.org).

As part of the appointment process, Paul Krekorian, 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.

Ms. Zella Knight  
September 13, 2024  
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Additionally, you will be required to attend public meetings at City Hall where your appointment will be considered. You will be hearing from our office and a City Council Clerk who will let you know when your appointment will be considered by the Housing and Homelessness Committee. Sometime thereafter, you will be notified of the date when your appointment will be presented to the full City Council. Before you may begin serving, you will 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](mailto:myr-commissions@lacity.org).

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 address 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](mailto: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 legible.

KAREN BASS  
Mayor

KB:tga

Attachment I  
Ms. Zella Knight  
September 13, 2024

## **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](mailto:myr-commissions@lacity.org) OR mail them to:  
Office of the Mayor  
Attn: Thomas Arechiga  
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. Before your appointment is heard in committee or full council (you will be contacted by the Clerk's Office with this date):**

- 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. Be sure to take no more than 21 days to file, per City law.
  - 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

### **III. 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 Paul Krekorian
  
- Councilmember Nithya Raman, Chair of the Council Committee considering your nomination

### **IV. Public Meetings at City Hall:**

- Housing and Homelessness Committee Hearing
  
- Full Council Hearing