



Mental Health Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR  
March 23, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Mental Health Commission  
Submitted by: Andrea Prichett, Chairperson, Mental Health Commission  
Subject: Appointment of boona cheema and Javonna Blanton to Mental Health Commission

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution appointing: boona cheema as a representative of the Special Public Interest Category (consumer), to complete her second 3- year term beginning March 24, 2021 and ending March 23, 2024; and Javonna Blanton as a representative of the Special Public Interest Category (family), to complete her first 3-year term beginning March 24, 2021 and ending March 23, 2024.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Mental Health Commission is authorized to be composed of thirteen members. However, there are presently seven vacancies on the Commission. These vacancies impair the Commission's ability to adequately review and evaluate the community's mental health needs, resources, and programs.

Approval of the recommended action will keep the two positions filled, and allow the Commission to move one step closer to having a full and diverse complement of commissioners to review and evaluate the community's mental health needs, resources, and programs.

BACKGROUND

California State law requires that appointments to the Mental Health Commission meet specific categories, who may serve up to nine years consecutively. The general public interest category may include anyone who has an interest in and some knowledge of mental health services. The special public interest category includes direct consumers of public mental health services and family members of consumers, which together must constitute at least fifty percent or nine of the

commission seats. Direct consumers and family members shall each constitute at least 20% of the commission membership.

Boona cheema has been an active member serving as Chair for 2 years. During the Covid-19 pandemic and suspension of the Mental Health Commission she was unable to be re-appointed and her 1<sup>st</sup> term ended on April 25, 2020. She was appointed briefly but due to a missed deadline for filing paperwork she was terminated. Boona was approved by the Mental Health commission to re-join the commission to complete her second term.

Javonna Blanton is a resident of Berkeley and has a background in education. She has personal lived experience and is a family member of a consumer of mental health services. She would like to join the Mental Health Commission to be part of the solution to the crisis of homelessness and mental health challenges. This would be her first term participating on the Mental Health Commission.

The Mental Health Commission passed the following motions at the January 28, 2021 meeting:

Interview and vote on the nomination of boona cheema on the Mental Health Commission

M/S/C (Fine, Kealoha-Blake) Move to approve the nomination of boona cheema to the Mental Health Commission

PASSED

Ayes: Fine, Kealoha-Blake, Moore, Opton, Prichett Noes: None; Abstentions: None; Absent: Hawkins

Interview and vote on the nomination of Javonna Blanton on the Mental Health Commission

M/S/C (Opton, Fine) Move that we approve her.

PASSED

Ayes: Fine, Kealoha-Blake, Moore, Opton, Prichett Noes: None; Abstentions: None; Absent: Hawkins

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Approval of the recommended action will allow the Mental Health Commission to move one step closer to having a full and diverse complement of commissioners to review and evaluate the community's mental health needs, resources, and programs.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager takes no position on appointments

CONTACT PERSON

Jamie Works-Wright, Commission Secretary, HHCS, 510-981-7721

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

APPOINTMENT OF BOONA CHEEMA AND JAVONNA BLANTON TO THE  
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

WHEREAS, membership of the Mental Health Commission is composed of thirteen appointments by the City Council as a whole, including one appointment by the Mayor (*or designee*), six special public interest appointments, and four general public interest appointments; and

WHEREAS, with the ongoing implementation of the Mental Health Services Act, the City of Berkeley will need to have a full complement of diverse appointees to the Commission to review and evaluate the community's mental health needs, resources, and programs and to fulfill its mandate; and

WHEREAS, Ms. cheema has served as Chair of the Commission and

WHEREAS, Ms. Blanton has an investment in the in the community and personal lived experience

WHEREAS, the Mental Health Commission at its January 28, 2021 meeting recommended appointments of boona cheema and Javonna Blanton.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council appoints boona cheema as a representative of the Special Public Interest consumer category, to complete her second term ending March 23, 2024; Javonna Blanton as a representative of the General Public Interest category, to complete her first term ending March 23, 2024.