



KAREN BASS  
MAYOR

August 14, 2025

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

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have appointed Mr. Ariel Torres Socarras to the Area Planning Commission - South LA for the term ending June 30, 2030.

I certify that in my opinion Mr. Torres Socarras is especially qualified by reason of training and experience for the work which shall devolve upon Him, and that I make the appointment solely in the interest of the City.

Mr. Torres Socarras will fill the vacancy created by the departure of Jaqueline Orozco.

Sincerely,

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

KAREN BASS  
Mayor

KB:lap

Attachment

## COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

**Name:** Ariel Torres Socarras  
**Commission:** Area Planning Commission - South LA  
**End of Term:** June 30, 2030

### Appointee Information

1. **Race:** Latinx
2. **Gender:** male
3. **Council District and neighborhood of residence:** 9 - South Los Angeles APC
4. **Are you a registered voter in the City of Los Angeles?** Yes
5. **Prior commission experience:**
6. **Highest level of education completed:** Bachelor of Science, Urban and Regional Planning, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
7. **Occupation/profession:** Building and Safety Division Manager, City of Santa Monica
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):**

Commissioner	APC	CD	Race	Gender	Term End
Orozco, Jaqueline	South LA	9	Latinx	F	6/30/2025
Vasquez, Steven	South LA	10	Latinx	M	6/30/2028
Torres, Christopher	South LA	8	Latinx	M	6/30/2026
Bates, Eric	South LA	10	African American	M	6/30/2027
Pruitt, Stacey	South LA	10	African American	F	6/30/2029

## ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona  
Pomona, California; September, 1990 – March, 1995;  
Bachelor of Science, Urban and Regional Planning

California State University, Northridge  
Northridge, California; January, 2002 – December, 2005;  
Master of Public Administration

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### **City of Santa Monica / Building and Safety Division Manager: December, 2017 – August, 2024**

Administrative manager of the City's Building and Safety Division consisting of 27 employees and approximately \$6M budget. The Division primarily provides permitting, plan review, and inspections services, and requires working closely with many City Depts/Divs in permit center operations. Consistently engage with commercial and residential stakeholders in identifying, discussing, and troubleshooting issues. Work with Code Enforcement managing habitability issues and tenant protections during construction. Oversee and monitor the City's Seismic Retrofit Program, and the associated Seismic Retrofit Grant Program. Manage and monitor the Division's web presence and process explainers. Continually working with technical staff on maintaining and improving permitting processes, systems, and workflows.

### **City of Santa Monica / Permit Services Administrator: March, 2017 – December, 2017**

Managed and oversee eight Permit Specialist staff and associated operations of Permit Services, including customer service standards related to processing building permit applications, public inquiries, plans records, and cashing. Assist applicants through development permitting process by coordinating interdepartmental discussion, scheduled meetings, and focused project management for the advancement of applications to the permit issuance stage. Analyze and assess the overall processes within the Permit Services center and implement adjustments to improve efficiency from both the employee and customer perspective, including updating applications, informational handouts, software updates, and web-interface. Coordinate with other City Departments/Divisions to facilitate their efficacious involvement in the permitting and plan check processes.

### **City of Santa Monica / Acting Senior Planner: October, 2016 – March, 2017**

**Associate Planner: December, 2013 – October, 2016**

**Associate Planner: June, 2001 – January, 2002**

Processed a high-level of complex development projects in a fast-paced and busy work environment. The types of projects include Development Agreements, proprietary City projects, Development Reviews, Conditional Use Permits, and Variances. Regularly prepared comprehensive written staff reports, and presented the respective development applications and staff recommendations, to decision-makers (e.g. Planning Commission, Zoning Administrator, Architectural Review Board, City Council). Oversaw the implementation and monitoring of the recent comprehensive Zoning Ordinance update to enact necessary 'clean-ups' or policy-related amendments to address identified issues.

### **City of Montebello / Planning Manager: August, 2007 – December, 2013**

**Planning Manager & Code Enforcement Supervisor: August, 2012 – March, 2013**

Managed the City's Planning Division, including its budget and overall operations. Supervised three Planners, two Code Enforcement Officers, one Executive Assistant, and two Planning Interns. Manage assignment of development cases, plan checks, counter duties and other tasks related to the Planning Division's operation. Manage, prepare, and review agendas, public notices, staff reports, resolutions, and ordinances for consideration by the Planning Commission and City Council. Serve as staff liaison to Planning Commission at all its regular meetings. Major projects include 1,200 residential unit development (Montebello Hills Specific Plan) and Whittier Boulevard Specific Plan. Managed Code Enforcement Division operations, including supervising Code Enforcement Officers, public outreach efforts, and problem resolution with affected residents.

### **City of Pasadena / Planner: June, 2004 – August, 2007**

**Associate Planner: May, 2002 – June, 2004**

**Assistant / Associate Planner: February, 1998 – June, 2001**

Processed various types of development cases (e.g. CUP, Variance, Zone Change, Subdivision, General Plan Amendment), prepare respective staff reports, and orally present recommendations and findings to various commissions/boards (e.g. Planning Commission, City Council, Zoning Hearing Officer, Transportation Advisory Commission). Assigned as primary Planner responsible for reviewing all City of Gardens (multi-family) projects citywide for zoning compliance, and to train and supervise Associate Planner to assist with this workload as needed. Case Manager duties for projects include complex mixed-use, urban housing, high density, transit-oriented development and work/live projects in the City. Served as the Planning Division representative in the preparation, design, and implementation of the Department's permitting system (Tidemark). Larger projects include managing the EIR for the Rose Bowl renovation for the National Football League and developing a Second Unit ordinance, both of which involved extensive work with community and interest groups.



KAREN BASS  
MAYOR

August 14, 2025

Dear Mr. Torres Socarras:

I am pleased to inform you that I hereby appoint you to the Area Planning Commission - South LA for the term ending June 30 2030, 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 e-Disclosure 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, Curren Price, your Councilmember, and Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, the Chair of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee, may wish to meet with you to answer any questions they have. Our office will assist with arranging these meetings.

Mr. Ariel Torres Socarras  
August 14, 2025  
Page 2

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 Planning and Land Use Management 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 distinguishable.

KAREN BASS  
Mayor

KB:lap

Attachment I  
Mr. Ariel Torres Socarras  
August 14, 2025

## **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: Luz Portillo  
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 Curren Price
- ☐ Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, Chair of the Council Committee considering your nomination

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

- ☐ Planning and Land Use Management Committee Hearing
- ☐ Full Council Hearing