



City of Santa Clara

Meeting Agenda

Call and Notice of Special Meeting of the City Council

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

5:30 PM

Hybrid Meeting

**City Hall Council Chambers/Virtual
1500 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95050**

The City of Santa Clara is conducting City Council meetings in a hybrid manner (in-person and continues to have methods for the public to participate remotely).

- Via Zoom:
 - o <https://santaclaraca.zoom.us/j/99706759306>
 - Meeting ID: 997-0675-9306
 - o Phone 1(669) 900-6833

How to Submit Written Public Comment Before City Council Meeting:

1. Use the eComment tab located on the City Council Agenda page (<https://santaclaraca.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>). eComments are directly sent to the iLegislate application used by City Council and staff, and become part of the public record. eComment closes 15 minutes before the start of a meeting.
2. By email to clerk@santaclaraca.gov by 12 p.m. the day of the meeting. Those emails will be forwarded to the Council and will be uploaded to the City Council Agenda as supplemental meeting material. Emails received after the 12 p.m. cutoff time up through the end of the meeting will form part of the meeting record. Please identify the Agenda Item Number in the subject line of your email.
NOTE: Please note eComments and Emails received as public comment **will not** be read aloud during the meeting.

Agendas, Staff Reports and some associated documents for City Council items may be viewed on the Internet at <https://santaclaraca.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

All public records relating to an open session item on this agenda, which are not exempt from disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act, that are distributed to a majority of the legislative body will be available for public inspection at the Office of the City Clerk at Santa Clara City Hall, 1500 Warburton Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95050 at the same time that the public records are distributed or made available to the legislative body. Any draft contracts, ordinances and resolutions posted on the Internet site or distributed in advance of the Council meeting may not be the final documents approved by the City Council. For the final document, you may contact the Office of the City Clerk at (408) 615-2220 or Clerk@santaclaraca.gov.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of California Government Code §54956 ("The Brown Act") and Section 708 of the Santa Clara City Charter, the Mayor calls for a Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Santa Clara, to commence and convene on June 3, 2025, at 5:30 pm to be held virtually and in the City Hall Council Chambers located in the East Wing of City Hall at 1500 Warburton Avenue, Santa Clara, California, to consider the following matter(s) and to potentially take action with respect to them.

5:30 PM SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Call to Order in the Council Chambers

Pledge of Allegiance and Statement of Values

Roll Call

INTERVIEWS

1. **25-631** [Action to Conduct Applicant Interviews and Appoint Five Applicants to the Senior Advisory Commission to Serve Three Partial Terms Ending June 30, 2026, One Partial Term Ending June 30, 2027, and One Partial Term Ending June 30, 2028](#)

Recommendation: Appoint Five Applicants to the Senior Advisory Commission, three to Serve Three Partial Terms each Ending June 30, 2026, one to serve One Partial Term Ending June 30, 2027, and one to serve One Partial Term Ending June 30, 2028

2. **25-630** [Action to Conduct Applicant Interviews and Appoint Two Applicants to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to Serve One Partial Term Ending June 30, 2027, and One Full Term Ending June 30, 2029](#)

Recommendation:

1. Appoint two Applicants to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, one to Serve One Partial Term Ending June 30, 2027, and one to Serve One Full Term Ending June 30, 2029; and
2. Establish an Eligibility List for Six Months should a Vacancy Occur

3. **25-632** [Action to Conduct Applicant Interviews and Appoint Two Applicants to the Cultural Commission to Serve One Partial Term Ending June 30, 2028, and One Full Term Ending June 30, 2029](#)

- Recommendation:**
1. Appoint two Applicants to the Cultural Commission, one to Serve One Partial Term Ending June 30, 2028, and one to Serve One Full Term Ending June 30, 2029; and
 2. Establish an Eligibility List for Six Months should a Vacancy Occur

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular scheduled meeting is on Tuesday, June 10, 2025 in the City Hall Council Chambers.

MEETING DISCLOSURES

The time limit within which to commence any lawsuit or legal challenge to any quasi-adjudicative decision made by the City is governed by Section 1094.6 of the Code of Civil Procedure, unless a shorter limitation period is specified by any other provision. Under Section 1094.6, any lawsuit or legal challenge to any quasi-adjudicative decision made by the City must be filed no later than the 90th day following the date on which such decision becomes final. Any lawsuit or legal challenge, which is not filed within that 90-day period, will be barred. If a person wishes to challenge the nature of the above section in court, they may be limited to raising only those issues they or someone else raised at the meeting described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Clara, at or prior to the meeting. In addition, judicial challenge may be limited or barred where the interested party has not sought and exhausted all available administrative remedies.

STREAMING SERVICES: As always, the public may view the meetings on SantaClaraCA.gov, Santa Clara City Television (Comcast cable channel 15 or AT&T U-verse channel 99), or the livestream on the City's YouTube channel or Facebook page.

Note: The public cannot participate in the meeting through these livestreaming methods; livestreaming capabilities may be disrupted at times, viewers may always view and participate in meetings in-person and via Zoom as noted on the agenda.

AB23 ANNOUNCEMENT: Members of the Santa Clara Stadium Authority, Sports and Open Space Authority and Housing Authority are entitled to receive \$30 for each attended meeting.

Note: The City Council and its associated Authorities meet as separate agencies but in a concurrent manner. Actions taken should be considered actions of only the identified policy body.

LEGEND: City Council (CC); Stadium Authority (SA); Sports and Open Space Authority (SOSA); Housing Authority (HA); Successor Agency to the City of Santa Clara Redevelopment Agency (SARDA); Bayshore North Project Enhancement Authority (BNPEA); Public Facilities Financing Corporation (PFFC)

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall Council Chambers. A complete agenda packet is available on the City's website and in the City Clerk's Office at least 72 hours prior to a Regular Meeting and 24 hours prior to a Special Meeting. A hard copy of any agenda report may be requested by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (408) 615-2220, email clerk@santaclaraca.gov <<mailto:clerk@santaclaraca.gov>> or at the public information desk at any City of Santa Clara public library.

If a member of the public submits a speaker card for any agenda items, their name will appear in the Minutes. If no speaker card is submitted, the Minutes will reflect "Public Speaker."

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the City of Santa Clara will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities, and will ensure that all existing facilities will be made accessible to the maximum extent feasible. The City of Santa Clara will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities including those with speech, hearing, or vision impairments so they can participate equally in the City's programs, services, and activities. The City of Santa Clara will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities.

Agendas and other written materials distributed during a public meeting that are public record will be made available by the City in an appropriate alternative format. Contact the City Clerk's Office at 1 408-615-2220 with your request for an alternative format copy of the agenda or other written materials.

Individuals who require an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or any other disability-related modification of policies or procedures, or other accommodation, in order to participate in a program, service, or activity of the City of Santa Clara, should contact the City's ADA Coordinator at 408-615-3000 as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.



Agenda Report

25-631

Agenda Date: 6/3/2025

REPORT TO COUNCIL

SUBJECT

Action to Conduct Applicant Interviews and Appoint Five Applicants to the Senior Advisory Commission to Serve Three Partial Terms Ending June 30, 2026, One Partial Term Ending June 30, 2027, and One Partial Term Ending June 30, 2028

COUNCIL PILLAR

Enhance Community Engagement and Transparency

BACKGROUND

At the March 11, 2025, City Council meeting, Council declared five (5) vacancies due to resignations on the Senior Advisory Commission to fill three partial terms ending June 30, 2026, one partial term ending June 20, 2027, and one partial term ending June 30, 2028.

Advertising of the vacancies was done via the City's website, social media outlets. The City Clerk's Office also emailed vacancy notification to all parties listed on the email vacancy interest list.

DISCUSSION

The City Clerk's Office held a recruitment for six weeks and received six (6) applications by the April 25, 2025, 5:00 p.m. application deadline, however one has withdrawn from the process leaving a total of five (5) applicants.

The City Clerk's Office proceeds with the recruitment/interview process with the following candidates:

1. Rick Andrews
2. Kris Kishor Kapadia
3. Rebecca J. Selden
4. Alma Soto
5. Phanom Wacht

Each candidate meets the requirement of being a resident of the City of Santa Clara and have each submitted proof of residency.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The action being considered does not constitute a "project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(a) as it has no potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no additional cost to the City other than administrative staff time and expense.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall Council Chambers. A complete agenda packet is available on the City's website and in the City Clerk's Office at least 72 hours prior to a Regular Meeting and 24 hours prior to a Special Meeting. A hard copy of any agenda report may be requested by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (408) 615-2220, email clerk@santaclaraca.gov or at the public information desk at any City of Santa Clara public library.

