



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

September 29, 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. Morenike Irvin to the City Ethics Commission for the term ending June 30, 2030.

I certify that in my opinion Ms. Irvin 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. Irvin will fill the vacancy created by the departure of Jeffery Daar.

Sincerely,

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

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:lap

Attachment

COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

Name: Morenike Irvin
Commission: City Ethics Commission
End of Term: 6/30/2030

Appointee Information

1. **Race:** African American
2. **Gender:** female
3. **Council District and neighborhood of residence:** 4 - Central
4. **Are you a registered voter in the City of Los Angeles?** Yes
5. **Prior commission experience:**
6. **Highest level of education completed:** MBA, John E. Anderson School of Management, University of California, Los Angeles
7. **Occupation/profession:** Founding Managing Director, Civil Society Fellowship, Aspen Institute
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	Appointing Authority	Term End
Manjusha P. Kulkarni	City Attorney	6/30/2026
Rabbi Aryeh Cohen	City Controller	6/30/2028
Robert M. Stern	City Council President	6/30/2027
VACANT	Mayor	6/30/2030
Terry Kaufmann	City Council President Pro Tem	6/30/2029



Nike Irvin

Executive Summary

Seasoned social impact leader and skilled team leader with 20+ years of experience uniting diverse stakeholders to address complex societal challenges. Known for integrity, high standards, and fairness in building trust across political, geographic, and cultural divides. Recognized for advancing equity and opportunity, fostering civic trust, and creating cross-sector partnerships that deliver lasting results. Proven ability to design and lead high-impact programs, manage \$125M+ in grants, and strengthen mission-driven organizations. Aspen Institute–trained Moderator skilled in guiding candid, solution-focused dialogue among leaders from diverse backgrounds.

Professional Experience

Founding Managing Director, Civil Society Fellowship

Aspen Institute (National) — 2018 – Present

- Inaugural Managing Director of the bipartisan Civil Society Fellowship, a national leadership program of the Aspen Institute.
- Designed and launched a fellowship cultivating emerging leaders committed to strengthening American democracy and bridging divides across political, geographic, and cultural lines.
- Aspen Institute–trained Moderator, leading Fellows cohorts through rigorous, values-based dialogue and reflection.
- Leads Fellows cohorts in seminars hosted in key civil society “hotspots” worldwide, including Amsterdam/The Hague; Haifa/Jerusalem/Tel Aviv (prior to the outbreak of the 2023 Israel–Hamas war); Cape Town; and Montgomery/Selma, Alabama.
- Known for leading with integrity, fairness, and high standards, creating spaces where diverse leaders engage in candid dialogue and collaborative problem-solving.

- Facilitates national convenings, global learning experiences, and cross-sector collaborations that equip leaders to work together across differences.

Founder & Managing Director

ZWN, Inc. (Los Angeles, CA) — 2018 – Present

- Founded consultancy and coaching practice serving social impact-oriented foundations and mission-driven organizations.
- Partners with philanthropic leaders to craft strategies, develop talent pipelines, and build organizational resilience through inclusive leadership practices.
- Recognized for upholding high standards and fairness in advising executives, ensuring that strategies are both principled and results-oriented.
- Builds trusted relationships with clients through integrity, transparency, and a commitment to their mission success.

Vice President, Programs

California Community Foundation (CCF) — 2011 – 2017

- Directed grant strategy for major program areas including arts, education, juvenile justice, and health.
- Oversaw philanthropic investments exceeding \$125 million, aligning funding priorities with community-driven solutions.
- Built alliances among public, private, and community partners to maximize impact and ensure broad stakeholder engagement.

President

The Riordan Foundation — 2000 – 2007

- Provided strategic leadership to expand foundation outreach across Los Angeles.
- Advanced K–12 education innovation, literacy initiatives, and student success programs serving diverse communities during the post–No Child Left Behind era.
- Strengthened governance, expanded partnerships, and diversified funding to ensure long-term impact.

Brand Manager

PepsiCo / Nestlé USA — Early Career (pre–social impact sector)

- Led product marketing and brand positioning strategies in highly competitive consumer markets.
- Coordinated cross-functional teams to deliver innovation, market insights, and successful go-to-market campaigns.

Board Service

- PICO California — Board Member (2025–present)
- Haynes Foundation — Trustee (2023–present)
- HR&A Advisors — Board Member (2023–present)

- Procure Impact — Board Member (2023–present)
- The Broad Center at Yale — Trustee (2017–2024)
- Southern California Grantmakers — Trustee (2012–2023)
- The Riordan Foundation — Trustee (2000–2024)

Awards & Fellowships

- Women Who Dared, California Black Women's Health Project (2025)
- Recognized for leadership in truth & reconciliation initiatives with Southern California Grantmakers and the Kellogg Foundation (2021)
- Los Angeles Business Journal Philanthropist of the Year (2016)
- Women Worth Watching, Profiles in Diversity Journal (2015)
- Henry Crown Fellowship, Aspen Institute (2004)
- Next Generation Fellowship, American Assembly (2006)
- Marshall Memorial Fellowship, German Marshall Fund (2002)

Education

- MBA, UCLA Anderson School of Management — Named one of “100 Most Inspirational Alumni” (2017)
- BA in Economics & Political Science, Yale University

Language Proficiency

- English — Native fluency
- Spanish — Conversational proficiency

Expertise & Skills

- Aspen Institute–Trained Moderator — Skilled in facilitating values-based, solution-focused dialogue across ideological, cultural, and sector divides
- Strategic Philanthropy — Multi-million-dollar grantmaking, impact measurement, community-driven investment
- Leadership Development — Fellowship design, cross-ideological leadership pipelines, talent coaching
- Civic Bridge-Building — Cross-sector collaboration, bipartisan program design, dialogue facilitation
- Organizational Resilience — Board governance, strategic planning, sustainable growth
- Brand & Communication Strategy — Messaging, positioning, public engagement
- Language Proficiency — English (native), Spanish (conversational), Italian (conversational), French (polite), Korean (polite), Swahili (polite)

Personal

Born in Los Angeles; resident of Los Feliz for 24 years. Owner of two residential multi-unit properties in Los Feliz and Silverlake.



September 29, 2025

Dear Ms. Irvin:

Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you of your appointment to the City Ethics Commission for the term ending June 30, 2030, 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 serving 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 visible.

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:lap

Attachment I
Ms. Morenike Irvin
September 29, 2025

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 Nithya Raman
- ☐ Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Chair of the Council Committee, considering your nomination

III. Public Meetings at City Hall:

- ☐ Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee 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.