



Mental Health Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR
June 25, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Mental Health Commission
Submitted by: Monica Jones, Mental Health Commission Chair
Subject: Appointment of Ajay Krishnan to Mental Health Commission for the City of Berkeley

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution appointing: Ajay Krishnan as a representative of the General Public Interest Category to complete his first 3-year term beginning June 25, 2024 and ending June 24, 2027.

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 eight vacancies on the Commission. The Mental Health Commission is actively seeking candidates with the ability to fulfill the state law duties for Commissioners, including reviewing and evaluating the community's mental health needs, services, facilities, resources and programs.

Approval of the recommended appointment will fill one vacancy and move the Commission 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

The Mental Health Commission nominated Ajay Krishnan as a representative of the general public interest appointment on the Mental Health Commission for the City of Berkeley, for a three-year term. Ajay is a student focusing on a career in psychiatry and is involved with research for mental health and working as a mental health hotline worker. He has significant interactions with those who are suffering with mental health especially among youth.

California State law requires that appointees to the Mental Health Commission meet specific categories. The general public interest category includes 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.

Ajay Krishnan meets the category of general public interest and his represents as a person who is in school and has a diverse background speaking multiple languages. Ajay has a long history of volunteering and is the recipient of 3 Presidential Service Awards. He has organized multiple blood drives, he is bilingual and interprets at community health clinics and for the crisis text line. Mental health issues resonate with Ajay as a college student, he shares that teenagers tend to find that mental health hotlines are a great outlet for people experiencing crisis.

In his current undergraduate studies, Ajay is currently involved in two research projects involving mental health and neuroscience. He is certified by the CITI program to conduct research in the psychological science. Along with his passion in mental health he is interested in public policy.

The Mental Health Commission passed the following motions at the March 28, 2024 meeting:

Review application for Ajay Krishnan

M/S/C (Prichett, Jones) Motion to approve Ajay Krishnan application for the Mental Health Commission

PASSED

Ayes: Jones, Opton, Prichett, Turner Noes: None; Abstentions: None; Absent: Kimber-Smith

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental effects, climate impacts, or sustainability 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 concurs with the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report.

Appointment of Ajay Krishnan to the MHC

CONSENT CALENDAR
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CONTACT PERSON

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

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

APPOINTMENT OF AJAY KRISHNAN 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, Mr. Ajay has an investment in the mental health community and is pursuing a career in psychiatry,

WHEREAS, the Mental Health Commission at its March 28, 2024 meeting recommended appointments of Ajay Krishnan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council appoint as a representative of the General Public Interest category, to complete her first term ending June 24, 2027.