RECOMMENDATION

Appoint Five Applicants to the Senior Advisory Commission, three to Serve Three Partial Terms each Ending June 30, 2026, one to serve One Partial Term Ending June 30, 2027, and one to serve One Partial Term Ending June 30, 2028

Reviewed by: Nora Pimentel, Assistant City Clerk

Approved by: Jovan D. Grogan, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS

1. Applications
2. Voting Guidelines



Position

Board/Commission/Committee Applying For*

Senior Advisory Commission

Personal Information

Name*

Rick Andrews

Are you a resident of the City of Santa Clara?*

(Must be a resident of the city of santa clara at time of application)

☒ Yes

☐ No

Address*

Street Address

Address Line 2

City

Santa Clara

State / Province / Region

CA

Postal / Zip Code

95054

Country

USA

Provide two forms of Proof of Residency in the City of Santa Clara

Attachment 1*

My Utilities Account Bill Analyzer.pdf

229.16KB

Attachment 2*

Rick-Andrews (1).pdf

104.08KB

Email*

Primary Phone Number*

Secondary Phone Number

Additional Information

Have you attended a meeting of this Board/ Commission/ Committee?*

Yes

Work Experience

Present Employer*

Retired

Job Title*

Retired

CITY OF SANTA CLARA
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
APR 17 PM 4:41

Previous Government Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served

Government	Position/ Office Held:	Date

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged

Civic or Charitable Organization	Position Held	From Date	To Date

High School, College, Professional, Vocational Schools attended

High School, College, Professional, Vocational School	Major Subject	Degree Dates / Anticipated Graduation

Special awards or recognition received

Reasons

Please state reasons why you want to become a member of this Commission, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this advisory board:

Additional Information

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

Conflict of Interests

Are you associated with any Organization/Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

No

Abstaining from Votes

City policy directs all advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes

Signature and Acknowledgement

Signature

By clicking submit you are confirming that you are the person listed in this application, and that all information provided is truthful and correct. All information provided will be public information.



Date

4/17/2025

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Facilities Operations Manager with over 25 years of extensive experience in managing large-scale healthcare facilities, including a medical center with 754 acute beds and 22 buildings. Proficient in maintaining compliance with Life Safety, TJC, and CMS, and skilled in overseeing a team of 106 FTEs to ensure a safe and efficient environment. Demonstrates strong capabilities in procurement processes and relationship management, having managed medical supplies budgets exceeding \$35 million annually.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

DEC 2017 - JUN 2018

Acting Director of Resource Management, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, San Jose, CA

- Directed central supply, linen, hospital business system, and product procurement for a 574-bed acute care center, 8 health clinics and specialty procedure center
- Managed \$35m annual medical/surgical supplies procurement, ensuring timely delivery and quality
- Oversaw an operational budget of over \$25m and hospital supplies of \$6m
- Implemented new agreements and software upgrades within the resource management division
- Facilitated contract award decisions in compliance with public purchasing standards and Board of Supervisors direction

SEP 1998 - PRESENT

Facilities Operations Manager, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, San Jose, CA

Systems Manager responsible for the Facilities Management currently responsible for Biomedical Engineering, compliance of over 3 million square feet which includes 22 onsite buildings, 1 Medical Center with 754 acute beds and 6 outlying clinics thru-ought Santa Clara County. Currently facilities employees a staff of 106 FTE's. Manage Life Safety compliance, TJC Compliance, CMS Compliance.

- Maintain a comfortable and safe physical environment for patients, employees, medical staff, and the public in accordance with hospital policies and procedures, budgetary requirements, and applicable local, staff and federal building, safety and hospital codes
- Experienced with working collaboratively with HCAI and their policies and procedures
- Experienced in the RFP, RFQ and procurement process approving all purchases thru SCVMC facilities for the last 14 yrs
- Experienced developing collaborative relationships with outside agencies and community organizations
- Responsible for anticipating/submitting/maintaining yearly and operational budget requests for assigned facilities accounts
- Organize and oversee Facilities employee recruitment procedures, including candidate interviews, interview itinerary planning, and hiring
- Responsible for the maintenance and operations of the security, CCTV systems
- Oversee contract entities, including but not limited to mechanical, electrical, plumbing, landscaping, telecom, biomedical engineering contractors
- Boosted compliance, managed 106 FTEs, ensured safety across multiple facilities.
- Streamlined procurement, overseeing RFP and RFQ processes for 14 years.
- Enhanced team capabilities through strategic recruitment and training programs.
- Boosted facility compliance and safety for a 3M sq ft healthcare complex.

EDUCATION

1981 - 1981

Bachelor of Arts: Business Administration, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA

Certified, IFMA

SKILLS

Project management

Team leadership

Risk management processes and analysis

Budgeting and finance

Conflict resolution

Procurement process



Position

Board/Commission/Committee Applying For*

Senior Advisory Commission

Personal Information

Name*

Kris Kishor Kapadia

Are you a resident of the City of Santa Clara?*

(Must be a resident of the city of santa clara at time of application)

☒ Yes

☐ No

Address*

Street Address

[REDACTED]

Address Line 2

[REDACTED]

City

Santa Clara

State / Province / Region

CA

Postal / Zip Code

95050

Country

USA

Provide two forms of Proof of Residency in the City of Santa Clara

Attachment 1*

Senior Advisory Electric Bill _20250424_0001.pdf

512.42KB

Attachment 2*

Senior Advisory Real ID _20250424_0001.pdf

191.29KB

Email*

[REDACTED]

Primary Phone Number*

[REDACTED]

Secondary Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Additional Information

Have you attended a meeting of this Board/ Commission/ Committee?*

Yes

Work Experience

Present Employer*

SELF EMPLOYED - ENGINEER ENTREPRENEUR

Job Title*

CEO

CITY OF SANTA CLARA
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2025 APR 24 PM 4:57

Previous Government Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served

Government

Position/ Office Held:

Date

SENIOR CENTER SANTA CLARA AND
SANTA CLARA PARKS AND RECREATION
DEPARTMENT

VOLUNTEER IN VARIOUS CAPACITY

7/12/2023

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged

Civic or Charitable Organization

Position Held

From Date

To Date

Santa Clara Senior Center Red
Cross, CSix, National Public Radio
- KQED, TiE Santa Clara, Self
Realization Fellowship, Santa Clara
Parks and Recreation.

All positions are as a volunteer in
various capacity.

1/5/2008

4/24/2025

High School, College, Professional, Vocational Schools attended

High School, College, Professional, Vocational School

Major Subject

Degree Dates /
Anticipated Graduation

Santa Clara University

MSEE-Masters in Electronics and Electrical
Engineering

3/15/1973

Special awards or recognition received

Innovations in the areas of Man-Machine interface equipment design. Wide area data
communication over the dedicated lines. Recognition for volunteering for more than 10 years at
Self Realization Fellowship and The Indus Entrepreneur of Silicon Valley.

Reasons

Please state reasons why you want to become a member of this Commission, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of
this advisory board:

I have passion for senior affairs with extensive volunteer experience at various renowned
organization like the Red Cross, The Indus Entrepreneur, Self Realization Fellowship, CSix, and
NPR-KQED public radio. Volunteered for more than 500 hours at Senior Center Santa Clara. I
have extensive business experience in high-tech startups, food-hospitality business, and event
management, which has provided me with a diverse skill set in leadership, operations, and
strategic planning.

Additional Information

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

With strong professional background, I am eager to contribute to policies and programs that
support the health, wellness, and engagement of Santa Clara's senior population.
With combination of technical expertise, entrepreneurial background, and deep commitment to
community service makes me uniquely equipped to advocate for and implement positive changes
that benefit seniors in Santa Clara.

Conflict of Interests

Are you associated with any Organization/Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

No

Abstaining from Votes

City policy directs all advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest. Would you be willing to abstain from
voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes

Signature and Acknowledgement

Signature

By clicking submit you are confirming that you are the person listed in this application, and that all information provided is truthful and correct. All information
provided will be public information.

Kris Kapadia

Date

4/24/2025



Position

Board/Commission/Committee Applying For*

Senior Advisory Commission

Personal Information

Name*

Rebecca J Selden

Are you a resident of the City of Santa Clara?*

(Must be a resident of the city of santa clara at time of application)

☒ Yes

☐ No

Address*

Street Address

[REDACTED] Santa Clara CA 95051 USA

Address Line 2

City

State / Province / Region

Postal / Zip Code

Country

Provide two forms of Proof of Residency in the City of Santa Clara

Attachment 1*

2025-04-25 senior advisory license.pdf

637.33KB

Attachment 2*

2025-04-25 Santa Clara senior advisory.pdf

1.09MB

Email*

[REDACTED]

Primary Phone Number*

[REDACTED]

Secondary Phone Number

Additional Information

Have you attended a meeting of this Board/ Commission/ Committee?*

UnSure

Work Experience

Present Employer*

Donata Realty

Job Title*

Realtor

Previous Government Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served

RECEIVED
APR 25 2025
City Clerk's Office
City of Santa Clara

Government

Position/ Office Held:

Date

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged

Civic or Charitable Organization

Position Held

From Date

To Date

Local Government Relations
Committee

Committee Member

4/25/2025

High School, College, Professional, Vocational Schools attended

High School, College, Professional, Vocational School

Major Subject

Degree Dates /
Anticipated Graduation

Mountain View High

General

6/10/1988

College of San Mateo

Cosmetology

6/1/1990

West Valley Community College

Business

6/13/2003

Indiana Wesleyan

Business

5/27/2005

Special awards or recognition received

Soroptimist Recipient

Reasons

Please state reasons why you want to become a member of this Commission, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this advisory board:

I am interested in becoming a member of the Senior Advisory Commission because I care deeply about the well-being of seniors in our community. As a native realtor with experience in the Santa Clara area and a daughter to senior parents, I understand the unique housing challenges seniors face and want to stay actively involved in discussions and initiatives that address those needs. I am committed to supporting programs and policies that improve the quality of life for older adults and ensure access to safe, affordable and suitable lifestyles. Being a part of the committee would allow me to stay informed, advocate for meaningful change, and contribute my professional expertise in service to our senior community.

