



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

MEMORANDUM

DATE : June 22, 2009

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

FROM : Mayor Jerry Sanders

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

It is my pleasure to appoint Brian Bartick, Haley Cottrell, Gabrielle Dubick, Bryan Gonzalez, Raynesha Harris, Alejandro Ibaibarriaga, Roger Li, Dylan Morales, Henrietta Movsessian, Theresa Palafox, Alejandra Paredones, Saira Roshnaye, Caitlin Snell, Briana Sotelo, Korral Taylor, Amina Ture, and Koleka Willis to the San Diego Youth Commission, subject to your confirmation.

Brian Bartick is 17 years old and attends Torrey Pines High School. Brian is very athletic and has played baseball for most of his youth. He recently played varsity baseball at Torrey Pines High School and has also played on a competitive baseball travel team. Beyond Brian's school activities, he volunteers and shares his baseball passion and expertise with children with mental and physical disabilities through the Miracle League of San Diego. He is also a Batting Coach at Del Mar Sports Center, an award-winning bus boy at Jake's Del Mar, and participates in charitable fund raising activities for the Torrey Pines High School Foundation. Brian's future aspirations are to attend a school within the University of California system and potentially pursue a career in law. Brian was nominated by Councilmember Sherri Lightner and will replace Dorothy Habrat, who is termed out, for a term expiring July 1, 2010. Brian resides in Carmel Valley.

Haley Cottrell is 17 years old and a junior at La Jolla High School. She is the Captain of the Dive Team at La Jolla High, and the Features Editor for the school newspaper. Haley has been actively involved with the California Youth and Government Program in Sacramento for two years which has provided the opportunity for Haley to participate in learning how to draft legislation, build leadership skills, advocate and represent positions on issues and legislation, and comprehend parliamentary procedure. As a result of these experiences, Haley is quite passionate about participating and learning more about government, and plans to pursue a career in political journalism, law, or communications.

Haley was nominated by Councilmember Sherri Lightner and will replace Ross Thompson, who is termed out, for a term expiring July 1, 2010. Due to Haley's experiences at the state level and her leadership ability, I have selected her as the Vice Chair of the Youth Commission. Haley resides in Pacific Beach.

Gabrielle Dubick is 15 years old, and attends La Jolla High School. She has played competitive soccer since the age of eight, and played for La Jolla High's soccer team during her freshman year last year. Currently, Gabrielle serves as Goalie on a competitive youth soccer team through Surf Soccer Club. Gabrielle has excelled in academics while also consistently building upon her natural leadership skills through sports. She has courageously encouraged and led her peers and teams to adjust when things do not play out as planned. Outside of Gabrielle's academic and athletic activities, she has a deep passion for serving the community and helping those who are less fortunate. She volunteers at the Senior Community Center in downtown San Diego, and participates in diversity programs through the Anti-Defamation League. Gabrielle also successfully raised \$1,700 for the San Diego Humane Society. Gabrielle feels honored to have the opportunity to represent the youth of San Diego on the Youth Commission. I am pleased to announce Gabrielle Dubick as my nomination to the Youth Commission. She will replace Ashley Grand, who is termed out, for a term expiring July 1, 2010. Gabrielle resides in La Jolla.

Bryan Gonzalez is 14 years old and attends the Preuss School at the University of California, San Diego. Brian is very active serving the community and volunteers for various community service projects and activities including painting to improve neighborhood parks, and encouraging participants at cancer awareness and fund-raising events. Bryan also participates in the Reality Changers program which provides opportunities for inner-city youth from disadvantaged backgrounds to become first generation college students. He is very focused and excited about becoming the first person in his family to attend college. Bryan is also participating in UCSD's Academic Connections program, a pre-college summer academic and residential program targeted to highly motivated, high achieving, college-bound high school students in grades 9th-12th. Participation in the program will allow Bryan to begin earning college credits this summer. Bryan was nominated by Councilmember Ben Hueso, and will replace Sarah Jafari, who is termed out, for a term expiring July 1, 2010. Bryan resides in Golden Hill.

