



Office of the Mayor

CONSENT CALENDAR
December 15, 2020

To: Members of the City Council

From: Mayor Jesse Arreguín

Subject: Appoint Alexandria Thomas-Rodriguez to the Berkeley Housing Authority Board

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution appointing Alexandria Thomas-Rodriguez to serve as a tenant Commissioner on the Berkeley Housing Authority Board of Commissioners for a two-year term.

BACKGROUND

On May 22, 2007, the Berkeley City Council established a Berkeley Housing Authority (BHA) Board of Commissioners. State law mandates BHA commissioners, including successors be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

There are currently two vacancies on the seven-member Berkeley Housing Authority Board, including one tenant Commissioner seat. BHA advertised an opening for the tenant Commissioner position and received several applications from residents. The Mayor reviewed the applicants and has selected Alexandria Thomas-Rodriguez for the vacant tenant Commissioner seat.

Alexandria Thomas-Rodriguez is a long-term Berkeley resident, having graduated from Berkeley High School. She has been involved with the Berkeley Housing Authority for the past three years, serving on the Resident Advisory Board, where she works on reviewing, editing and brainstorming ideas with the Operations Manager and other Section 8 participants on the Administrative Plan.

Thomas-Rodriguez currently works as a Tenant Counselor and Hotline Administrator for Tenants Together. In this role, she is on the front lines of handling tenant issues, taking in and prioritizing calls amid the COVID-19 pandemic that has led to a surge in tenants seeking advice. She also recently joined Berkeley Mutual Aid as a Case Manager, providing resources to Berkeley citizens for mental health, housing, food and essential items.

As a Section 8 tenant and through her work experience, Thomas-Rodriguez has gained the knowledge and experience to handle the work of the BHA Board, bringing compassion and fairness for tenants and landlords. She is also working with various City Commissions on public safety, transportation, and housing retention, which can be expanded in her role on the Board.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with adopting this recommendation.

CONTACT PERSON

Mayor Jesse Arreguín 510-981-7100

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

APPOINTING ALEXANDRIA THOMAS-RODRIGUEZ AS A TENANT COMMISSIONER
ON THE BERKELEY HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Berkeley, as the governing body of the City of Berkeley, declared itself to the Commissioners of the Berkeley Housing Authority (BHA) and appointed two tenant Commissioners pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 34290; and

WHEREAS, on May 22, 2007 the Mayor appointed and the City Council by a majority vote confirmed the appointment of 5 Commissioners and 2 tenant Commissioners to the BHA Board pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 34270; and

WHEREAS, there is currently one vacant tenant Commissioner seat that needs to be filled; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria Thomas-Rodriguez has been involved with the Berkeley Housing Authority for the past three years, serving on the Resident Advisory Board, where she works on reviewing, editing and brainstorming ideas with the Operations Manager and other Section 8 participants on the Administrative Plan; and

WHEREAS, Thomas-Rodriguez currently works as a Tenant Counselor and Hotline Administrator for Tenants Together where she is on the front lines of handling tenant issues, taking in and prioritizing calls amid the COVID-19 pandemic that has led to a surge in tenants seeking advice. She also recently joined Berkeley Mutual Aid as a Case Manager, providing resources to Berkeley citizens for mental health, housing, food and essential items; and

WHEREAS, As a Section 8 tenant and through her work experience, Thomas-Rodriguez has gained the knowledge and experience to handle the work of the BHA Board, bringing compassion and fairness for tenants and landlords.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor of the City of Berkeley that Alexandria Thomas-Rodriguez is appointed to serve as a tenant Commissioner on the Berkeley Housing Authority Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that it supports the Mayor's determination regarding the qualifications of Alexandria Thomas-Rodriguez and hereby confirms the Mayor's appointment; and

BE IT FURTHER AND FINALLY RESOLVED by the Mayor of the City of Berkeley that, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 34272(a), Alexandria Thomas-Rodriguez is appointed to serve as a tenant Commissioner for a two-year term.