Additional Information

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

I am a native to the Bay Area and have lived in Santa Clara over 20 years where I raised my children. With my years of customer experiences, I pride myself on my creative problem solving, my dedication to service and my quality listening, hearing every need and delivering results with tenacity and excellence is what I strive in life.

Conflict of Interests

Are you associated with any Organization/Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

No

Abstaining from Votes

City policy directs all advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes

Signature and Acknowledgement

Signature

By clicking submit you are confirming that you are the person listed in this application, and that all information provided is truthful and correct. All information provided will be public information.

Rebecca J Selden

Date

4/25/2025



Position

Board/Commission/Committee Applying For*

Senior Advisory Commission

APR 4 2025

Personal Information

City of Santa Clara

Name*

Alma Soto

Are you a resident of the City of Santa Clara?*

(Must be a resident of the city of santa clara at time of application)

☒ Yes

☐ No

Address*

Street Address

Address Line 2

City

Santa Clara

State / Province / Region

CA

Postal / Zip Code

95051

Country

USA

Provide two forms of Proof of Residency in the City of Santa Clara

Attachment 1*

Alma ID.pdf

317.66KB

Attachment 2*

Alma SVP Bill.pdf

511KB

Email*

Primary Phone Number*

Secondary Phone Number

Additional Information

Have you attended a meeting of this Board/ Commission/ Committee?*

Yes

Work Experience

Present Employer*

Heart of the Valley Services for Seniors, Inc.

Job Title*

Executive Director

Previous Government Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served

Government	Position/ Office Held:	Date
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged

Civic or Charitable Organization	Position Held	From Date	To Date
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

High School, College, Professional, Vocational Schools attended

High School, College, Professional, Vocational School	Major Subject	Degree Dates / Anticipated Graduation
<input type="text" value="Cal State East Bay"/>	<input type="text" value="MBA"/>	<input type="text" value="6/28/2013"/>

Special awards or recognition received

Reasons

Please state reasons why you want to become a member of this Commission, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this advisory board:

Additional Information

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

Conflict of Interests

Are you associated with any Organization/Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

Abstaining from Votes

City policy directs all advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Signature and Acknowledgement

Signature

By clicking submit you are confirming that you are the person listed in this application, and that all information provided is truthful and correct. All information provided will be public information.

Alma Soto

Date



Position

Board/Commission/Committee Applying For*

Senior Advisory Commission

Personal Information

Name*

Phanom Wacht

Are you a resident of the City of Santa Clara?*

(Must be a resident of the city of santa clara at time of application)

☒ Yes

☐ No

Address*

Street Address

Address Line 2

City

Santa Clara

State / Province / Region

CA

Postal / Zip Code

95050

Country

USA

Provide two forms of Proof of Residency in the City of Santa Clara

Attachment 1*

residency.pdf

109.09KB

Attachment 2*

residency (1).pdf

109.09KB

Email*

Primary Phone Number*

Secondary Phone Number

Additional Information

Have you attended a meeting of this Board/ Commission/ Committee?*

No

Work Experience

Present Employer*

Santa Clara Unified School District

Job Title*

Teacher

CITY OF SANTA CLARA
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2025 APR 23 AM 11:26

Previous Government Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served

Government	Position/ Office Held:	Date
N/A	N/A	

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged

Civic or Charitable Organization	Position Held	From Date	To Date
United Teachers of Santa Clara	President	1/6/2020	7/31/2022

High School, College, Professional, Vocational Schools attended

High School, College, Professional, Vocational School	Major Subject	Degree Dates / Anticipated Graduation
Santa Clara University	EdD, Social Justice Leadership	5/28/2027
San Jose State University	MA, Education	5/24/2002
California State University, Chico	BA, Social Science	5/26/1995
Yuba College	AA, Social Science	5/28/1993

Special awards or recognition received

Nominated for City of Sunnyvale Teacher of the Year 2024

Reasons

Please state reasons why you want to become a member of this Commission, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this advisory board:

As a longtime resident of Santa Clara and a dedicated educator, I am deeply committed to enhancing the well-being of our senior community. Since turning 50, I have felt a stronger connection to this group and want to help ensure that older adults in our city feel supported, included, and empowered. I am particularly interested in advocating for equitable access to city services and creating programs that reflect the diverse needs of our aging population. As a member of the Senior Advisory Committee, I would work to promote active aging, expand opportunities for social connection, and collaborate with city leaders to improve policies related to senior health, housing, transportation, and recreation. My goal is to help all seniors in Santa Clara thrive and stay engaged in meaningful ways.

Additional Information

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

In addition to being a lifelong educator, I previously served as President of United Teachers of Santa Clara, where I advocated for equitable policies and community engagement. I have lived in Santa Clara since 1998 and have raised my family here, which has deepened my commitment to our city. My leadership, public service, and education background have given me strong communication, collaboration, and problem-solving skills. I am passionate about listening to community voices and bringing people together to make thoughtful, inclusive decisions that improve the quality of life for all residents.

Conflict of Interests

Are you associated with any Organization/Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

No

Abstaining from Votes

City policy directs all advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes

Signature and Acknowledgement

Signature

By clicking submit you are confirming that you are the person listed in this application, and that all information provided is truthful and correct. All information provided will be public information.

Pharon Wacht

Date

4/22/2025

CITY OF SANTA CLARA
VOTING GUIDELINES FOR THE APPOINTMENT
OF APPLICANTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- 1) Council is given a copy of the applications in their weekly packet to review and consider applicant qualifications.
- 2) Council interviews applicant. Interviews are held at a City Council Meeting for the Planning Commission and Civil Service Commission. Interviews are held in a less formal area of City Hall for all other Boards and Commissions.
 - A) Each applicant is given three (3) minutes for an opening statement. The applicant may respond to questions from the Council. The applicant has one (1) minute for a closing statement.
- 3) Council votes for applicants:
 - A) If there are four (4) or fewer applicants the Council will cast one vote each for their desired appointee.
 - B) If there are five (5) or more applicants, the Council will cast one vote each for their two desired appointees. Only one vote per applicant is allowed. A Councilmember may choose to vote for only one applicant but will relinquish the other vote.
- 4) The votes are tallied:
 - A) If there are four (4) or fewer applicants the Clerk will announce the winner.
 - i. If there is a tie, there will be 3 re-votes for the Council to reconsider the applicants. The Council has the opportunity to deliberate between each round of re-voting.
 - ii. If there is still a tie and there is not a full Council present, the Council will defer the decision until a full Council is present, and re-interview the top two applicants.
 - iii. If there is a full Council present, the Members will draw straws, with the person drawing the long straw abstaining from voting at the next round. The Council has the opportunity to deliberate.
 - iv. The Council votes, with the applicant receiving the highest number of votes being the winner. The City Clerk will announce the winner.
 - B) If there are five (5) or more applicants, the Clerk will announce the two applicants who received the highest number of votes. The Council then has an opportunity to deliberate regarding the remaining two applicants.

The Council will then cast one vote each for their desired appointee. The City Clerk will announce the winner.

- i. If there is a tie, there will be 3 re-votes for the Council to reconsider the applicants. The Council has the opportunity to deliberate between each round of re-voting.
 - ii. If there is still a tie and there is not a full Council present, the Council will defer the decision until a full Council is present, and re-interview the top two applicants.
 - iii. If there is a full Council present, the Members will draw straws, with the person drawing the long straw abstaining from voting at the next round. The Council has the opportunity to deliberate.
 - iv. The Council votes, with the applicant receiving the highest number of votes being the winner. The City Clerk will announce the winner.
- 5) A Council Member makes a motion to appoint the applicant that received the highest number of votes. The Council has the opportunity to vote unanimously to appoint the applicant using the Council Chambers electronic voting equipment.



Agenda Report

25-630

Agenda Date: 6/3/2025

REPORT TO COUNCIL

SUBJECT

Action to Conduct Applicant Interviews and Appoint Two Applicants to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to Serve One Partial Term Ending June 30, 2027, and One Full Term Ending June 30, 2029

COUNCIL PILLAR

Enhance Community Engagement and Transparency

BACKGROUND

At the March 11, 2025, City Council meeting, Council declared a vacancy on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee for one partial term ending June 30, 2027.

Advertising of the vacancy was done via the City's website, social media outlets. The City Clerk's Office also emailed vacancy notification to all parties listed on the email vacancy interest list.

DISCUSSION

The City Clerk's Office held a recruitment for six weeks and received eight (8) applications by the April 25, 2025, 5:00 p.m. application deadline.