Raynesha Harris is 14 years old and attends Horace Mann Middle School. While achieving honor roll status and serving as ASB Vice President, Raynesha has been a Student Representative to the San Diego Unified School District Board of Education for Horace Mann Middle School, Miss Teen Metro Pageant participant, Pop Warner Cheerleader, and a volunteer for the Neighborhood House Association. She was also selected as an Urban League Golden Pyramid Scholar, sings in a church youth choir, plays softball and baseball, and has participated in the San Diego Hire-A-Youth Program. Raynesha aspires to practice family law and ultimately become a judge. She was nominated by Councilmember Tony Young, and will replace Kim Troung, who is termed out, for a term expiring July 1, 2010. Raynesha resides in Mountain View.

Alejandro Ibaibarriaga is 14 years old, and attends Blessed Sacrament Parish School. Alejandro has been very active in Student Council and was elected as the Commissioner of Special Events to organize school-wide events, dances, and assemblies. Alejandro is particularly gifted at presenting information and the art of public speaking. This year, Alejandro won first place in the La Mesa Optimist Club Oratorical Contest, which enabled him to move on to higher-level oratorical competitions. Performance driven and creative by nature, Alejandro desires a career in the entertainment industry as an actor, cartoonist, comic writer, artist, or designer. Alejandro was nominated by Councilmember Marti Emerald, and will replace Anarie Salvador, who is termed out, for a term expiring July 1, 2010. Alejandro resides in Del Cerro.

Roger Li is 16 years old, and is a student at La Jolla High School. Throughout his youth, he has pursued various opportunities to interact with people of all cultures and backgrounds. Roger has been a participant in La Jolla High School's Model United Nations, and volunteers his time for Kids for Peace, a non-profit organization devoted to introducing kids to different cultures around the globe. He is also active in La Jolla High School's speech and debate club. Roger plans to pursue a career in politics and social activism. He is looking forward to identifying common bonds and celebrating diversity while serving on the Youth Commission. Roger was nominated by Councilmember Carl DeMaio, and will replace Vanessa Houston, who is termed out, for a term expiring July 1, 2010. Roger resides in Mira Mesa.

Dylan Morales is 16 years old, and is a sophomore at Clairemont High School. Dylan is very dedicated to helping others and serving the community. He has been active in the Tariq Khamisa Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to breaking the cycle of youth violence by empowering kids, saving lives, and teaching peace. Dylan also volunteers for the San Diego Historical Society. In January 2009, Dylan was a participant and moderator for the 12th Annual Youth Town Meeting held at the University of San Diego. He plans to pursue a career in international law, and looks forward to providing input as a Youth Commissioner to represent the youth perspective to the City of San Diego. Dylan was nominated by Councilmember Donna Frye, and will replace Hoa Vo, who is termed out, for a term expiring July 1, 2010. Dylan resides in Serra Mesa.

Henrietta Movsessian is 19 years old, and is majoring in Political Science at the University of California, San Diego. Henrietta is very outgoing and has excelled in academics while also passionately serving the community. Her leadership skills are outstanding, and she has actively pursued opportunities to make a difference in her school and community. She was the Glendale Unified School District Student Board Member from 2007-2008, and ASB Commissioner, Director of Activities, President, and Vice President for Glendale High School from 2004-2008. While at UCSD, Henrietta has been a representative on the Thurgood Marshall College Student Council and Judicial Board, and has also served as a member of the Armenian Genocide Joint Commemoration Committee. Henrietta also served as an Intern in the Mayor's Office from March 2009- May 2009. As a result of her experiences in local government and studies, Henrietta has decided to pursue a career in politics/local government, and may aspire to become an elected official. Henrietta has demonstrated strong leadership ability and a great desire to serve others. It gives me great pleasure to designate Henrietta as the Chair of the Youth Commission. She was nominated

by Councilmember Kevin Faulconer, and will replace Michael Fiszman, who is termed out, for a term expiring July 1, 2010. Henrietta resides in La Jolla.

