



Mental Health Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR
July 22, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Mental Health Commission
Submitted by: Ajay Krishnan, Chairperson, Mental Health Commission
Subject: Appointment of Ian Hunt to the Mental Health Commission

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution approving the recommendation for appointment of Ian Hunt to the Mental Health Commission. Mr. Hunt will represent the Special Interest Category (consumer), beginning a 3-year term on July 23, 2025, ending on July 22, 2028.

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 three 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 needs, services, facilities and special problems.

Approval of the recommended action will fill a vacancy and allow the Commission to move one step closer to having a full 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. Ian Hunt meets the category of special interest, Consumer. The special interest category includes direct consumers of public mental health services and family members of consumers, which together must constitute at least fifty percent, or seven, of the commission seats. Direct consumers and family members shall each constitute at least 20% of the commission membership.

The Mental Health Commission recommends Ian Hunt as a representative of the special interest appointment on the Mental Health Commission for the city of Berkeley for a three-year term. Ian Hunt is a former recipient of critical mental

health services and has been a resident of Berkeley since 2019. He has been involved in housing services, substance abuse and harm reduction support.

Mr. Hunt states that drug abuse resulting in homelessness is an important mental health issue in Berkeley and providing accessible service can make a difference. He can provide insight and knowledge to the commission by sharing his unique personal lived experience.

The Mental Health Commission passed the following motions at the April 30, 2025, Special meeting:

Interview and vote for new applicant – Ian Hunt

M/S/C (Gu, Turner) Motion to accept Ian Hunt as a special interest, consumer applicant to send to city council

PASSED

Ayes: Gu, Opton, Sol, Teague, Turner; **Noes:** None; **Abstentions:** None; **Absent:** Jones, Krishnan, Tregub, Prichett

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

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 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.

CONTACT PERSON

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

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

APPOINTMENT OF IAN HUNT 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*), seven special public interest appointments, and five 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 appointees to the Commission to review and evaluate the community's mental health needs, resources, and programs and to fulfill its mandate; and

WHEREAS, Ian Hunt has been involved in receiving services in the City of Berkeley for mental health needs and supporting community members; and

WHEREAS, The Mental Health Commission at its April 30, 2025, Special meeting recommended the appointment of Ian Hunt.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council appoints Ian Hunt as a representative of the Special Interest category, (consumer) to complete his first term ending July 22, 2028.