A past practice has been that upon appointment to fill a vacancy, the City Council may choose to establish an eligibility list with an applicant(s) of their choice for six months should a vacancy arise after appointments have been made.

The City Clerk's Office proceeds with the recruitment/interview process with the following candidates:

1. Vernon Shure
2. Bekele Galeta
3. Vamsi Gunda*
4. Jorge Haro
5. Ram Iyengar
6. Patrick Kallas
7. Valerie Katz
8. Jonathan Marinaro

*Applied to multiple commissions (Cultural Commission, Historical & Landmarks Commission and Parks & Recreation Commission)

Each candidate meets the requirement of being a resident of the City of Santa Clara and have each submitted proof of residency.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The action being considered does not constitute a “project” within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(a) as it has no potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no additional cost to the City other than administrative staff time and expense.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City’s official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall Council Chambers. A complete agenda packet is available on the City’s website and in the City Clerk’s Office at least 72 hours prior to a Regular Meeting and 24 hours prior to a Special Meeting. A hard copy of any agenda report may be requested by contacting the City Clerk’s Office at (408) 615-2220, email clerk@santaclaraca.gov or at the public information desk at any City of Santa Clara public library.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Appoint two Applicants to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, one to Serve One Partial Term Ending June 30, 2027, and one to Serve One Full Term Ending June 30, 2029; and
2. Establish an Eligibility List for Six Months should a Vacancy Occur

Reviewed by: Nora Pimentel, Assistant City Clerk

Approved by: Jovan D. Grogan, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS

1. Applications
2. Voting Guidelines



Position

Applying for:*

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Personal Information

Name*

Vernon Shure

Are you a resident or Work in City of Santa Clara?*

(Must be a resident or work in City of Santa Clara at time of application)

☒ Yes

☐ No

Address*

Street Address

[REDACTED]

Address Line 2

APT 216

City

Santa Clara

State / Province / Region

CA

Postal / Zip Code

95050-3734

Country

USA

Email*

[REDACTED]

Primary Phone Number*

[REDACTED]

Secondary Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Provide two forms of Proof of Residency in the City of Santa Clara

(Must be a resident or work in the city of santa clara at time of application)

Attachment 1*

Mortgage Bill.pdf

60.69KB

Attachment 2*

Power Bill.pdf

93.11KB

Present Employer*

Self Employed--Independent Consultant

Job Title*

Marketing Consultant

Work Experience

Have you attended a meeting of this Board/Commission/Committee?*

☒ Yes

☐ No

Previous Government Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served

Government Bodies/ Elective Offices

Position/ Office Held:

From Date

To Date

How

OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA
CLERK'S OFFICE
APR 24 AM 6:51

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged:

Civic or Charitable Organizations	Position(s) Held:	From Date	To Date
1			

Special Interests, Hobbies or Talents

I ride my bike over 1,000 miles per year withing the city limits of Santa Clara. I also walk in my neighborhood for exercise.

College, Professional, Vocational Schools Attend

High School, College, Professional, Vocational School	Major Subject	Date
Stanford Univeristy	Economics	6/10/1987

Special awards or recognition received:

Graduated with distinction and Phi Beta Kappa. I also have an MBA from UC Berkeley-Haas School of Business.

Please state reasons why you want to become a member of this Board/Commission/Committee, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this advisory board:

I have a passion for bike and pedestrian safety, as I am often out and about in the city. I have always had an interest in public affairs, that I inherited from my father. I believe in the ability of local government to make a positive difference. My objective would be to promote alternatives to driving, and bicycle and pedestrian safety, with a practical orientation.

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/vernonshure/>

I was an alumni volunteer with the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley (former chapter president for the South Bay). I am a current volunteer with Stanford Alumni (columnist wit the alumni magazine). As a marketer, I am a professional writer.

Are you associated with any Organization/ Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?*

☒ Yes ☒ No

City policy directs all advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?*

☒ Yes ☒ No

Signature*

Vernon Shure

Date

4/23/2025



Position

Applying for:*

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Personal Information

Name*

Bekele Geleta

Are you a resident or Work in City of Santa Clara?*

(Must be a resident or work in City of Santa Clara at time of application)

☒ Yes

☐ No

Address*

Street Address

Address Line 2

City

Santa Clara

State / Province / Region

CA

Postal / Zip Code

95051

Country

USA

Email*

Primary Phone Number*

Secondary Phone Number

Provide two forms of Proof of Residency in the City of Santa Clara

(Must be a resident or work in the city of santa clara at time of application)

Attachment 1*

Driver's License.pdf

420.08KB

Attachment 2*

57d83664-24f3-4d74-a15b-0d13dd1b6411-Copy.pdf

208.79KB

Present Employer*

VTA

Job Title*

Bus operator

Work Experience

Have you attended a meeting of this Board/Commission/Committee?*

☐ Yes

☒ No

Previous Government Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served

Government Bodies/ Elective Offices

Position/ Office Held:

From Date

To Date

row

RECEIVED

APR 25 2025

City Clerk's Office
City of Santa Clara

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged:

Civic or Charitable Organizations	Position(s) Held:	From Date	To Date
None			

1

Special Interests, Hobbies or Talents

College, Professional, Vocational Schools Attend

High School, College, Professional, Vocational School	Major Subject	Date

Special awards or recognition received:

Please state reasons why you want to become a member of this Board/Commission/Committee, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this advisory board:

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

Are you associated with any Organization/ Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?*

☐ Yes

☒ No

City policy directs all advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?*

☒ Yes

☐ No

Signature*



Date

4/25/2025



025 MAR
CITY OF SANTA CLARA
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
PM 3:09

Position

Applying for:*

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Personal Information

Name*

Varnsi Gunda

Are you a resident or Work in City of Santa Clara?*

(Must be a resident or work in City of Santa Clara at time of application)

☒ Yes

☐ No

Address*

Street Address

Address Line 2

B1U202

City

Santa Clara

State / Province / Region

CA

Postal / Zip Code

95050

Country

USA

Email*

Primary Phone Number*

Secondary Phone Number

Provide two forms of Proof of Residency in the City of Santa Clara

(Must be a resident or work in the city of santa clara at time of application)

Attachment 1*

Varnsi Gunda_santa_clara_utility_bill.pdf

80.13KB

Attachment 2*

DriversLicense2024.pdf

80.3KB

Present Employer*

Apple

Job Title*

Software Engineer

Work Experience

Have you attended a meeting of this Board/Commission/Committee?*

☒ Yes

☐ No

Previous Government Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served

Government Bodies/ Elective Offices

Position/ Office Held:

From Date

To Date

How

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged:

Civic or Charitable Organizations	Position(s) Held:	From Date	To Date
Now			

1

Special Interests, Hobbies or Talents

I'm an active biker. So, this is personal to me.

College, Professional, Vocational Schools Attend

High School, College, Professional, Vocational School	Major Subject	Date

Special awards or recognition received:

Please state reasons why you want to become a member of this Board/Commission/Committee, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this advisory board:

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

Are you associated with any Organization/ Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?*

☐ Yes

☒ No

City policy directs all advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?*

☒ Yes

☐ No

Signature*

Vamsi Gundu

Date

3/24/2025



Position

Applying for:*

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Personal Information

Name*

Jorge Haro

Are you a resident or Work in City of Santa Clara?*

(Must be a resident or work in City of Santa Clara at time of application)

☒ Yes

☐ No

Address*

Street Address

[REDACTED]

Address Line 2

City

Santa Clara

State / Province / Region

CA

Postal / Zip Code

95050

Country

USA

Email*

[REDACTED]

Primary Phone Number*

[REDACTED]

Secondary Phone Number

Provide two forms of Proof of Residency in the City of Santa Clara

(Must be a resident or work in the city of santa clara at time of application)

Attachment 1*

residency proof xfinity statement.pdf

141.29KB

Attachment 2*

residency proof att statement.pdf

74.44KB

Present Employer*

ProteinSimple

Job Title*

Engineer

Work Experience

Have you attended a meeting of this Board/Commission/Committee?*

☐ Yes

☒ No

Previous Government Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served

Government Bodies/ Elective Offices

Position/ Office Held:

From Date

To Date

how

RECEIVED

APR 25 2025

City Clerk's Office
City of Santa Clara

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged:

Civic or Charitable Organizations	Position(s) Held:	From Date	To Date
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

1

Special Interests, Hobbies or Talents

College, Professional, Vocational Schools Attend

High School, College, Professional, Vocational School	Major Subject	Date
<input type="text" value="San Jose State University"/>	<input type="text" value="MSME"/>	<input type="text" value="1/1/2005"/>

Special awards or recognition received:

Please state reasons why you want to become a member of this Board/Commission/Committee, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this advisory board:

Interested in safe neighborhoods for walking and bicycling. Have personally observed some accidents in my neighborhood that could have been fatal for pedestrians. Also enjoy riding my bicycle to breakfast.

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

I live in a neighborhood with a lot of older people who walk

Are you associated with any Organization/ Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?*

☐ Yes

☒ No

City policy directs all advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?*

☒ Yes

☐ No

Signature*

Jorge Haro

Date

4/25/2025



Position

Applying for:

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Personal Information

Name

Ram Iyengar

Are you a resident or Work in City of Santa Clara?

