



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
June 3, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager  
 Submitted by: Scott Gilman, Director, Health, Housing, and Community Services  
 Subject: Appointment of Public Health Officer – Dr. Noemi C. Doohan

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution to appoint Noemi C. Doohan, M.D., PhD, MPH, as the Public Health Officer for the City of Berkeley.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

A full-time career benefited Health Officer position is budgeted for the current and subsequent fiscal years.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In accordance with state law, as a recognized local health jurisdiction, the City Council must appoint a local Health Officer who has a medical degree and holds a license issued by the Medical Board of California.

Dr. Doohan, a family physician, public health professional, and a Berkeley native, has degrees from Mills College, UC Santa Barbara, Stanford, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She completed her Family Medicine Residency at Contra Costa County Regional Medical Center. Since 2019, Dr. Doohan has served as the Public Health Officer for Lake and Mendocino Counties and as the Chief Medical Officer for Santa Barbara County Public Health. She is also an elected Board Member of the Executive Committee of the California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) and is Co-Chair of CCLHO's Health Equity Committee. Dr. Doohan brings a wealth of experience to the City of Berkeley and the Health, Housing, and Community Services Department is thrilled to have her join the team.

BACKGROUND

Since September 2023, the Health Officer position has been filled as an interim appointment, while recruitment for the Permanent Health Officer was conducted. After an interim period of assessing the current needs for this position and a rigorous search with community input, Dr. Doohan was selected out of a very competitive field of candidates. She will serve in partnership with Division Managers within the Health,

Housing, and Community Services Department, as well as other City Departments, to continue to strengthen our efforts to ensure health equity within Berkeley.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

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

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

State law requires City Council to appoint a physician Health Officer for our local health jurisdiction.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None. State law requires a physician Health Officer for our local health jurisdiction.

CONTACT PERSON

Scott Gilman, Director, Health, Housing, and Community Services, (510) 981-5400

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER – Dr. NOEMI C. DOOHAN

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has performed local public health functions since 1890, and is one of three City health jurisdictions in California; and

WHEREAS, local health jurisdictions must include a physician health officer; and

WHEREAS, mandatory functions of a local health jurisdiction include communicable disease and tuberculosis control, public health emergency preparedness and response, and registration of births and deaths; and

WHEREAS, these functions can only be performed under the authority of a physician health officer; and

WHEREAS, Noemi C. Doohan, MD, is an experienced and exceptional public health physician who meets the qualifications for this position.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that it authorizes the appointment of Noemi C. Doohan, MD, as the Public Health Officer for the City of Berkeley.

