



**OFFICE OF MAYOR JERRY SANDERS  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO**

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE** : August 18, 2008

**TO** : Council President Scott Peters & Honorable Members of the  
San Diego City Council

**FROM** : Mayor Jerry Sanders

**SUBJECT** : Appointments to the Southeastern Economic Development  
Corporation Board of Directors

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It is my pleasure to appoint Gina Champion-Cain, Vernon Evans, Richard Lawrence, and Simon Wong to the Southeastern Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors, subject to your confirmation.

Gina Champion-Cain, CPM, is the President & CEO of American National Investments (ANI), a real estate services entity providing acquisition, development, rehabilitation, management, leasing, and sales services. In addition, ANI specializes in the development and integration of mixed-use, leisure, and lifestyle environments with invigorating urban locations. Ms. Champion-Cain has successfully provided strategic direction for ANI since 1997, and oversees development and acquisition activities, commercial and residential leasing, and residential and commercial asset management. Ms. Champion-Cain previously worked as the Senior Vice President of the Koll Company and was responsible for overall project management of three Next Generation Retail/Entertainment centers in Japan. Highlights from Ms. Champion-Cain's career include the redevelopment/repositioning, leasing, and management of a mixed portfolio of properties including nearly 10 million square feet of retail, office, and industrial space, as well as over 5,000 multi-family residential units. Ms. Champion-Cain's exceptional expertise in real estate, development, economic revitalization, finance, redevelopment, acquisitions, and asset and property management will be of great benefit to the Southeastern Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors.

Ms. Champion-Cain has generously provided her talents, time, and energy for various professional organizations and civic causes in the San Diego community. She is currently active with the International Council of Shopping Centers, and the Urban Land Institute (ULI). Previously, Ms. Champion-Cain served on the Board of Directors for the American

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Lung Association, Centre City Development Corporation, and YMCA. Ms. Champion-Cain's outstanding civic and professional accomplishments and contributions have been acknowledged by numerous local and national organizations. She is the recipient of the San Diego Business Journal's 2001 Women Who Mean Business Award, San Diego Metropolitan Magazine's 2001 40 Under Forty Award, YWCA's 2002 Tribute to Women in Industry (TWIN) Award, and was nominated as the Woman Business Owner of the Year Award in 2002 by the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO). As a result of Ms. Champion-Cain's many contributions to the San Diego community, in 2006, I, along with City Council, proclaimed June 28th to be "Gina Champion-Cain Day" in the City of San Diego.

Ms. Champion-Cain holds a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy/Political Science from the University of Michigan and a Master's degree in Business Administration, with concentrations in International Business and Real Estate Finance, from the University of San Diego. She also holds a California Real Estate Broker's License and is a Certified Property Manager (CPM). Ms. Champion-Cain will replace Kea Hagan, whose term has expired, for a term expiring May 25, 2011. She resides in Mission Hills.

Vernon Evans, CPA, CIA, CMA, is the Vice President, Finance/Treasurer of the San Diego Regional Airport Authority and has served in that capacity since 2003. Prior to joining the Airport Authority, Mr. Evans provided financial leadership for the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport Board in two capacities. First, Mr. Evans served as the Deputy Executive Director for Administrative Services and was responsible for various departments and administrative aspects including finance, budget, human resources, procurement and materials management, and information and technology departments. Later, he became the Executive Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer, responsible for financing, monitoring, and managing a \$2.6 billion capital development program. Initially, Mr. Evans was hired by the Airport Board in 1986, Mr. Evans began his tenure as the Director of Audit Services, and audited all airport operations including construction projects, airlines, and concessionaire revenue. Throughout his career in finance, Mr. Evans has successfully implemented internal audits and reorganized auditing and financial departments to properly establish or refine financial controls. Mr. Evans' career includes serving as a Chief Internal Auditor and Certified Public Accountant. Mr. Evans' great financial forecasting ability, strategic planning, internal auditing expertise, and business acumen will be an invaluable asset to the Southeastern Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors.

Mr. Evans' professional and civic contributions include service with the Texas State Board of Public Accountants, Institute of Internal Auditors, National Association of Black Accountants, and Fort Worth Metropolitan YMCA. He was recently inducted into the Business and Industry Hall of Fame by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), and selected as CFO of the year by the San Diego Business Journal. Mr. Evans currently chairs the Jackie Robinson Family YMCA Board of Managers.