(Must be a resident or work in City of Santa Clara at time of application)

☒ Yes

☐ No

Address

Street Address

Address Line 2

City

Santa Clara

State / Province / Region

CA

Postal / Zip Code

95050

Country

USA

Email

Primary Phone Number

Secondary Phone Number

Provide two forms of Proof of Residency in the City of Santa Clara

(Must be a resident or work in the city of santa clara at time of application)

Attachment 1

Ram_NewDriversLicense_Exp2028.pdf

753.3KB

Attachment 2

8350custbill03302025.pdf

345.09KB

Present Employer

Google

Job Title

Senior Engineering Manager

Work Experience

Have you attended a meeting of this Board/Commission/Committee?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Previous Government Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served

Government Bodies/ Elective Offices

Position/ Office Held:

FromDate

To Date

how

CITY OF SANTA CLARA
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
25 APR 17 PM 12:36

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged:

Civic or Charitable Organizations	Position(s) Held:	From Date	To Date
how			

1

Special Interests, Hobbies or Talents

Member of Santa Clara Valley Birding Alliance
Hiker
Trained Mediator

College, Professional, Vocational Schools Attend

High School, College, Professional, Vocational School	Major Subject	Date
University of Mumbai	BS, Electronics & Telecom Engineering	5/1/1996
George Mason University	MS, Electrical Engineering	4/30/2006
Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution	MS, Conflict Resolution	4/30/2009

Special awards or recognition received:

Mahbub Al-Huq Award from Regional Center for Security Studies in SAARC countries for research on the topic of women's role in terrorism in Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Please state reasons why you want to become a member of this Board/Commission/Committee, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this advisory board:

I am interested in joining the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) because I want to apply my professional skills and personal interests to help enhance safety and accessibility for cyclists and pedestrians in Santa Clara. As an avid hiker, I have a firsthand appreciation for the importance of safe and convenient pedestrian facilities and infrastructure.

My background as a Senior Engineering Manager at Google provides strong analytical and problem-solving capabilities relevant to evaluating infrastructure design, safety considerations, and connectivity issues for bike and pedestrian networks. Additionally, my Master's degree in Conflict Resolution and experience as a trained mediator can be valuable in navigating discussions around facility planning, addressing diverse user needs, and finding common ground when advising the City Council.

My specific objectives as a member of the BPAC would be to:

- + Contribute to recommendations that prioritize safe, convenient, and well-designed bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout the city.
- + Utilize my analytical skills to thoroughly review proposals and data related to bike/pedestrian projects and safety initiatives.
- + Support the committee's goal of encouraging recreational and commuter cycling and walking by advocating for user-friendly infrastructure improvements.
- + Help foster constructive dialogue among committee members and stakeholders to develop effective advice for the City Council.

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

Beyond my direct interest in pedestrian and cyclist needs, my professional experience as a Senior Engineering Manager involves leading teams and analyzing complex systems, which I believe is relevant to evaluating infrastructure plans within the broader context of the city's transportation network.

My educational background is somewhat unique, combining technical engineering degrees with a Master's in Conflict Analysis and Resolution. This blend equips me to understand not only the technical aspects of facility design but also the human factors and community dynamics crucial for successful bike and pedestrian initiatives. My informal training as a mediator complements this, offering practical process skills for committee work. My local engagement, such as through the Santa Clara Valley Birding Alliance, also gives me familiarity with various parts of the city from a pedestrian viewpoint.

Are you associated with any Organization/ Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?*

☒ Yes

☐ No

City policy directs all advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?*

☒ Yes

☐ No

Signature*

Ram Gengat

Date

4/17/2025



Position

Applying for:*

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Personal Information

Name*

Patrick Kallas

Are you a resident or Work in City of Santa Clara?*

(Must be a resident or work in City of Santa Clara at time of application)

☒ Yes

☐ No

Address*

Street Address

[REDACTED]

Address Line 2

City

Santa Clara

State / Province / Region

CA

Postal / Zip Code

95050

Country

USA

Email*

[REDACTED]

Primary Phone Number*

[REDACTED]

Secondary Phone Number

Provide two forms of Proof of Residency in the City of Santa Clara

(Must be a resident or work in the city of santa clara at time of application)

Attachment 1*

ATTBill_7918_Apr2025.pdf

226.92KB

Attachment 2*

IMG_20250131_234204077.pdf

656.58KB

Present Employer*

David J Powers and Associates, Inc.

Job Title*

Project Manager

Work Experience

Have you attended a meeting of this Board/Commission/Committee?*

☐ Yes

☒ No

Previous Government Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served

Government Bodies/ Elective Offices

Position/ Office Held:

From Date

To Date

how

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APR 25 2025
City Clerk's Office
City of Santa Clara

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged:

Civic or Charitable Organizations	Position(s) Held:	From Date	To Date
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

1

Special Interests, Hobbies or Talents

Painting (Canvas and Miniatures), Biking, Hiking, Golf, Felting, Swing Dance

College, Professional, Vocational Schools Attend

High School, College, Professional, Vocational School	Major Subject	Date
Crescenta Valley High School	GED	6/6/2012
San Luis Obispo Polytechnic State University	Environmental Management and Protection	6/15/2016

Special awards or recognition received:

Cum Laude

Please state reasons why you want to become a member of this Board/Commission/Committee, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this advisory board:

I am a cyclist in the City of Santa Clara and when I utilize the bicycle infrastructure in the City I frequently think about how I could be better served on my different routes. I also hear from fellow residents who would prefer not to have more bicycle infrastructure and would like an opportunity to advocate for more safe and effective routes throughout the City. I have experience in planning and project management and understand the importance of public participation in this process. My goals if I got onto the commission would be to provide thoughtful consideration to bicycle and pedestrian projects to ensure that the funds allocated to these projects are properly spent. I also want to increase safety for bicyclists in less served portions of the City and improve walkability for major gathering areas. Finally, I would like to find better ways to integrate transit and bicycle/pedestrian options to help incentivize less reliance on cars for City residents.

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

I am an environmental planner with experience in City process and CEQA analysis. I understand the role of an advisory committee and would use this experience to read and review any materials provided to me to form opinions on items brought to the commission.

Are you associated with any Organization/ Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?*

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please name the Organization or Employment.

David J Powers and Associates sometimes prepares environmental compliance documents for the City.

City policy directs all advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?*

☒ Yes ☐ No

Signature*

Patrick Kallas

Date

4/25/2025



Position

Applying for:

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Personal Information

Name

Valerie Katz

Are you a resident or Work in City of Santa Clara?

(Must be a resident or work in City of Santa Clara at time of application)

☒ Yes

☐ No

Address

Street Address

[REDACTED]

Address Line 2

City

Santa Clara

State / Province / Region

CA

Postal / Zip Code

95054

Country

USA

Email

[REDACTED]

Primary Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Secondary Phone Number

Provide two forms of Proof of Residency in the City of Santa Clara

(Must be a resident or work in the city of santa clara at time of application)

Attachment 1

00011874-16 Proof of Residency.pdf

245.46KB

Attachment 2

Valerie Katz_Resume.pdf

66.33KB

Present Employer

NA

Job Title

NA

Work Experience

Have you attended a meeting of this Board/Commission/Committee?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Previous Government Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served

Government Bodies/ Elective Offices

Position/ Office Held:

From Date

To Date

now

RECEIVED
MAR 19 2025
City Clerk's Office
City of Santa Clara

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged:

Civic or Charitable Organizations	Position(s) Held:	From Date	To Date
now			

1

Special Interests, Hobbies or Talents

Traveling and hiking

College, Professional, Vocational Schools Attend

High School, College, Professional, Vocational School	Major Subject	Date
Concordia University	Architecture + Urban Planning	

Special awards or recognition received:

Youth Governor's medal

Please state reasons why you want to become a member of this Board/Commission/Committee, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this advisory board:

I worked for the public transit company in Montreal where I was an ambassador of active transportation. I participated in building bicycle paths.

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

I worked also for the City for about 7 years in the Urban Planning Department.

Are you associated with any Organization/ Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?*

☐ Yes ☒ No

City policy directs all advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?*

☒ Yes ☐ No

Signature*

Valerie Katz

Date

3/19/2025



Position

Applying for:*

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Personal Information

Name*

Jonathan Marinaro

Are you a resident or Work in City of Santa Clara?*

(Must be a resident or work in City of Santa Clara at time of application)

☒ Yes

☐ No

Address*

Street Address

Address Line 2

City

Santa Clara

State / Province / Region

CA

Postal / Zip Code

95050

Country

USA

Email*

Primary Phone Number*

Secondary Phone Number

Provide two forms of Proof of Residency in the City of Santa Clara

(Must be a resident or work in the city of santa clara at time of application)

Attachment 1*

PXL_20250417_214024108.RAW-01.COVER.pdf

9.24MB

Attachment 2*

PXL_20250417_214044992.RAW-01.COVER.pdf

5.59MB

Present Employer*

Celerium, Riptide

Job Title*

Director of Technical Sales (Celerium), Chief Infrastructure Security Officer (Riptide)

Work Experience

Have you attended a meeting of this Board/Commission/Committee?*

☒ Yes

☐ No

Previous Government Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served

Government Bodies/ Elective Offices

Position/ Office Held:

From Date

To Date

Santa Clara Cultural Commission

Commissioner

7/1/2018

Santa Clara Cultural Commission

Chair*

7/1/2024

2

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged:

Civic or Charitable Organizations	Position(s) Held:	From Date	To Date
None			

1

Special Interests, Hobbies or Talents

Bicyclist, Hiker, Transit Advocate, Cellist, Pianist, Amateur Electrician, Electronics Repair, Speaker/Sound Designer, Gamer (Tabletop, Video, Miniatures), Traveller, Opera Season Ticket Holder, Baker

College, Professional, Vocational Schools Attend

High School, College, Professional, Vocational School	Major Subject	Date
Wayzata High School	Network Security, Orchestra, Rugby	6/30/2005
San Jose State University	Journalism, min. Business	6/30/2015

Special awards or recognition received:

Multiple journalism awards, Dean's List, see LinkedIn for more.

