



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 Ms. Sarah Johnson to the City Planning Commission for the term ending June 30, 2030.

I certify that in my opinion Ms. Johnson 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. Johnson will fill the vacancy created by the departure of Karen Mack.

Sincerely,

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

KAREN BASS  
Mayor

KB:lap

Attachment

## COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

**Name:** Sarah Johnson  
**Commission:** City Planning Commission  
**End of Term:** June 30, 2030

### Appointee Information

1. **Race:** African American
2. **Gender:** female
3. **Council District and neighborhood of residence:** 13 - Central APC
4. **Are you a registered voter in the City of Los Angeles?** Yes
5. **Prior commission experience:**
6. **Highest level of education completed:** Master of Public Administration, Columbia University
7. **Occupation/profession:** Executive Director, Pathway To Tomorrow
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>
Mack, Karen	Central	4	African American	M	6/30/2025
Cabildo, Maria	East LA	14	Latinx	F	6/30/2025
Saitman, Jacob	South Valley	2	Caucasian	M	6/30/2027
Klein, Phyllis	Central	5	Caucasian	F	6/30/2027
Rosenstein, Brian	West LA	11	Caucasian	M	6/30/2029
Lawshe, Monique	Central	4	African American	F	6/30/2029
Diaz, Martina "Tina"	North Valley	7	Latinx	F	6/30/2028
Zamora, Elizabeth	South LA	10	Latinx	F	6/30/2028
Choe, Caroline	North Valley	7	API	F	6/30/2026

# Sarah Johnson

---

## Executive Summary

Dynamic and mission-driven executive with 15+ years of experience leading high-impact initiatives across affordable housing, conservation, and water security. Proven success managing multimillion-dollar real estate and business transformation projects, forging strategic public-private partnerships, and designing effective cross-sector collaborations. Adept at stakeholder engagement, partnership development, and interdisciplinary team building, with a strong foundation in consulting for Fortune 500 clients. Committed to advancing equity and innovation through inclusive community development, multimedia storytelling, and sustainable development projects in the United States, Africa, and India.

## Experience

### Pathway To Tomorrow Executive Director

Los Angeles, CA  
May 2015-Present

- Develop and manage partnerships with nonprofits, NGOs and private real estate developers to create affordable housing communities, urban forestry and water infrastructure projects in Southern California, East Africa and India.
- Lead a team of four in the identification, assembly, underwriting and marketing of multiple 350-500+ unit affordable housing portfolios to institutional investors and lenders to secure financing and manage projects from pre-development to lease-up.
- Facilitate community-led planning by engaging with neighborhood councils, community groups and city planning departments to identify housing needs and obtain support for projects serving individuals, families, veterans, seniors and transition-aged foster youth.
- Manage relationships with supportive service providers, city agencies and civic leaders in Los Angeles, Riverside, Orange and San Diego counties to connect clients with interim housing, affordable housing and rental subsidies.
- Manage a team of 14 people working on projects across three program areas (Affordable Housing, Conservation & Climate, Water Security).
- Create and manage project plans, timelines, pro formas, and deliverables for active and upcoming projects.
- Built an Advisory Board of leaders in urban planning, finance, community development, architecture and academia to support strategic planning and optimize the design, development and delivery of high impact projects across Pathway's program areas.
- Produce and host the Pathway Podcast, a series focused on identifying the latest innovations in housing, conservation, climate change and water security by domestic and international organizations.

### Global Planning Insights Project Manager

Los Angeles, CA  
August 2014 - December 2023

- Led international 6 person cross-functional team (research & development, IT, product management, finance, marketing) to manage the full product development lifecycle from inception to market introduction for a new consumer product.
- Initiated and executed an influencer marketing campaign and sales incentive program that increased brand partnerships by 50% and tripled product's market exposure.
- Created project plan, developed processes for issue and risk management, coordinated with internal and external teams, drove execution and provided status updates to senior executives of client company.
- Partnered with external teams and SMEs to conceptualize and deliver a marketing and distribution strategy for new product.
- Worked with client to develop ESG (environmental, social & governance) strategy, marketing materials and presentations for investment fund focused on sustainable investing.
- Analyzed ESG data metrics and investment targets to drive improvements in the fund's sourcing method for identifying new investments.