Mr. Evans received bachelor and master's degrees in Accounting from the University of North Texas. He is also a Certified Public Accountant (in Texas and California), Chief Internal Auditor, Certified Management Accountant, and Certified Government Financial

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Manager. Mr. Evans will replace Randy Jones, who is termed out, for a term expiring May 25, 2011. He resides in Mission Valley.

Richard Lawrence is the Managing Coordinator of San Diego Works for Better Health, a California Endowment project which brings together the United African-American Ministerial Action Council, Center for Policy Initiatives, and the MAAC Project. He is also the President of Lawrence Enterprises, a family-owned investment and consulting company that operates photography/video, roofing, trophy, and pool maintenance and repair businesses. Mr. Lawrence has also been serving in various community development, project management, public sector, and philanthropic roles since 1969. His community development, public sector, and philanthropic roles include serving as the Director of the Minority Community Development Program for the Cummins Engine Foundation in Chicago, Illinois where he helped design a foundation grant program to address minority community development with emphasis on social action, community organizing, voter education, and economic justice. He was also the Manager of Corporate and Foundation Relations for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Economic Affairs in Boston, where he worked to recruit private sector members and increase private sector funding for job training programs. Mr. Lawrence also served as a City Councilmember from 1995-1998 for the Lawrence City Council in Lawrence, Massachusetts. He chaired the Small Business Revolving Loan Fund Committee and Charter Review Committee. He was also the Vice-Chair of the Housing & Economic Development Committee.

Mr. Lawrence also has extensive business development expertise, and was the Director of a small business development program at the Boston University School of Management, and Executive Director of the Lawrence Minority Business Council. He is currently an Adjunct Faculty Member for Springfield College, and served on the City of San Diego's Affordable Housing Task Force. Mr. Lawrence's community development expertise, experience in government and the public and private sectors, as well as his commitment to serving the community will be a great addition to the Southeastern Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors.

Mr. Lawrence received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Teaching Certificate from Albion College, and a Master's degree in Divinity (Ethics) from the University of Chicago. He is also a graduate of Harvard University's Graduate School of Business Administration Program for Management Development. Mr. Lawrence will replace Charles Simpson, whose term has expired, for a term expiring May 25, 2009. He resides in Webster.

Simon Wong has more than 28 years experience in construction management and engineering, and is the Founder and President of Simon Wong Engineering, one of the largest construction management and engineering firms in San Diego. The firm, established in 1986, specializes in structural design, retrofit, construction management, bridge construction, and water/wastewater infrastructure projects. Throughout his career, Mr. Wong has worked collaboratively and cost-effectively to develop and design a wide variety of public, private, commercial, institutional, and government projects. Simon Wong's construction management projects include the North County Transit District's Oceanside to Escondido Sprinter Rail Line, seismic retrofit of the North Torrey Pines Road

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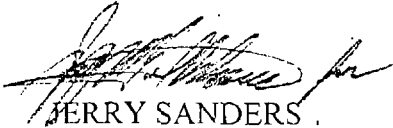
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Bridge, and design of the Black Mountain Ranch Reservoir and the International Gates at Lindbergh Field. Other projects include structural design of the George Stevens Senior Center, Market Creek Plaza Amphitheater, and Fire Station No. 12. Mr. Wong's years of experience as a construction management and engineering executive, and insightful understanding of all levels of construction will be a valuable asset to the Southeastern Economic Development Corporation Board and its mission.

Mr. Wong is also a very active business and community leader who strongly believes in community service and giving back to the community. He is the past President of the San Diego Chapter of Consulting Engineers and Land Surveyors of California, Structural Engineers Association of San Diego, and Asian Business Association Board of Directors. Mr. Wong has also donated design services for the Rock-n-Roll Marathon, and currently serves on the Board of Directors for Sharp Healthcare.

Mr. Wong received a Bachelors of Science degree and Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Nevada, Reno. Mr. Simon will replace Chip Owen, whose term has expired, for a term expiring May 25, 2010.

I ask that you confirm these appointments and join me in acknowledging them for their willingness to give their time, talents, and expertise to serve the City of San Diego and the Southeastern Economic Development Corporation in this capacity.



JERRY SANDERS

Mayor

JS:lg

cc: City Attorney Michael Aguirre  
City Clerk Elizabeth Maland