Please state reasons why you want to become a member of this Board/Commission/Committee, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this advisory board:

I understand the balance between the need for walkable & bikeable infrastructure and ease of access for automobiles for people to live in today's society and want to bring that knowledge to the BPAC. I have been an active citizen in Santa Clara for fifteen years now and have used every method of transportation available to get around and know the needs of our community as I have felt them myself. In fact, it's a major reason why my wife and I chose to buy a house here, especially in the Old Quad area, as having that ability to go out and just walk the area is important for us, while also having the ease of access with a bike to region-level transportation like CalTrain and VTA.

My objective would be to better facilitate the needs of our community with a focus on making walking and biking easier and more accessible for our city, so that it becomes the preferred option by choice rather than by force.

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

I have been a proponent of walkable and bikeable communities with access to quality regional rail for my entire life and actively use our infrastructure regularly. My experience with the Cultural Commission and Station Area Task Force means I can not just make plans actionable, but work to get buy-in from members of the government and the citizenry so we can better build collaborative policy and make that useable to the City Council.

Are you associated with any Organization/ Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?*

☒ Yes ☒ No

City policy directs all advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?*

☒ Yes ☒ No

Signature*

Jonathan Marinero

Date

4/22/2025

CITY OF SANTA CLARA
VOTING GUIDELINES FOR THE APPOINTMENT
OF APPLICANTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- 1) Council is given a copy of the applications in their weekly packet to review and consider applicant qualifications.
- 2) Council interviews applicant. Interviews are held at a City Council Meeting for the Planning Commission and Civil Service Commission. Interviews are held in a less formal area of City Hall for all other Boards and Commissions.
 - A) Each applicant is given three (3) minutes for an opening statement. The applicant may respond to questions from the Council. The applicant has one (1) minute for a closing statement.
- 3) Council votes for applicants:
 - A) If there are four (4) or fewer applicants the Council will cast one vote each for their desired appointee.
 - B) If there are five (5) or more applicants, the Council will cast one vote each for their two desired appointees. Only one vote per applicant is allowed. A Councilmember may choose to vote for only one applicant but will relinquish the other vote.
- 4) The votes are tallied:
 - A) If there are four (4) or fewer applicants the Clerk will announce the winner.
 - i. If there is a tie, there will be 3 re-votes for the Council to reconsider the applicants. The Council has the opportunity to deliberate between each round of re-voting.
 - ii. If there is still a tie and there is not a full Council present, the Council will defer the decision until a full Council is present, and re-interview the top two applicants.
 - iii. If there is a full Council present, the Members will draw straws, with the person drawing the long straw abstaining from voting at the next round. The Council has the opportunity to deliberate.
 - iv. The Council votes, with the applicant receiving the highest number of votes being the winner. The City Clerk will announce the winner.
 - B) If there are five (5) or more applicants, the Clerk will announce the two applicants who received the highest number of votes. The Council then has an opportunity to deliberate regarding the remaining two applicants.

The Council will then cast one vote each for their desired appointee. The City Clerk will announce the winner.

- i. If there is a tie, there will be 3 re-votes for the Council to reconsider the applicants. The Council has the opportunity to deliberate between each round of re-voting.
 - ii. If there is still a tie and there is not a full Council present, the Council will defer the decision until a full Council is present, and re-interview the top two applicants.
 - iii. If there is a full Council present, the Members will draw straws, with the person drawing the long straw abstaining from voting at the next round. The Council has the opportunity to deliberate.
 - iv. The Council votes, with the applicant receiving the highest number of votes being the winner. The City Clerk will announce the winner.
- 5) A Council Member makes a motion to appoint the applicant that received the highest number of votes. The Council has the opportunity to vote unanimously to appoint the applicant using the Council Chambers electronic voting equipment.



Agenda Report

25-632

Agenda Date: 6/3/2025

REPORT TO COUNCIL

SUBJECT

Action to Conduct Applicant Interviews and Appoint Two Applicants to the Cultural Commission to Serve One Partial Term Ending June 30, 2028, and One Full Term Ending June 30, 2029

BACKGROUND

At the March 11, 2025, City Council meeting, Council declared two vacancies on the Cultural Commission for one partial term ending June 30, 2028, and one full term ending June 20, 2029.

Advertising of the vacancy was done via the City's website, and social media outlets. The City Clerk's Office also emailed vacancy notification to all parties listed on the email vacancy interest list.

DISCUSSION

The City Clerk's Office held a recruitment for six weeks and received six (6) applications by the March 25, 2025, 5:00 p.m. application deadline.

A past practice has been that upon appointment to fill a vacancy, the City Council may choose to establish an eligibility list with an applicant(s) of their choice for six months should a vacancy arise.

The City Clerk's Office proceeds with the recruitment/interview process with the following candidates:

1. Kuku Das
2. Vamsi Gunda*
3. Aisha Othman**
4. Charles Pontious
5. Esther Rubin

*Has applied to multiple Commissions (BPAC, Historical & Landmarks Commission and Parks & Recreation Commission)

**Has applied to Historical & Landmarks Commission

Each candidate meets the requirement of being a resident of the City of Santa Clara and have submitted proof of residency.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The action being considered does not constitute a "project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(a) as it has no potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no additional cost to the City other than administrative staff time and expense.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall Council Chambers. A complete agenda packet is available on the City's website and in the City Clerk's Office at least 72 hours prior to a Regular Meeting and 24 hours prior to a Special Meeting. A hard copy of any agenda report may be requested by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (408) 615-2220, email clerk@santaclaraca.gov or at the public information desk at any City of Santa Clara public library.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Appoint two Applicants to the Cultural Commission, one to Serve One Partial Term Ending June 30, 2028, and one to Serve One Full Term Ending June 30, 2029; and
2. Establish an Eligibility List for Six Months should a Vacancy Occur

Reviewed by: Nora Pimentel, Assistant City Clerk

Approved by: Jovan D. Grogan, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS

1. Applications
2. Voting Guidelines



**City of
Santa Clara**
The Center of What's Possible

Application for Cultural Commission, Historical & Landmark Commission and Senior Advisory

Commission

Position

Board/Commission/Committee Applying For*

Cultural Commission

Personal Information

Name*

Kuku Das

Are you a resident of the City of Santa Clara?*

(Must be a resident of the city of santa clara at time of application)

☒ Yes

☐ No

Address*

Street Address

Address Line 2

City

Santa Clara

State / Province / Region

CA

Postal / Zip Code

95054

Country

USA

Provide two forms of Proof of Residency in the City of Santa Clara

Attachment 1*

KDDoc1.pdf

233.64KB

Attachment 2*

KDdoc2nd.pdf

302.14KB

Email*

Primary Phone Number*

Secondary Phone Number

Additional Information

Have you attended a meeting of this Board/ Commission/ Committee?*

Yes

Work Experience

Present Employer*

Self employed

Job Title*

CEO

RECEIVED

APR 25 2025

City Clerk's Office
City of Santa Clara

Previous Government Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served

Government	Position/ Office Held:	Date

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged

Civic or Charitable Organization	Position Held	From Date	To Date
The Odisha Society of the Americas	President	7/4/2019	7/4/2021
IGURUKUL FOUNDATION	President	8/12/2011	7/3/2019
Toastmasters Internationals Santa Clara Sweet Talkers	President	6/28/2023	4/25/2025

High School, College, Professional, Vocational Schools attended

High School, College, Professional, Vocational School	Major Subject	Degree Dates / Anticipated Graduation
Utkal University, Odisha, India	English literature, Political Science	6/20/1990

Special awards or recognition received

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kuku-das-14a06223?trk=contact-info>

Reasons

Please state reasons why you want to become a member of this Commission, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this advisory board:

I've been living in the bay area for over 34 years including living in the beautiful city of Santa Clara for over 25 years. I'm involved in many organizations that work towards supporting community, arts and culture. My goal will be to promote cultural diversity, foster community engagement by bringing community together through cultural events, festivals and initiatives. I'd like to use my experience to make a positive impact on the community by promoting arts, culture and inclusivity.

