



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

August 11, 2017

Honorable Members of the City Council
c/o City Clerk
City Hall, Room 395

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have appointed Ms. Misty Wilks to the Cannabis Commission for the term ending June 30, 2019.

I certify that in my opinion Ms. Wilks is qualified for the work that will devolve upon her, and that I make the appointment solely in the interest of the City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of the initials 'E.G.' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor

EG:dlg

Attachment

COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

Name: Misty Wilks
Commission: Cannabis Commission
End of Term: 6/30/2019

Appointee Information

1. **Race/ethnicity:** African American
2. **Gender:** Female
3. **Council district and neighborhood of residence:** 10 - South Los Angeles
4. **Are you a registered voter?** Yes
5. **Prior commission experience:**
6. **Highest level of education completed:** J.D., Howard University
7. **Occupation/profession:** Attorney
8. **Experience(s) that qualifies person for appointment:** See attached resume
9. **Purpose of this appointment:** New Commission Appointment
10. **Current composition of the commission (excluding appointee):** N/A

Misty Wilks is an attorney, educator and community/social activist with a dynamic presence. The flame was sparked in high school, when Misty and a small group of peers founded a social justice organization (Black Youth Improvement Association – (BYIA), aka African/Latino Youth Summit – ALYS) to address justice and empowerment issues at each of their schools.

At the same time Misty co-hosted a weekly radio show on KPFK. The show provided a platform for local youth before and after the 1992 Rebellion and helped youth engage in the redevelopment efforts. Eventually, the group recruited education experts to design the course “*New Majority 2000: Creating an Environment for Social Change*” to be taught in L.A.U.S.D. high schools. Already a gifted speaker, Misty was asked to present the course to the Board of Education; on C-Span’s nationally televised broadcast. She was critical to the three-year curriculum development process and had the distinct honor of teaching the approved pilot course at Los Angeles High School after earning her Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Southern California.

Shortly thereafter she left to attend Howard University School of Law to “learn how to fight the system from the inside.” Her entrepreneurialism reemerged when she started the hugely successful service company ‘*Run Us Around*’ (featured in local and national papers), to help fund her law school tuition. In 1997, Ms. Wilks earned a Juris Doctorate and worked directly under the Executive Director at the National Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors and as a government liaison until she was later recruited to clerk for Judge Tillerson-Adams in Prince George’s County, MD.

In 1998, Judge Consuelo Bland Marshall personally administered Misty’s oath and admission to the California Bar. Two years later, she was sworn-in to the Maryland Bar. In January 2009 Misty was admitted to the District of Columbia Bar and the United States District Court for the District of Columbia Bar in June. In February 2010, she was admitted to the United States District Court for the District of Maryland. Misty is now licensed to practice law before two state courts and in three federal jurisdictions - on two coasts.

Her bicoastal firm has handled a variety of cases over the past 15 years. She has handled felonies and misdemeanors on two coasts, drafted and negotiated contracts in compliance with multi-state laws, managed complex six figure real estate transactions, represented labor union clients in administrative hearings, and successfully closed and negotiated multi-party personal injury cases on both coasts. In addition, Misty has been project liaison, team leader and travel team coordinator at major firms where she increased efficiency by implementing time and cost saving techniques and trained and supervised teams of more than fifty paralegals/attorneys. She created the project-training manual used by a top-tier firm to train its associates here and abroad.

Misty also founded VW Consulting through which she advised dozens of small/micro businesses, community organizations and non-profits in start up, management and development; she designed procedures to tackle mental hindrances, enhance brand awareness, decrease costs, and increase profits. Misty has also designed or participated in workshops and seminars on law, micro business start-ups, ‘Business On A Budget’, career development, problem solving, crisis management, community activism and the hugely popular “Steps to the White House” youth program, to small – medium groups (5-83) in communities, at libraries, Universities and at events such as *Ikea’s Business and Wellness Conference*, and the National MBA Association’s Wealth Building Series.

During the ‘recession’ Misty actively volunteered for six organizations in Washington D.C., and Maryland, assisting homeowners with the foreclosure crisis. In that capacity, Misty was ‘Of Counsel’ to the Housing Initiative Partnership (H.I.P.), in Maryland. She received various awards and acknowledgments for her pro bono service. During her two-year volunteer stint,

Misty discovered the amazing benefits of bankruptcy and restructured her practice to include the legal aspects of financial management and to help people of color save their homes.

Misty was also Chair of the Youth and Exploratory Committees and Community Mediator for the West Lanham Hills Association. She designed programs with a \$675,000 budget to promote entrepreneurship, business and legal awareness in her community. Catching the attention of local politicians, Misty was appointed by County Councilman Olsen to preside over the Annapolis Road Inner Beltway Alliance Community Development Center (ARIBA), created by recommendation of the *Approved Transit District Development Plan (TDDP) and Transit District Overlay Zoning Map Amendment* released by the Maryland - National Capital Park & Planning Commission in anticipation of the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) in New Carrollton, MD. Tasked with providing long-term collaborative leadership, advocating for and coordinating with, economic improvement and revitalization efforts along the Annapolis Road corridor, Misty recruited and assembled local mayors, neighborhood associations and businesses along the MD 450 corridor between the Capital Beltway and the Baltimore Washington Parkway. Misty facilitated community information sessions, created a business resource directory, and connected businesses with supporting organizations based on a needs assessment. She also acted in a similar capacity in Leimert Park. Later, Misty served as liaison, coordinator and legal consultant on a 5 million dollar project focused on the empowerment of children of color. Misty successfully organized, coordinated and advised nine educational institutions between California and the District of Columbia.

