



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO


TODD GLORIA

MAYOR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 12, 2023

TO: Honorable Council President Sean Elo-Rivera
Honorable Councilmembers

FROM: Mayor Todd Gloria 

SUBJECT: Appointments and Reappointments to the International Affairs Board

I am appointing Hampton Brown, Aron Davidson, Benjamin Eastman, Dr. Luc Lenain, Dr. Shahrzad Kamyab and Suzanne Svahn. I am also reappointing Mary Abad, Richard Bainter, Paul Marttila, Joel Valenzuela, Dennis Michael-Broussard and Miri Ketayi to this Board.

Mr. Brown is the Vice President/Chief Revenue Officer of the San Diego Regional Airport Authority where he oversees the Revenue Generation, Business Intelligence Marketing, Arts and Air Service Development functions of the Airport Authority. Prior to joining the Airport Authority, Mr. Brown was in private sector aviation consulting and project logistics planning for the telecommunications industry. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Allegheny College and a master's degree from the University of Maryland. He is being appointed to a two-year term ending March 1, 2025 in the Community Member seat.

Mr. Davidson is the Director for San Diego and Imperial with the United States Department of Commerce, U.S. Commercial Service (USCS) where he leads a team of professionals who support regional businesses by delivering a comprehensive array of export programs and services. Prior to this role, he served as the Commercial Service's Global Team Leader for Travel and Tourism. Mr. Davidson has a master's degree in international Trade Policy from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey and a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Spanish from the University of California, Davis. He is being appointed to a two-year term ending March 1, 2025 in the Community Member seat.

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Mr. Eastman is the Senior Director of Tourism Development of the San Diego Tourism Authority where he oversees the organization's efforts to promote San Diego to tourism partners as a top destination for leisure travelers – with a particular emphasis on international visitors. Prior to joining the SDTA, Eastman was the Internet and In-Market Corporate Sales Manager at the San Diego Zoological Society, where he drove sales to the two parks via internet and local corporate sales. Mr. Eastman is a graduate of the University of California, San Diego where he received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. He is being appointed to a two-year term ending March 1, 2024 in the Community Member seat.

Dr. Lenain is an associate Research Scientist and the director of the Air-Sea Interaction Laboratory at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego. His research focuses on topics ranging from physics, fluid mechanics, remote sensing, marine robotics and autonomous vehicles, numerical modelling, air-sea interaction, surface wave dynamics, atmospheric and oceanographic research, scientific instrumentation development, coastal geomorphology, climate change impact and adaptation. He is being appointed to a two-year term ending March 1, 2024 in the Community Member seat.

Dr. Kamyab is the president of the San Diego-Tijuana Sister City Society within the San Diego International Sister City Association. For nearly 40 years she has served as an international educator in higher learning. She is a published author, having published articles and book chapters in the areas of youth unemployment in the Middle East and North Africa, the Syrian refugee's higher education crisis and the internationalization of higher education. Dr. Kamyab holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics from Pahlavi University, Shiraz, Iran, a Master of Arts in Teaching from Oklahoma City University, and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Florida State University. She is being appointed to a two-year term ending March 1, 2024 in the Community Member seat.

Ms. Svahn is a licensed realtor, the president of the Swedish American Chamber of Commerce, a board member at the House of Sweden, and a Member of SWEA Swedish Women Education Association. She is a graduate of San Diego State University where she studied marketing. She is being appointed to a two-year term ending March 1, 2025 in the Civic Organization seat.

Ms. Abad has spent almost 18 years in banking and international development working for leading global banks and multilaterals. Currently, she is a

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Relationship Manager serving middle market companies and non-profits based in San Diego with BBVA, a banking group with a presence in 30+ countries. Prior to BBVA she was an Investment Officer for the Asian Development Bank (ADB), leading private sector investments and providing post-funding support for projects across developing Asia aimed at fighting poverty. She has degrees from Stanford, Columbia Business School and Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. She is being reappointed to a two-year term ending March 1, 2025 in the Community Member seat.

Mr. Bainter provides legal representation to international organizations, nonprofits and small businesses. He has served as legal counsel to the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia since 2007 and has advised several other international organizations on matters related to their internal administration, diplomatic and organizational immunities and their external relations with governments and other entities. He has been involved in a number of projects to promote democratic governance and the rule of law in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Bosnia, Kosovo, Lithuania, Poland, Russia South Sudan and Vietnam. Mr. Bainter also represents businesses and nonprofits in California, particularly those with international dealings, on matters related to their governance, business operations and transactions. He received his law degree from the University of Denver College of Law. He is being reappointed to a two-year term ending March 1, 2025 in the Community Member seat.

Mr. Marttila is the vice president of Global Business Development where he leads all international business and corporate initiatives. Prior to this role, he served as president of Business Location Dynamics LLC where he advised corporate clients on international investment and trade issues. Mr. Marttila received his Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Government from Franklin and Marshall College and a master's in international business from Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce from the University of Kentucky. He is being reappointed to a two-year term ending March 1, 2025 in the Community Member seat.

Mr. Valenzuela is an experienced leader in global trade and international business development, with over 20 years of global maritime industry background, involving all facets of commercial and operational areas, and a strong educational foundation in business management, public administration, finance, economics and public policy. He currently serves as the Director of Maritime at the Port of San Diego. He holds a bachelor's degree in Management Science/Economics from the University of California,

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San Diego, a master's degree in Public Administration and a master's degree in Business Administration from San Diego State University. He is being reappointed to a two-year term ending March 1, 2025 in the Civic Organization seat.

Mr. Michael-Broussard is a consultant, event producer, entrepreneur, and humanitarian. He serves on many nonprofit boards and committees, such as the USS Midway Museum's Diversity and Inclusion Committee; the Japanese Friendship Garden's Cultural and Diversity Committee; the Philippine Honorary Consulate of San Diego Board of Advisors; the San Diego International Sister Cities Association Board of Directors; the San Diego World Affairs Council as Marketing Chair; the KPBS Producers Club Committee; the President of the House of France; as a board member of the Asian Culture & Media Alliance Board of Directors; a board member of the United Nations Association of San Diego; a volunteer with Pacific Rim Park; 2nd Vice President of the House of Pacific Relations; and has been heavily involved on the regional and national level with the National Association of Asian American Professionals. Mr. Michael-Broussard earned a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from the University of New Orleans, an International Master of Business from the University of San Diego and a Master of International Affairs from the University of California, San Diego. He is being reappointed to a two-year term ending March 1, 2025 in the Civic Organization seat.

Ms. Ketayi is the Director of Israel & Overseas of the Jewish Federation of San Diego County. Prior to taking on this role, she served as the Director of Israel and International Education programs at the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles. Born in Russia, Ms. Ketayi grew up in Israel and moved to Palm Desert, CA, where she served as the Director of Education at Temple Sinai and as a Jewish day school principal. She holds a Bachelor of Art in history from Tel Aviv University, a master's in Education from the American Jewish University, and a master's in Public Administration from the California State University, Northridge. She is being reappointed to a two-year term ending March 1, 2025 in the Civic Organization seat.

I thank them all for their willingness to serve and continue serving in this capacity.

MTG:cwd

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cc: Honorable Mara Elliott, City Attorney
Diana Fuentes, City Clerk
Charles Modica, Independent Budget Analyst