Additional Information

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

KUKU DAS

Santa Clara, CA [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Ms. Kuku Das has been a successful entrepreneur, community leader and cultural ambassador of Odisha, India not only in the Bay Area, California, but for much of the U.S. for more than three decades. Additionally, she is the creative brain behind establishing the organization "International Gurukul (iGurukul) which is known as the center for excellence in learning and human development. She has been instrumental in propagating Odia language (Co-founded Chala Ame Odia Sikhiba/ Let's Learn Odia), drama, and culture in Bay Area California. She has developed a curriculum for the Odia Language class at iGurukul which helps teach Odia in an interesting way for both adults and children. She has written, directed and acted in numerous plays for kids and adults. She also excels as a costume and set designer with her creative ideas and immense knowledge about Odia culture and history. She is not only an active member of the Bay Area Odia community but also a commendable contributor to the Odisha Society of Americas. She has served twice as the cultural chair at OSA Annual Conventions, Convener of 2010 OSA Convention (San Francisco), Vice President of OSA, and President of OSA(2019-2021). She was instrumental in leading "Let's Learn Odia movement at the OSA national level and with her advocacy OSA has introduced the Odia Vocabulary and Speech contest during both the annual convention and chapter level events. She's the producer of the Odia radio program for the first time in California known as 'Aame Odia' which has been airing since 2018.
She has more than 25 years of combined experience in public, private, and non-profit organizations in the areas of teaching, leadership, community building, event management, and fundraising. She has received several awards including the OSA Service Leadership Award (2010 & 2014), Odisha Living Legend Award, Amari Bhasa Pathe Samman, Lions Club International Entrepreneur Award, Kalashree Award, OSA, USA 2018 (for promoting Odia language and culture in a foreign diaspora) Shrestha Odiani 2019, Mahaka Mo Matira Samman, Aarya Award 2022, OSA Community Leadership Award in the year 2022, and OSA's highest honor Distinguished Odia Award, OSA, USA in 2023.
She has served as the president of OSA, The Odisha Society Of The Americas from 2019-21. She was the convener and successfully hosted The Global Odia Mahotsav, a two days online event in December 2020, where Odias from around forty countries united to celebrate Odisha. Global Odia Mahotsav 2020 was a commemoration of Odias around the world to celebrate the rich culture, heritage and develop synergy to build Brand Odisha. This two-days event had various seminars, cultural functions with participation of eminent Odia personalities.
Currently, she is serving as the CEO of iGurukul Inc. USA.
*The unhindered mission iGurukul has always been to enhance inner potential, synergy, empowerment, creativity, and above all else, foster personal excellence among children, youth and families. iGurukul works as a finishing school with a special focus on developing emotional, social and spiritual quotients. Synergy and Empowerment is her mantra.
She's also a member of Association of Indo Americans and a part of the cultural team.

Conflict of Interests

Are you associated with any Organization/Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

No

Abstaining from Votes

City policy directs all advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes

Signature and Acknowledgement

Signature

By clicking submit you are confirming that you are the person listed in this application, and that all information provided is truthful and correct. All information provided will be public information.

Kuku Das

Date

4/25/2025



Position

Board/Commission/Committee Applying For*

Cultural Commission

Personal Information

Name*

Anurag Dixit

Are you a resident of the City of Santa Clara?*

(Must be a resident of the city of santa clara at time of application)

☒ Yes

☐ No

Address*

Street Address

[REDACTED]

Address Line 2

City

Santa Clara

State / Province / Region

CA

Postal / Zip Code

95050

Country

USA

Provide two forms of Proof of Residency in the City of Santa Clara

Attachment 1*

AnuragD_DL_2025.pdf

191.12KB

Attachment 2*

20250108-statements-4733_ChaseMorth_2203Rosita.pdf

209.31KB

Email*

[REDACTED]

Primary Phone Number*

[REDACTED]

Secondary Phone Number

Additional Information

Have you attended a meeting of this Board/ Commission/ Committee?*

No

Work Experience

Present Employer*

Triple Crown (Apple)

Job Title*

Engineer

RECEIVED
APR 25 2025
City Clerk's Office
City of Santa Clara

Previous Government Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served

Government

Position/ Office Held:

Date

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged

Civic or Charitable Organization

Position Held

From Date

To Date

High School, College, Professional, Vocational Schools attended

High School, College, Professional, Vocational School

Major Subject

Degree Dates /
Anticipated Graduation

Special awards or recognition received

Reasons

Please state reasons why you want to become a member of this Commission, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this advisory board:

Travel interests and experience gave me a better perspective of life.
Willing to contribute and enhance CoSC Cultural charter - both from national and global perspective.

Additional Information

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

Conflict of Interests

Are you associated with any Organization/Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

No

Abstaining from Votes

City policy directs all advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes

Signature and Acknowledgement

Signature

By clicking submit you are confirming that you are the person listed in this application, and that all information provided is truthful and correct. All information provided will be public information.



Date

4/25/2025



CITY OF SANTA CLARA
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2025 MAR 24 PM 3:09

Position

Board/Commission/Committee Applying For*

Cultural Commission

Personal Information

Name*

Vamsi Gunda

Are you a resident of the City of Santa Clara?*

(Must be a resident of the city of santa clara at time of application)

☒ Yes

☐ No

Address*

Street Address

[REDACTED]

Address Line 2

[REDACTED]

City

Santa Clara

State / Province / Region

CA

Postal / Zip Code

95050

Country

USA

Provide two forms of Proof of Residency in the City of Santa Clara

Attachment 1*

DriversLicense2024.pdf

80.3KB

Attachment 2*

Vamsi_Gunda_santa_clara_utility_bill.pdf

80.13KB

Email*

[REDACTED]

Primary Phone Number*

[REDACTED]

Secondary Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Additional Information

Have you attended a meeting of this Board/ Commission/ Committee?*

No

Work Experience

Present Employer*

Apple

Job Title*

Software Engineer

Previous Government Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served

Government	Position/ Office Held:	Date
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged

Civic or Charitable Organization	Position Held	From Date	To Date
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

High School, College, Professional, Vocational Schools attended

High School, College, Professional, Vocational School	Major Subject	Degree Dates / Anticipated Graduation
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Special awards or recognition received

Reasons

Please state reasons why you want to become a member of this Commission, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this advisory board:

Additional Information

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

Conflict of Interests

Are you associated with any Organization/Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

Abstaining from Votes

City policy directs all advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Signature and Acknowledgement

Signature

By clicking submit you are confirming that you are the person listed in this application, and that all information provided is truthful and correct. All information provided will be public information.

Vanshi Gunda

Date



**City of
Santa Clara**
The Center of What's Possible

Application for Cultural Commission, Historical & Landmark Commission and Senior Advisory

Commission

RECEIVED

MAR 20 2023

City Clerk's Office
City of Santa Clara

Position

Board/Commission/Committee Applying For*

Cultural Commission

Personal Information

Name*

Aisha Othman

Are you a resident of the City of Santa Clara?*

(Must be a resident of the city of santa clara at time of application)

☒ Yes

☐ No

Address*

Street Address

Address Line 2

Apt 220

City

Santa Clara

State / Province / Region

CA

Postal / Zip Code

95050

Country

USA

Provide two forms of Proof of Residency in the City of Santa Clara

Attachment 1*

aisha drivers license.pdf

108.01KB

Attachment 2*

powerbill.pdf

94.86KB

Email*

Primary Phone Number*

Secondary Phone Number

Additional Information

Have you attended a meeting of this Board/ Commission/ Committee?*

No

Work Experience

Present Employer*

Self-Employed

Job Title*

Attorney

Previous Government Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served

Government	Position/ Office Held:	Date

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged

Civic or Charitable Organization	Position Held	From Date	To Date

High School, College, Professional, Vocational Schools attended

High School, College, Professional, Vocational School	Major Subject	Degree Dates / Anticipated Graduation
Lincoln Law School, San Jose, CA	Juris Doctor	5/31/1997
Indiana University, Bloomington, IN	B.A Computer Science	5/31/1981

Special awards or recognition received

Certification/License in the 10 canonical ways of Quran recitation, and Arabic Calligraphy Recognition for participating in bi-annual International Arts Exhibitions in Cairo, Egypt between 2018-2021

Reasons

Please state reasons why you want to become a member of this Commission, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this advisory board:

I am deeply passionate about cultural preservation, diversity, and cross-cultural exchange, and I believe that serving as a Commissioner on the Cultural Commission will allow me to contribute meaningfully to fostering a more inclusive and vibrant cultural landscape. As someone of Chinese and Malaysian heritage who has traveled extensively around the world, I have gained a global perspective on how cultures shape communities, inspire creativity, and promote mutual understanding.

My objective as a member of this advisory board would be to:

1. Promote Cultural Diversity and Representation – Advocate for programming and initiatives that highlight the rich cultural traditions of diverse communities, ensuring that all voices and heritage are represented.
2. Strengthen Cross-Cultural Engagement – Encourage cultural exchanges, collaborations, and events that bring different communities together, fostering deeper appreciation and understanding.
3. Support Arts and Cultural Programs – Work toward expanding opportunities for artists, performers, and cultural practitioners to showcase their work, ensuring accessibility to cultural resources for all.
4. Preserve and Celebrate Heritage – Support efforts to document, preserve, and educate the public about cultural traditions, ensuring that future generations can connect with their roots.
5. Enhance Global Connections – Leverage my international experiences to bring global cultural perspectives into local initiatives, making the community a hub for diverse cultural interactions.