Theresa Palafox is 17 years old, and a student at Mira Mesa High School. An active member of the Logan Heights community, Theresa volunteers as a tutor for children at the Logan Heights Library, and is engaged in various school activities including participating in Mira Mesa High School's cross country and track teams. She also assists younger athletes at track meets, and writes for Mira Mesa High School's newspaper, *The Marquee*. Theresa is also actively engaged in the Reality Changers program which provides opportunities for inner-city youth from disadvantaged backgrounds to become first generation college students. Due to Theresa's achievements, community service, and leadership skills, she received awards and recognition from Congresswoman Susan Davis, California State Senator Gilbert Cedillo, and Assemblywoman Mary Salas. Theresa was nominated by Councilmember Ben Hueso. She will replace Roosevelt Williams, who is termed out, for a term expiring July 1, 2010. She resides in Logan Heights.

Alejandra Paredones Rodriguez De San Miguel is 22 years old, and recently graduated from Point Loma Nazarene University with a degree in Political Science and Business Administration. Her studies led her abroad to Iberoamericana University in Mexico City, where she studied communication and finance, and Georgetown University where she studied political science, international law, and film. In addition, while working as a legal intern for the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C., Alejandra finalized work for the European Directive, updated the Secretary General's Work Plan on Migrants, and edited resolutions and amendments in English and Spanish. As a result of these academic experiences and internship opportunities, Alejandra plans to pursue a career in international affairs or law. Alejandra was nominated by Councilmember Todd Gloria, and will replace Hannah Keck, who is termed out, for a term expiring July 1, 2010. Alejandra resides in Point Loma.

Saira Roshnaye is 16 years old and attends the School of International Business at Kearny High School. She is very active in various campus programs and organizations including the Circle of Friends program in which able-bodied students assist and mentor peers who have physical or mental challenges and other special needs. Saira also participates in Kearny's Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accreditation Committee, Young Entrepreneurs Club, and Drama Club, and still finds time to tutor second-graders and assist with after-school activities at the Y.M.C.A. Due to Saira's academic achievements and dedicated service to the community, she was asked by school administrators to speak at Kearny's freshman assembly to share her wisdom on how to succeed in high school. Saira will certainly continue to grow her leadership ability and dedicate her time to worthy causes. She looks forward to serving on the Youth Commission to ensure she has a voice in issues impacting youth and her fellow companions in the community. Saira was nominated by Councilmember Donna Frye, and will replace Haley Elwood, who is termed out, for a term expiring July 1, 2010. Saira resides in Serra Mesa.

Caitlin Snell is 15 years old and attends Point Loma High School. While consistently maintaining a minimum 4.0 grade point average since elementary school, Caitlin has also been an outstanding volunteer with a heart for serving the community. Caitlin has received

numerous awards to acknowledge her academic excellence, citizenship, and volunteer service throughout her education. Currently, she maintains a 4.1 GPA, is listed on the Principal's Honor Roll, received the Gold Scholar's Award, and Harmonium Inc.'s Outstanding Volunteer Service Award. In addition to striving for academic excellence and volunteering her time to help others, Caitlin is also an active member of Point Loma High School's basketball, softball, and volleyball teams, and maintains membership in the Amateur Softball Association, California Beach Volleyball Association, and Peninsula Youth Softball Association. Caitlin also enjoys tutoring younger students through Loma Portal Elementary's Klassic Kids and Student Volunteer Program, and volunteering at Children's Hospital and Harmonium, Inc. She also studies Mandarin Chinese and is active with Girl Scouts. Caitlin truly aspires to make a difference in the life of others, and will potentially pursue a career as a teacher, sports coach, or veterinarian. Caitlin was nominated by Councilmember Kevin Faulconer, and will replace Julia Saba, who is termed out for a term expiring July 1, 2010. She resides in Point Loma.