### The Restoration Foundation (Social Services Non-Profit, 501(c)3) Program Manager

Los Angeles, CA  
January 2011 - September 2012

- Identified, pursued and developed strategic partnerships and secured funding through work with various organizations, including: JP Morgan Chase, The National Community Stabilization Trust, Wells Fargo and Bank of America.
- Led IT integration project that updated and linked organization's internal client database management system with the department of public health's client intake system.

# Sarah Johnson

---

## **Citizen Schools (Education Non-Profit, 501(c)3)** **Special Assistant to the Chief Development Officer**

Boston, MA  
April 2010-December 2010

- Served as core member of national fundraising team that secured \$24M to fund operations in schools across eight states.
- Supported development of a STEM campaign strategy that was rolled out across 20 schools in 5 states, planned and executed fundraising events including an annual gala and movie premiere.

## **Deloitte Consulting, LLP** **Business Technology Analyst, Technology, Media & Telecommunications**

San Francisco, CA  
2007- 2009

- Created and managed project plan, issue/risk escalation process and status reporting for a \$100 million business transformation project that provided \$50 million in benefits to a tech company client, with peak market valuation of \$200 Billion.
- Led workshops to identify areas for improvement in business operations and IT systems, managed project planning, issue/risk resolution, and presentations to CEO, CAO, & CIO for a \$50M systems implementation project as part of a team of 40 consultants for a tech company client with peak market valuation of \$50 billion.
- Wrote business development proposals for new clients and developed training modules for consultants in the technology, media, telecommunications, and consumer products industries.

## **Education**

### **Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA)** **Master of Public Administration**

New York, NY  
August 2012 - May 2014

- Managing Editor: *The Morningside Post* (Newspaper of Columbia University's School of International & Public Affairs)
  - Coordinated writers and editors, led strategy sessions, reviewed and edited submissions, wrote op-ed and news pieces.
- Project Management Consultant: *Jalia Ventures* (Impact Investment Fund)
  - Led project management, conducted research and wrote case studies on performance of each of the fund's portfolio companies.

### **Loyola Marymount University** **Bachelor of Business Administration**

Los Angeles, CA  
September 2003 - May 2007

- Specialization: Finance and Accounting
- President, Beta Gamma Sigma and Finance Society

## **Volunteer Experience**

### **Campaign to Re-Elect Deval Patrick for Governor of Massachusetts** **Staff Member**

Boston, MA  
February 2010-March 2010

- Governor Deval was successfully re-elected
- Made Get-Out-the-Vote calls to registered party voters.
- Helped with data entry and ad-hoc tasks on an as-needed basis.
- Prepared campaign mailers and fliers for distribution.
- Attended social media strategy sessions, took meeting notes.
- Provided support at community outreach events.

### **City of Cambridge, Office of the Mayor** **Associate**

Cambridge, MA  
June 2009-August 2009

- Acted as a point of contact for constituents, fielding phone calls, answering questions, listening to and documenting concerns, opinions, and requests to meet with Mayor E. Denise Simmons.
- Attended select community meetings and events on behalf of the Mayor and her Deputy Assistant.
- Coordinated and edited a report on the impact of race and class on education in the City of Cambridge.

## **Activities/Skills/Interests**

- **Member**, Los Angeles World Affairs Council.
- **Interests**: kayaking, traveling, and hiking.



KAREN BASS  
MAYOR

August 14, 2025

Dear Ms. Johnson:

I am pleased to inform you that I hereby appoint you to the City Planning Commission 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, Hugo Soto-Martínez, 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.

Ms. Sarah Johnson  
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  
Ms. Sarah Johnson  
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 Hugo Soto-Martínez
- ☐ 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