Through my background and experiences, I hope to bring a fresh, globally informed perspective to the commission while honoring the traditions and stories that make our community unique. I am eager to contribute my knowledge, experience, and passion for cultural advocacy to help shape policies and initiatives that celebrate diversity, foster unity, and enrich the cultural fabric of our society.

Additional Information

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

Conflict of Interests

Are you associated with any Organization/Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

No

Abstaining from Votes

City policy directs all advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes

Signature and Acknowledgement

Signature

By clicking submit you are confirming that you are the person listed in this application, and that all information provided is truthful and correct. All information provided will be public information.

Aisha Othman

Date

3/20/2025



Position

Board/Commission/Committee Applying For*

Cultural Commission

Personal Information

Name*

Charles Pontious

Are you a resident of the City of Santa Clara?*

(Must be a resident of the city of santa clara at time of application)

☒ Yes

☐ No

Address*

Street Address

[REDACTED]

Address Line 2

City

Santa Clara

State / Province / Region

CA

Postal / Zip Code

95050-5200

Country

USA

Provide two forms of Proof of Residency in the City of Santa Clara

Attachment 1*

utility bill.pdf

491.75KB

Attachment 2*

Charles CA Drivers License.pdf

118.15KB

Email*

[REDACTED]

Primary Phone Number*

[REDACTED]

Secondary Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Additional Information

Have you attended a meeting of this Board/ Commission/ Committee?*

Yes

Work Experience

Present Employer*

Guitar Center

Job Title*

Guitar Instructor (part time)

CITY OF SANTA CLARA
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
15 APR 22 AM 6:56

Previous Government Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served

Government	Position/ Office Held:	Date
Santa Clara County - June 2009 to December 2020	Behavioral Health Board, Vice Chair	12/1/2020

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged

Civic or Charitable Organization	Position Held	From Date	To Date
South Bay Guitar Society (a nonprofit allied with the Arts Council) Old Quad Residents Association	SBGS - Member of Community Engagement Team	1/1/2020	4/21/2025

High School, College, Professional, Vocational Schools attended

High School, College, Professional, Vocational School	Major Subject	Degree Dates / Anticipated Graduation
California State University, Sacramento	Applied Music, Classical Guitar	6/15/1981

Special awards or recognition received

Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Community Hero, 2021
District 5 Holiday Decoration 1st place winner, 2024

Reasons

Please state reasons why you want to become a member of this Commission, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this advisory board:

I am now retired and I would like to contribute to my community. I have a strong interest in the arts, especially music, painting and sculpture. I have a hobby of studying languages and am interested in the peoples and cultures of various countries. I have traveled to many countries and have dual citizenship in Italy.
I would like to explore with the City Council removing restrictions which make live music impractical for bars and restaurants in the City.

Additional Information

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

I regularly perform and my clients include 4 Senior Living Facilities. I would like to see more concerts and programs at our Senior Center for the benefit of our community possibly connecting with other cultural organizations such as the SBGS to help organize.
I have attended Dancing in the Streets most years since it's inception.
I currently study Italian, Spanish, Mandarin, Vietnamese, French, and German. I have studied Japanese in the past.

Conflict of Interests

Are you associated with any Organization/Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

No

Abstaining from Votes

City policy directs all advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes

Signature and Acknowledgement

Signature

By clicking submit you are confirming that you are the person listed in this application, and that all information provided is truthful and correct. All information provided will be public information.

Charles Pontious

Date

4/21/2025



Position

Board/Commission/Committee Applying For*

Cultural Commission

Personal Information

Name*

Esther Rubin

Are you a resident of the City of Santa Clara?*

(Must be a resident of the city of santa clara at time of application)

☒ Yes

☐ No

Address*

Street Address

[REDACTED]

Address Line 2

City

Santa Clara

State / Province / Region

CA

Postal / Zip Code

95054

Country

USA

Provide two forms of Proof of Residency in the City of Santa Clara

Attachment 1*

Esther R_Proof of Residence 1.pdf

292.06KB

Attachment 2*

Esther R_Proof of Residence 2.pdf

168.24KB

Email*

[REDACTED]

Primary Phone Number*

[REDACTED]

Secondary Phone Number

Additional Information

Have you attended a meeting of this Board/ Commission/ Committee?*

No

Work Experience

Present Employer*

Worldshakers International LLC

Job Title*

CEO and Founder

RECEIVED

APR 25 2025

City Clerk's Office
City of Santa Clara

Previous Government Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served

Government

Position/ Office Held:

Date

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged

Civic or Charitable Organization

Position Held

From Date

To Date

High School, College, Professional, Vocational Schools attended

High School, College, Professional, Vocational School

Major Subject

Degree Dates /
Anticipated Graduation

PhD

Intercultural Communication

4/13/2016

Special awards or recognition received

I have received many scholarships while pursuing higher education. I was one of the very few PhD students who received the Vice-Chancellor's commendation at Macquarie University, Australia.

Reasons

Please state reasons why you want to become a member of this Commission, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this advisory board:

I have spent many years studying languages and cultures and hold a Ph.D. in International Studies. My research project is primarily in linguistics, & intercultural communication. I'm an immigrant and have lived in different places and traveled extensively. I also hold 3 master's degrees (cross-cultural communication, linguistics, & MBA). I thought I should give this opportunity a shot as I'm interested in both learning from the community and contributing my insights, ideas and advice to foster multiculturalism and multilingualism which is in line with the diversity in ethnicities, languages and cultures we see in Santa Clara.

Additional Information

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

I have spent many years studying languages and cultures and hold a Ph.D. in International Studies. My research project is primarily in linguistics, & intercultural communication. I'm an immigrant and have lived in different places and traveled extensively. I also hold 3 master's degrees (cross-cultural communication, linguistics, & MBA) and a Bachelor of Arts in English. I thought I should give this opportunity a shot as I'm interested in both learning from the community and contributing my insights, ideas and advice to foster multiculturalism and multilingualism which is in line with the diversity in ethnicities, languages and cultures we see in Santa Clara.

Conflict of Interests

Are you associated with any Organization/Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

No

Abstaining from Votes

City policy directs all advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes

Signature and Acknowledgement

Signature

By clicking submit you are confirming that you are the person listed in this application, and that all information provided is truthful and correct. All information provided will be public information.

Esther Rubin

Date

4/25/2025

CITY OF SANTA CLARA
VOTING GUIDELINES FOR THE APPOINTMENT
OF APPLICANTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- 1) Council is given a copy of the applications in their weekly packet to review and consider applicant qualifications.
- 2) Council interviews applicant. Interviews are held at a City Council Meeting for the Planning Commission and Civil Service Commission. Interviews are held in a less formal area of City Hall for all other Boards and Commissions.
 - A) Each applicant is given three (3) minutes for an opening statement. The applicant may respond to questions from the Council. The applicant has one (1) minute for a closing statement.
- 3) Council votes for applicants:
 - A) If there are four (4) or fewer applicants the Council will cast one vote each for their desired appointee.
 - B) If there are five (5) or more applicants, the Council will cast one vote each for their two desired appointees. Only one vote per applicant is allowed. A Councilmember may choose to vote for only one applicant but will relinquish the other vote.
- 4) The votes are tallied:
 - A) If there are four (4) or fewer applicants the Clerk will announce the winner.
 - i. If there is a tie, there will be 3 re-votes for the Council to reconsider the applicants. The Council has the opportunity to deliberate between each round of re-voting.
 - ii. If there is still a tie and there is not a full Council present, the Council will defer the decision until a full Council is present, and re-interview the top two applicants.
 - iii. If there is a full Council present, the Members will draw straws, with the person drawing the long straw abstaining from voting at the next round. The Council has the opportunity to deliberate.
 - iv. The Council votes, with the applicant receiving the highest number of votes being the winner. The City Clerk will announce the winner.
 - B) If there are five (5) or more applicants, the Clerk will announce the two applicants who received the highest number of votes. The Council then has an opportunity to deliberate regarding the remaining two applicants.

The Council will then cast one vote each for their desired appointee. The City Clerk will announce the winner.

- i. If there is a tie, there will be 3 re-votes for the Council to reconsider the applicants. The Council has the opportunity to deliberate between each round of re-voting.
 - ii. If there is still a tie and there is not a full Council present, the Council will defer the decision until a full Council is present, and re-interview the top two applicants.
 - iii. If there is a full Council present, the Members will draw straws, with the person drawing the long straw abstaining from voting at the next round. The Council has the opportunity to deliberate.
 - iv. The Council votes, with the applicant receiving the highest number of votes being the winner. The City Clerk will announce the winner.
- 5) A Council Member makes a motion to appoint the applicant that received the highest number of votes. The Council has the opportunity to vote unanimously to appoint the applicant using the Council Chambers electronic voting equipment.