



# Memorandum

**TO:** TONI TABER  
City Clerk

**FROM:** Erik L. Soliván

**SUBJECT: HOUSING AND COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
APPLICANTS' EVALUATION**

**DATE:** May 7, 2025

Approved

Date

## **BACKGROUND**

Council Policy 0-4, the Consolidated Policy Governing Boards and Commissions, allows the Department staff liaison for the Commission to submit a memo to the City Clerk with its evaluation of applicant(s) based on the powers and duties of the Commission, any special eligibility requirements, and experience, background, and expertise of the applicant(s). For any incumbents eligible for reappointment, the memo should include a statement setting forth attendance, residency information, and compliance with City requirements (e.g., commission training, State-mandated training, Form 700 filing).

## **COMMISSION'S SPECIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

San José Municipal Code Section 2.08.2820 describes the special eligibility requirements for the Housing and Community Development Commission (Commission):

- One (1) member shall be a person recommended by an organization of owners of San José mobilehome parks.
- One (1) member shall be a person recommended by an organization of residents of San José mobilehome parks.
- One (1) member shall be an owner or manager of a residential rent stabilized property.
- One (1) member shall be a tenant of a residential rent stabilized rental unit.
- One (1) member shall be a person who is currently or was formerly homeless.

- At least five (5) members shall represent low-income households, which for the purposes of this requirement means a person who meets one (1) or more of the following criteria:
  1. The person is a member of a low- or moderate-income household as defined by HUD as at or below eighty percent of the area median income pursuant to 24 CFR 92.2.
  2. The person is an elected member of a neighborhood organization in a low- or moderate-income neighborhood (fifty-one percent of the neighborhood is at or below eighty percent of the area median income as defined by HUD).
  3. The person is a resident of a city council designated neighborhood targeted under the place-based neighborhoods initiative to receive federal funding.
  4. The person is employed by an organization which has as its primary purpose to serve the interests of low-income residents.
- The commission should also include members with experience related to real estate development, lending, community development, homeless services, and federal funding.

### **APPOINTMENT PRIORITIES**

There are currently five commissioner vacancies on the Housing and Community Development Commission: District 1, District 3, District 5, District 7, District 9.

### **APPLICANT ASSESSMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION**

Upon review of the 19 applicants, the following recommendations are made based on indicated experience and response to the application prompts. Commissioners are appointed by corresponding Council Members, but do not need to reside in that Council District.

- **District 1 Seat:** Roma Dawson, at the request of the Council District 1 office
- **District 3 Seat:** Aimee Escobar
- **District 5 Seat:** Ruben Navarro, at the request of the Council District 5 office
- **District 7 Seat:** Christopher Escher, at the request of the Council District 7 office
- **District 9 Seat:** H.B. Mok

The table below provides the City Clerk and City Council offices with a preliminary review of the 19 applicants indicating interest in the Housing and Community Development Commission. Please see **Attachment A** for the candidates' experience summarized by category. Candidates' summaries on Attachment A and below are sorted in descending order by the number of their self-identified qualifications. Applicants that tied on the number of



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qualifications they indicated are presented in Council District order within that ranking.  
Applicants with shaded names are incumbent commissioners applying for reappointment.

#	Name	Owner or Renter	Council District	Years in San José	Employer	Special Role Eligibility (if any)	Self-Identified Experience in Desirable Issue Areas
District Council Seat Applicants							
1	Brenda Bell Brown	Renter	6	3-5 years		Lived Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Real Estate Development</li><li>• Lending</li><li>• Community Development</li><li>• Homeless Services</li><li>• Federal Funding</li></ul>
2	Aimee Escobar	Renter	3	6+	City of Santa Clara – City Manager's Office		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Real Estate Development</li><li>• Community Development</li><li>• Homeless Services</li><li>• Federal Funding</li></ul>
3	Ruben Navarro	Owner	6	6+	Santa Clara County		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Real Estate Development</li><li>• Community Development</li><li>• Homeless Services</li></ul>
4	Rose Escalera	Renter	7	6+	Martha's Kitchen	Mobilehome Resident  Lived Experience	
5	Victoria Partida	Owner	7	6+	Santa Clara County Public Health Department		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Real Estate Development</li><li>• Community Development</li><li>• Federal Funding</li></ul>
6	Thoa Hoang	Owner	4	1-2 years	Stanford University		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Real Estate Development</li><li>• Community Development</li></ul>

