



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

May 20, 2026

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

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have reappointed Ms. Zella Knight to the House LA Citizens Oversight Committee for the term ending June 30, 2031. Ms. Knight's current term expires on 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karen Bass'.

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:lap

Attachment

COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

Name: Zella Knight
Commission: House LA Citizens Oversight Committee
End of Term: 6/30/2031

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:** Reappointment

10. Current composition of the commission:

Commissioner	APC	CD	Race	Gender	Term End
Routt, Antonia	South LA	10	African American	F	6/30/2030
Coulter, Michelle	East LA	14	Latinx	F	6/30/2030
Romero, Kristal	East LA	1	Latinx	F	6/30/2030
Morales, Alma	Central	13	Latinx	F	6/30/2030
Cea, Charlie	Central	13	Latinx	M	6/30/2030
Knight, Zella	North Valley	2	African American	F	6/30/2026
Ascorra, Natalie	North Valley	12	Latinx	F	6/30/2029
Holland, Taylor	Central	5	African American	F	6/30/2026
Barragan, Roberto	North Valley	12	Latinx	M	6/30/2029
Williams, Brittany Danielle	Central	12	Caucasian		6/30/2029
Nishimoto, Jeanne	South LA	9	API	F	6/30/2029
Abarca, Fernando	South LA	10	Latinx	M	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
Lewis, Nancy	West LA	5	Caucasian	F	6/30/2026

Zella Knight

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.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE (not paid)

Residents United Network, Los Angeles CA — *Regional President Emeritus, Resident Leader, Former 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 Development Authority - Housing Advisory Committee,
— *Tenant Commissioner - formerly homeless/lived experienced*

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 - AmeriCorps VISTA Program —*Independent-Parent/Mentor/Volunteer/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 - BOARDS

National Low Income Housing Coalition - Board of Directors
2021 — current

National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials - Committee
Commissioner - Representing Resident/Tenant Commissioners

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles - Board Member
2020 - 2022

ACLU SOCAL - Board of Director
2022 - current

Housing Works - Board of Director 2023 - current

Bring California Home Coalition, Committee Member - Representing Lived Experience 2022 to current - Committee Member



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

May 20, 2026

Dear Ms. Knight:

Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you of your appointment to the House LA Citizens Oversight Committee for the term ending June 30, 2031, subject to confirmation by the Los Angeles City Council.

On behalf of the people of Los Angeles, thank you for your willingness to serve. Our boards and commissions are a vital part of the City's governance, and your leadership and expertise will play an important role in shaping the future of Los Angeles.

To move forward, there are a few steps you must complete prior to the Council's consideration of your appointment. My Commission Affairs team has prepared an attached checklist with deadlines and submission instructions, and they are available to support you throughout the confirmation process.

Once again, congratulations, and thank you for your commitment to serve the people of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

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

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:lap

Attachment I
Ms. Zella Knight
May 20, 2026

Nominee Check List

I. Within 7 days of appointment:

- Submit the completed forms, found on the last three pages of this letter, to: myr-commissions@lacity.org **OR** mail them to:
 - Office of the Mayor
 - Attn: Luz Portillo
 - 200 N. Spring Street, Room 303
 - Los Angeles, CA 90012
 - Remuneration Form
 - Undated Separation Letters (2)
- Schedule a fingerprinting appointment to complete your background check.
 - The Commissions team will connect you with the Personnel Background Unit.
- Complete and file a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700).
- Submit the CEC Form 60 (Ethics Clearance Form) to the City Ethics Commission.
 - The City Council cannot act on your nomination until the Ethics Department receives and submits your filings.
 - Note: you will be required to submit the same forms again after you are sworn in

II. Council Member Meetings:

You may be asked to meet with Councilmembers prior to your hearings.

- Your City Councilmember Adrin Nazarian
- Councilmember Nithya Raman, Chair of the Council Committee, considering your nomination

III. Public Meetings at City Hall:

- Housing and Homelessness Committee Hearing
 - The Clerk's office will contact you once your item has been scheduled.
- Full Council Hearing and Oath of Office
 - The Clerk's office will contact you once your item has been scheduled.

V. Standing Requirements

- Notify the Commissions team of any changes in address or contact information.
- If you wish to resign, you must submit a resignation letter to myr-commissions@lacity.org.