



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. Aaron Thomas to the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles Board of Commissioners for the term ending June 30, 2029.

I certify that in my opinion Mr. Thomas 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. Thomas will fill the vacancy created by the departure of Alexandra Suh.

Sincerely,

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

KAREN BASS  
Mayor

KB:lap

Attachment

## COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

**Name:** Aaron Thomas  
**Commission:** Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles Board of Commissioners  
**End of Term:** June 30 2029

### Appointee Information

1. **Race:** African American
2. **Gender:** male
3. **Council District and neighborhood of residence:** 11 - West 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:** Master of Business Administration, Stanford University Graduate School of Business
7. **Occupation/profession:** Chief of Staff, Standard Communities
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
Castro, Cielo	East LA	14	Latinx	F	6/30/2025
Vacant					6/30/2025
Morales, Aileen	East LA	14	Latinx	F	6/30/2027
De La Cruz, Delfino	North Valley	7	Latinx	M	6/30/2028
Hooper, Lucelia	Harbor	15	African American	F	6/6/2026
Demuyakor, Adam	South Valley	2	African American	M	6/30/2027
Lawson, Wells	East LA	13	Caucasian	M	6/30/2026

# AARON CHARLEE THOMAS

## EXPERIENCE

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### Standard Communities

Los Angeles, CA

*Chief of Staff | January 2022 - Present*

- On the executive team, under the co-founders, executing Standard's operations, investment and capital allocation strategies
- Create financing structures and business plans for new and existing investments or all types – affordable, workforce, and market-rate housing; lead and manage new business development

### Accelerator for America

Los Angeles, CA

*President & Chief Executive Officer (formerly Senior Director) | August 2018 – January 2022*

- Advised mayors and local leaders in over 60 cities nationwide on economic development, transit & infrastructure and local policy/governance to attract and leverage private, public & philanthropic capital for the benefit of distressed communities
- Provided technical assistance and expertise to pass over \$30bn of transit measures nationwide since 2018
- Developed Stimulus Command Centers to allow cities to coordinate and disseminate federal relief and recovery investments
- Helped create the Angeleno Fund, raising over \$50mm for direct assistance to low-income LA residents affected by COVID-19

### Joe Biden for President Transition Team

Philadelphia, PA

*Economy Policy Committee Member & Convener | May - November 2020*

- Participated in the Economy Committee supporting the presidential campaign and transition team; Managed the Racial Equity Subcommittee – assisted in the development and delivery of policy deliverables; reported directly to committee chairs

### Pete For America [Pete Buttigieg's Presidential Campaign]

South Bend, IN

*Senior Policy Advisor | May 2019 - March 2020*

- Wrote the Douglass Plan for racial equity; assisted with housing, labor and broader economic policy

### California State Senate - Office of Senator Ben Allen

Redondo Beach, CA

*Legislative Fellow | January - August 2018*

- Assisted with matters of policy, specifically criminal justice and fair business practices; performed constituent services

### Clearlake Capital

Santa Monica, CA

*Associate | June - December 2016 | Private Equity/Special Situations fund with <\$4bn AUM*

- Evaluated equity and distressed credit investment opportunities across Technology, Energy Services and Industrials industries
- Performed industry, business and financial due diligence-- built LBO valuation and operating models, engaged with management teams and spoke with industry experts. Managed third parties including accountants, consultants & lawyers

### Deutsche Bank

New York, NY

*Global Markets Associate | 2011 - 2015 | (Interned Summer 2010)*

- Traded a \$150 million single stock swap book, often warehousing market, counterparty and foreign exchange risk; oversaw securities lending client book of >\$10 billion notional value
  - Selected transactions: Herbalife Ltd. ("HLF"), Tesla Motors Inc. ("TSLA"), Shake Shack Inc. ("SHAK")
- Managed relationships with over 15 hedge fund clients within DB's Global Prime Finance group

## EDUCATION

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### Stanford Graduate School of Business (Class of 2017)

Palo Alto, CA

- Board Member of Private Equity Club & Black Business Students' Association; Toigo Fellowship Recipient
- Selected Coursework: Fiscal Policy, Contemporary Economic Policy, Advanced Financial Modeling

### Harvard College (Class of 2011)

Cambridge, MA

- Bachelor of Arts in Sociology (Management & Organizations) & African American Studies
- Board member of Harvard Black Students' Association, Black Men's Forum and Veritas Financial Group
- Defensive tackle on Harvard's football team; Ivy League Champion 2007 & 2008

## SKILLS & INTERESTS

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- Passion for Black history & culture; love for music, sports, and American social & fiscal policy



KAREN BASS  
MAYOR

August 14, 2025

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I am pleased to inform you that I hereby appoint you to the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles Board of Commissioners for the term ending June 30, 2029, 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, Traci Park, 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.

Mr. Aaron Thomas  
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 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 last name "Bass" clearly distinguishable.

KAREN BASS  
Mayor

KB:lap

Attachment I  
Mr. Aaron Thomas  
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 Traci Park
- ☐ 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