Shortly thereafter, Misty became an Associate Adjunct Professor at Northern Virginia Community College teaching several legal subjects (criminal, family, contracts and torts) to local and international students from more than 20 countries.

Returning home, Misty quickly reconnected to her life long community - Leimert Park. A self-proclaimed "stakeholder extraordinaire," she volunteers several hours weekly, and is an active contributor to the Leimert Park Village 2020 Vision Initiative. She was a founding board member of Crenshaw Health Partners, a Covered California Certified Enrollment Entity and was a certified enrollment counselor. Currently she serves on the Board of the Empowerment Congress – West Area Neighborhood Development Council in Los Angeles. In that capacity, she has sat on several committees. She is regularly invited to churches and local civic associations to give presentations and workshops on business, financial management, bankruptcy and foreclosure defense. She recently passed the CA real estate exam and expects to be licensed any day now.

In her spare time, Misty is a spoken word artist, avid reader, traveller and deltiologist. She has driven across the country many times, spent a summer exploring Mexico, enjoyed the sun on a few Caribbean islands and has visited Belize and several European cities. She enjoys motorcycling, home remodeling and photography. Misty was also a certified foster parent in Maryland and is interested in pursuing fostering opportunities in Los Angeles

As a Washington Times editor put it, "Misty Wilks is an attorney, community activist, educator and broadcast personality. In Los Angeles she work[s] with Black/Hispanic issues, and is passionate about youth empowerment. Her approach is a sort of common-sense, 'what the heck?' reality-check type of commentary. She's a total people person, and a fighter for the underdog, but at the same time, can play devil's advocate to get the conversation balanced. She is a fantastic person to start local and national discussions [on] issues relating to 'who we are and where we are going' topics. Think Oprah on Espresso!"



August 11, 2017

Ms. Misty Wilks

Dear Ms. Wilks:

I am pleased to inform you that I hereby appoint you to the Cannabis Commission for the term ending June 30, 2019. In order to complete the process as quickly as possible, there are several steps that must be taken, many of which require visiting City Hall. If you require parking during these procedures, please call Claudia Luna in my office at (213) 978-0621 to make arrangements for you.

To begin the appointment process, please review, sign and return the enclosed Remuneration Form, Undated Separation Forms, Background Check Release and Information Sheet **within one week** of receiving this letter. These documents are necessary to ensuring the most efficient, open and accountable City government possible. Further, Mayor's Office policy requires you to be fingerprinted as part of the background check that is done on all potential Commissioners. To do so, please bring this letter to the Background Unit of Employment Services Division, Personnel Department Building, 700 East Temple Street, Room 235, Los Angeles, California 90012. The division phone number is (213) 473-9343. Fingerprints must be taken **within three working days** from the **receipt** of this letter.

Under separate cover you will be receiving a packet from the City Ethics Commission containing information about the City's conflict of interest laws and a copy of the State Form 700/Statement of Economic Interests. You are required to complete and return this form **within 21 days** of your nomination to the City Ethics Commission, 200 North Spring Street, City Hall, 24th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90012. Any inquiries regarding this form should be directed to Nicole Enriquez at the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960.

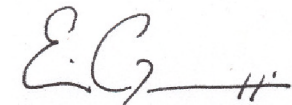
Ms. Misty Wilks
August 11, 2017
Page 2

As part of the City Council confirmation process, you will need to meet with Herb Wesson, your Councilmember, and Chair of the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, to answer any questions he may have. You will be hearing from a City Council committee clerk who will let you know when your appointment will be considered by the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee. Sometime thereafter, you will be notified by the committee clerk when your appointment will be presented to the full City Council for confirmation. Once you are confirmed, you will be required to take the oath of office in the City Clerk's Office in Room 395 of City Hall. Claudia Luna will assist you during the confirmation process if you have questions.

Commissioners must be residents of the City of Los Angeles. If you move at any point during your term, have any changes in your telephone numbers, or in the future plan to resign (resignation must be put in writing), please contact my office immediately.

Congratulations and thank you for agreeing to serve the people of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. G. Garcetti", with a horizontal line extending to the right and a small flourish at the end.

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor

EG:dlg

Attachment I
Ms. Misty Wilks
August 11, 2017

Nominee Check List

I. Within three days:

_____ **Get fingerprinted to complete a background check.**
No appointment is necessary. Bring the Mayor's letter to:
Background Unit of Employment Services Division, Personnel
Department Building, 700 East Temple Street, Room 235, Los Angeles,
California 90012. Phone: (213) 473-9343.

II. Within seven days:

Mail or email the following forms to: Legislative Coordinator, Office of the Mayor,
Office, City Hall, 200 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 or email:
Claudia.Luna@lacity.org.

_____ **Remuneration Form**
_____ **Undated Separation Forms**
_____ **Background Check Release**
_____ **Commissioner Information Sheet/Voluntary Statistics**

III. Within 21 days:

File the following forms with the City Ethics Commission. *If you are required to file, you will receive these forms via email from that office.*

_____ **Statement of Economic Interest ("Form 700")**
IMPORTANT: The City Council will not consider your nomination until
your completed form is reviewed by the Ethics Commission.
_____ **CEC Form 60**

IV. As soon as possible, the Mayor's Office will schedule a meeting with you and:

_____ **Your Councilmember Herb Wesson, Chair of the Council Committee
considering your nomination**

Staff in the Mayor's Office will assist you with these arrangements.