

Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council Equity & Access Subcommittee

March 11, 2020

Agenda Item 2

Elections for 2020-2021 Policy Advisory Council Equity & Access Subcommittee
Chair and Vice Chair

Subject: Elections for 2020-2021 Policy Advisory Council Equity & Access Subcommittee Chair and Vice Chair.

Background: At your March 11, 2020 meeting, we will begin with election of a chair and vice chair for the 2020-2021 term. Following is the most recent list of nominees:

Nominees for Chair:	Jim E. Blacksten Veda Florez
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Nominees for Vice Chair:	Anne Olivia Eldred Veda Florez
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As a reminder of the candidates' backgrounds, a copy of the biographies of the Policy Advisory Council is attached. Should you have further nominations, please do not hesitate to contact Marti Paschal at mpaschal@bayareametro.gov and Martha Silver at MSilver@bayareametro.gov.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the beginning of the March 11, 2020 meeting. The Chair and Vice Chair positions are two-year terms (effective upon election) ending December 2021.

Issues: None identified.

Recommendation: Approval

Attachments: Attachment A: Biographies of the Policy Advisory Council Equity & Access Subcommittee Candidates'

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

Nominees for Chair:

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.



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.



Nominees for Vice-Chair

Anne Olivia Eldred is a community organizer with the California Nurses Association/ National Nurses United and is a delegate to the Alameda County Central Labor Council, where she is a member of the Climate & Environmental Justice Caucus. She also holds the Labor Union/Public Health seat on the Community Advisory Committee of East Bay Community Energy, a local electricity supplier in Alameda County.



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