Briana Sotelo is 16 years old and attends High Tech High Chula Vista. Briana is very outgoing, ambitious, and creative, and is committed to making a difference in the community. While excelling at school and maintaining a 4.0 GPA, Briana is also actively engaged in various school activities, and has organized various school-wide events including dances, luaus, and spirit week. Briana is also very proud of being a member of High Tech High's award-winning debate team, which won top honors for their debate topic based on Mexican immigration and the United States. Beyond Briana's academics and school activities, she has a passion for Polynesian dancing, and has been dancing for eight years with Kaleo 'Onalani dance group. As a member of the dance group, Briana has been able to compete in various dance competitions in California, Las Vegas, and Utah. Briana is fluent in Spanish, and has participated in various youth leadership summits, workshops, and conferences. Her career aspirations include becoming a television news reporter or entertainment anchor. I am pleased to announce Briana Sotelo as my nomination to the Youth Commission. She will replace Lena Salter, who is termed out, for a term expiring July 1, 2010. Briana resides in Golden Hill.

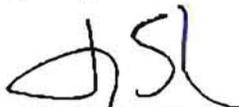
Korral Taylor is 15 years old and attends Horace Mann Middle School. Korral is an award-winning student and volunteer, and a role model to her peers and community. Due to Korral's academic achievement and community service activities, she received a very special Achievement Award from the San Diego Chapter of the National Council of Negro Women. Korral also received Horace Mann's Best of the Best Award in eighth grade which honored Korral's leadership efforts and abilities, and a Golden Pyramid Scholar Award from the Urban League of San Diego County. Beyond Korral's community service activities and academic achievements, she is very athletic, enjoys playing sports, and considers herself an avid team player. She has played softball, basketball, soccer, and volleyball since the age of five, and revels in the success of the team rather than individual achievements. Korral was nominated by Councilmember Tony Young, and will replace Monica Daniels, who is termed out, for a term expiring July 1, 2010. Korral resides in Encanto.

Amina Ture is 17 years old and a senior at Hoover High School. She immigrated from Yabalo, Ethiopia in October 2006 and since that time she has become an outstanding

leader, member, and role model at school and in her community. Amina has been involved with the Aquatic Adventures after-school program since her freshman year in high school. The tuition-free program provides inner-city youth with opportunities to participate in science, ocean, and nature education programs and strives to develop the next generation of scientific and environmental leaders. Amina's participation in the program, has allowed her to spend five weeks in Baja, California conducting conservation-focused scientific research. In addition, Amina's efforts as a program intern, helped promote, protect, and restore neighborhood canyons and fostered community involvement. As a result of these experiences, Amina is passionate about pursuing a career as a professor of marine science. Amina was nominated by Councilmember Todd Gloria, and will replace Kayleigh Neel, who is termed out, for a term expiring July 1, 2010. Amina resides in City Heights.

Koleka Willis is 14 years old and attends Bernardo Heights Middle School. Her record of service to the community and helping others is truly commendable. She has actively engaged in many community activities in the Rancho Bernardo community, and since the 2007 fires, she has been a dedicated volunteer for Rancho Bernardo United (RB United), a fire recovery coalition that provides services to fire-impacted families and supports the community's after-the-fire needs. She has also volunteered her time for various fund-raising events, and supported booths for the Rancho Bernardo Community Planning Board and RB United at the RB Alive Street Fair. One of Koleka's most honorable and selfless acts of kindness occurred last year when she donated over 10 inches of her hair to Locks of Love, a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children suffering from long-term medical hair loss. Koleka desires to serve on the Youth Commission so that she can be an asset to the city and her community. Koleka was nominated by Councilmember Carl DeMaio, and will replace Greg Elenbaas, who is termed out, for a term expiring July 1, 2010. She resides in Rancho Bernardo.

I ask that you confirm these appointments 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

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cc: City Attorney Jan Goldsmith
City Clerk Elizabeth Maland