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#	Name	Owner or Renter	Council District	Years in San José	Employer	Special Role Eligibility (if any)	Self-Identified Experience in Desirable Issue Areas
							<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Federal Funding</li></ul>
7	Sukhdev Bainiwal	Owner	8	6+	Connex	ARO Owner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community Development</li><li>• Homeless Services</li></ul>
8	Erica Walters	Renter	1	1-2 years	Income Property Specialists	ARO Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Homeless Services</li></ul>
9	Tasha Eaton	Owner	2	6+	VMWare		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Real Estate Development</li><li>• Community Development</li></ul>
10	Ky Lam	Owner	6	6+	GMS	Mobilehome Park Resident	
11	Brian Carr	Owner	7	6+		Mobilehome Park Resident	
12	Daisy Porras	Renter	7	6+	Housing Choices		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community Development</li></ul>
13	H.B. Mok	Owner	9	6+	Self Employed		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Real Estate Development</li><li>• Federal Funding</li></ul>
14	Karolina Walichiewicz	Renter	10	6+	Unemployed	Lived experience	
15	Vince Cantore	Owner	9	6+	The Core Companies		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Development</li></ul>
16	Roma Dawson	Renter	1	6+	Retired		
17	Richard Stewart	Owner	3	6+	Retired		
18	Michelle Huynh	Owner	4	6+			
19	Christopher Escher	Owner	6	6+	Self Employed		

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### **CONCLUSION**

All 19 applicants meet the eligibility requirements for appointment to the Housing and Community Development Commission.

Please feel free to contact me or my Housing Department staff, Mindy Nguyen, with any questions. I may be reached at 408-535-3860, and Mindy Nguyen may be reached at 408-534-2961. Thank you.

ERIK L. SOLIVÁN

Director

Housing Department

**Attachment A:** Housing Department Analysis – Housing and Community Development Commission Candidates Recruitment, Spring 2025





Housing Department Analysis - Housing & Community Development Commission Candidates Recruitment, Fall 2024

					Special Eligibility Positions (each is required by Municipal Code)					Low-Income Members (5 required, 4 currently seated) (self-declared)				Desirable Experience (self-declared)				
#	Applicant's Name	Lives in CC Dist.	Renter or Owner	Ranked by Overall # Yes	MH Park Owner Rep	MH Park Resident Rep	ARO Owner	ARO Resident	Lived Experience with Homelessness	Low/Mod Defined by HUD (self- declared)	Elected Neighborhood Leader in LI Area	Live in Place- Based Neighborhood	Org serving low- income	Real Estate Development	Lending	Community Development	Homeless Services	Federal Funding*
Seated Commissioners' roles & experience:					1	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	2	3	2	5	5	2
Column1	Column2	Column3	Column4	Column5	Column6	Column7	Column8	Column9	Column10	Column11	Column12	Column13	Column14	Column15	Column16	Column17	Column18	Column19
	Brenda Bell Brown	6	Renter	7					yes	yes				yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
	Aimee Escobar	3	Renter	4										yes		yes	yes	yes
	Ruben Navarro	6	Owner	4							yes			yes		yes	yes	
	Rose Escalera	7	Renter	4		yes			yes	yes			yes					
	Victoria Partida	7	Owner	4							yes			yes		yes		yes
	Thoa Hoang	4	Owner	3										yes		yes		yes
	Sukhdev Bainiwal	8	Owner	3			yes									yes	yes	
	Erica Walters	1	Renter	2				yes		yes							yes	
	Tasha Eaton	2	Owner	2										yes		yes		
	Ky Lam	6	Owner	2		yes				yes								
	Brian Carr	7	Owner	2		yes				yes								
	Daisy Porras	7	Renter	2						yes						yes		
	H.B. Mok	9	Owner	2										yes				yes
	Karolina Walichiewicz	10	Renter	2					yes	yes								
	Vince Cantore	9	Owner	1										yes				
	Roma Dawson	1	Renter	0														
	Richard Stewart	3	Owner	0														
	Michelle Huynh	4	Owner	0														
	Christopher Escher	6	Owner	0														

Note: Candidates self-declared as ARO Tenants must be validated by CAO  
Note: The Muni Code requires 5 Low-income seats. Staff verifies candidates' declaration that they live in Place-Based Neighborhoods.