



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

MEMORANDUM

DATE : August 4, 2010

TO : Council President Ben Hueso & Honorable Members of the
San Diego City Council

FROM : Mayor Jerry Sanders

SUBJECT : Appointments and Reappointments to the San Diego Youth
Commission/Designation of Chair and Vice Chair

It is my pleasure to appoint Robert Benjamin (R.B.) Ganon, Marcella Griffin, Rosa Olasagua, Sherry Ramirez, Michael Sacks, Alex Torres and Michelle Zhang and reappoint Gabrielle Dubick, Raynesha Harris, Alejandro Ibaibariaga, Camille Jorgensen, Roger Li, Henrietta Movsessian, Saira Roshnaye, Caitlin Snell, Briana Sotelo, Korral Taylor and Koleka Willis to the San Diego Youth Commission, subject to your confirmation.

R.B. Ganon is a sophomore at Francis Parker. R.B. is active in both soccer and golf. He played for a soccer travel team and on Varsity for his high school and on the Junior Varsity golf team. Beyond R.B.'s sports activities, he is very active in school and community service. He served on the Associated Student Body in 7th and 8th grades, is a member of H2O Africa, Free the Children, Spanish Club and UMOJA Society which promotes diversity at school. He has volunteered for the San Diego Food Bank, Crew Classic and Interact, a sports event for exceptional athletes. R.B. was nominated by Councilmember Donna Frye and will replace Dylan Morales, for a term expiring July 1, 2012. R.B. resides in La Jolla.

Marcella Griffin is a freshman at San Diego High School of Business. She is a decorated athlete and achieved student. Marcella keeps a busy schedule playing basketball, volleyball and track and field. She is also a participant in Reality Changes, a program that offers one-on-one university tutoring, requires at least a 3.0 GPA, encourages community service and is alcohol, drug and gang-free. She is also active at her church and aspires to become a professor of theology. Marcella was nominated by Councilmember Todd Gloria and will replace Alejandra Paradeones, for a term expiring July 1, 2012. She is a resident of North Park.

Rosa Olascagua just concluded her last year at Lewis Middle School and will attend Patrick Henry High School. She is also active in the Reality Changes program and regularly attends afterschool sessions to assist her in achieving her goal of becoming the first member of her family to attend college. She volunteers for Team Angel Walkers to fundraise for the Susan G. Komen 3-Day for the Cure. She is also a member of the Mid-City Community Advocacy Network (CAN) Youth Council, an advocacy group for quality of life improvements in the Mid-City area. Rosa will replace Amina Ture for a term expiring July 1, 2012. She resides in City Heights.

Sherry Ramirez is a sophomore at La Jolla High School. Sherry is also a member of Reality Changes member. She is active in athletics and does very well scholastically. She is currently serving her second year in the University of California at San Diego's Academic Connections, which offers an introduction to college courses to students with a 3.3 GPA or higher. Courses are typically taught by Doctoral students in a small sized classroom setting. Activities like sports, arts and music are also offered, as well as on-campus residential living. Sherry was nominated by Council President Ben Hueso and will replace Bryan Gonzalez for a term expiring July 1, 2012. Sherry resides in Golden Hill.

Michael Sacks is a junior at the San Diego Jewish Academy. He is very active in both sports and the community. Michael is the team captain for the Varsity tennis team and a member of the Varsity football team. He is a cabinet member on the Associated Student Body and served in the Irish Club and on the Science Team. His numerous volunteer activities include the Jacobs International Teen Leadership Institute, a program that builds relationships between Jews and Arabs in the Middle East. He also volunteers at American Red Cross Blood Drives, is a TeenSpace board member at the Jacobs Community Center and president of the La Jolla delegation for Youth and Government at the YMCA. Michael was nominated by Councilmember Sherri Lightner and will replace Brian Bartick for a term expiring July 1, 2012. He resides in La Jolla.

Alex Torres is a sophomore at Point Loma High School. Also a member of the Reality Changes program, he entered the program as a sophomore with the impressive and highest GPA of 4.2. He earned a scholarship to enroll in UCSD's Academic Connections, where he is taking a college course this summer. Alex is working hard towards his goal of becoming the first person in his family to attend a university. Alex was nominated by Council President Ben Hueso and will replace Theresa Palafox for a term expiring July 1, 2012. He resides in Southcrest.

Michelle Zhang is a junior at Torrey Pines High School. Michelle is an accomplished musician and active in the community. She was awarded Second Place as a ninth grader and received an Honorable Mention as an eighth grader at the San Diego Flute Guild Spring Festival. She is also a member of the San Dieguito Union High School District High School Honor Band. She founded and serves as president for Students for the ARTS (StARTS), a free after-school mentoring program for elementary school students who are seeking instruction in music, singing, dance and arts. She is a member of the National Honor Society and the California Scholarship Federation. Michelle was nominated by Councilmember Sherri Lightner and will replace Haley Cottrell for a term expiring July 1, 2012. She resides in Torrey Hills.

I would also like to recognize and thank reappointments Gabrielle Dubick, Raynesha Harris, Alejandro Ibaibariaga, Camille Jorgensen, Roger Li, Henrietta Movsessian, Saira Roshnaye, Caitlin Snell, Briana Sotelo, Korral Taylor and Koleka Willis for their continued service to the city and their respective communities.

Finally, it is my pleasure to announce that Ms. Movsessian will continue to serve as Chair of the Commission and Caitlin Snell will assume the role as Vice Chair.

I ask that you confirm these appointments and reappointments and join me in acknowledging these outstanding young men and women for their willingness to serve the City of San Diego in this capacity.


JERRY SANDERS
Mayor

JS:jb

cc: City Attorney Jan Goldsmith
City Clerk Elizabeth Maland