



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 2
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Memorandum

TO: Policy Advisory Council Equity & Access Subcommittee DATE: March 8, 2018
FR: Catalina Alvarado, Acting Staff Liaison WI: 1114
RE: Elections for 2018-2019 Policy Advisory Council Equity & Access Subcommittee Chair and Vice Chair

At your March 14, 2018 meeting, we will begin with election of a chair and vice chair for the 2018-2019 term. Following is the most recent list of nominees:

Nominees for Chair: Jim Blacksten
 Veda Florez

Nominees for Vice Chair: Daniel Saver




As a reminder of the candidates' backgrounds, a copy of their biographies is attached. Should you have further nominations, please do not hesitate to contact Martha Silver at MSilver@bayareametro.gov.

Nominations will close at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 13, 2018. Additional nominees will be accepted at the beginning of the March 14, 2018 meeting and will be considered a write-in.

Attachment:

- Attachment A: Biographies of the candidates'

Biographies of the Policy Advisory Council Equity and Access Subcommittee Candidates'

Nominees for Chair	
<p>Jim Blacksten is an active member of the California Council of the Blind (San Francisco chapter, as secretary and program chair), Golden State Guide Dog Handlers, Inc., and the National Federation of the Blind (San Francisco chapter). He was recently appointed by Mayor Ed Lee to serve on the San Francisco Mayor's Disability Council, and is one of the co-chairs of the council. He also has served as the MTC Policy Advisory Council Equity and Access Subcommittee chair. He is a braille reader, and is a strong advocate of its use by blind children and adults. Mr. Blacksten also is a proficient user of computers and adaptive technology and has spent 30 years in public communication, program coordination and implementation. He is a two-time graduate of Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB), with Madera as his second guide dog, and is a member of the GDB Speakers Bureau. Mr. Blacksten is also involved with and connected to the San Francisco Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and he serves as a lector at St. Patrick's Church in San Francisco.</p>	 <p>Jim E. Blacksten Representing the Disabled Community of San Francisco</p>
<p>Veda Florez is a communications consultant for the Marin County Elections Department, who works with underserved communities to inform and instruct them on how to register to vote and vote. She is heavily involved in the Marin community, regularly participating in the Marin Economic Summit, the Environmental Forum, and other events, and working with Shore-up Marin, Sustainable Novato, Impact Novato, the Marin Center for Independent Living, and the Marin Conservation League. Ms. Florez has volunteered for the Red Cross, does communications outreach for the League of Women Voters, is on the Novato Multicultural Commission, and is a member of Marin Latino leaders, among other organizations.</p>	 <p>Veda Florez Representing the Minority Community of Marin County</p>
Nominees for Vice Chair	
<p>Daniel Saver is a Senior Attorney for a nonprofit law firm that provides free legal services to low-income communities and communities of color in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. He has experience with landlord-tenant law, land-use law and policy, and the environmental review process under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). He has represented hundreds of low-income clients across the full range of housing issues including evictions, rent increases, habitability problems, discrimination and harassment. Mr. Saver is a member of San Mateo County's "Home for All" Steering Council and a member of their Legislation and Policy Committee, and was a member of San Mateo County's Blue Ribbon "Closing the Jobs-Housing Gap" 2015-2016 Task Force.</p>	 <p>Daniel Saver Representing the Low-Income Community of San Mateo County</p>