



**ERIC GARCETTI**  
**MAYOR**

July 3, 2018

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

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have reappointed Ms. Leonora Gershman Pitts to the Rent Adjustment Commission for the term ending May 20, 2022. Ms. Gershman Pitts's current term expired on May 20, 2018.

I certify that in my opinion Ms. Gershman Pitts 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 black ink, appearing to read 'E. Garcetti', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

ERIC GARCETTI  
Mayor

EG:dlg

Attachment

## COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

**Name:** Leonora Gershman Pitts  
**Commission:** Rent Adjustment Commission  
**End of Term:** 5/20/2022

### Appointee Information

- 1. Race/ethnicity:** Caucasian
- 2. Gender:** Female
- 3. Council district and neighborhood of residence:** 14 - East Los Angeles
- 4. Are you a registered voter?** Yes
- 5. Prior commission experience:** Rent Adjustment Commission
- 6. Highest level of education completed:** B.F.A., New York University's Tisch School of the Arts
- 7. Occupation/profession:** Retired
- 8. Experience(s) that qualifies person for appointment:** See attached resume
- 9. Purpose of this appointment:** Reappointment
- 10. Current composition of the commission:**

Commissioners	APC	CD	Ethnicity	Gender	Term End
Gershman-Pitts, Leonora	East LA	14	Caucasian	F	20-May-18
Brogdon, Carole	Central	4	Caucasian	F	20-May-22
Leftwich, Paula	South LA	8	African American	F	20-May-22
Lucas, Sam E.	East LA	1	Caucasian	M	20-May-22
Paul, Jane	West LA	11	Caucasian	F	20-May-22
Stolarz, Dash	South Valley	3	Caucasian	F	20-May-22

Leonora Gershman Pitts

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Atlantic Theater Co. Acting School - New York, NY 2000-2003

*Speech Instructor*

- Worked closely with the Head of the Speech Department to weave the principles of Practical Aesthetics into students' speech work
- Helped students realize the depth of their acting potential using Classical texts

The Atlantic Theater Co. Acting School Kids Program - Los Angeles, CA 2009-2010

*Kids' Theater Instructor*

- Taught group of 5-8 year olds a dedicated physical and vocal warm-up
- Worked with each child's strengths to help them use their physicality to create characters
- Taught the basic principles of storytelling, then used those tenets to create and write an entirely original play using the characters the children had created
- Rehearsed and performed the play created out of our work in class

The Atwater Village Neighborhood Council 2007-2012

*Treasurer, Co-Chair*

- Publicly elected advisory board to the Los Angeles City Council
- Worked closely with elected officials such as (now Mayor) Eric Garcetti, Council Member Tom Labonge, and others to fund various community events, connect stakeholders to their elected officials, foster change and development, reduce crime, and enrich our public schools
- Coordinated annual events, such as the Fall Festival: Trick or Treat on the BOOlevard, the Holiday Tree Lighting, and the Summer Nights on the Boulevard. Duties included finding and wrangling talent, gathering volunteers, and securing funding, as well as coordinating and producing on the day
- Secured funding for many arts and not-for-profit organizations such as the Independent Shakespeare Company, Inside/Out, Kidding Around the Kitchen, Friends of Atwater Elementary, and Friends of Glenfeliz Elementary

The Acting Corps 2008-2010

*Faculty Member*

- Taught all levels of acting student, from novices to more accomplished actors, Practical Aesthetics influenced repetition and script analysis

The Atwater Village Moms' Group 2010-Present

*Co-Founder*

- Outreached into the community and grew membership from zero to over 400 women in only three years
- Coordinated targeted aid for some of our underserved and families in need during the holidays, delivering a Christmas tree, gift cards, and support
- Organized food drop-offs and emotional support for families with new infants or those going through trauma or transition

Leonora Gershman Pitts was born and raised in Grand Forks, ND. A dancer, singer, and actress for nearly her entire life, she spent most of her childhood treading the boards of her local community theater. She left Grand Forks at age eighteen to attend New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where she received her BFA in Drama. At NYU, she studied with the Atlantic Theater Company Acting School, founded by William H. Macy and David Mamet. Upon her graduation, she received the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Atlantic and NYU, and a year later, Atlantic hired Leonora onto their faculty, where she taught for the following three years.

Leonora appeared in numerous stage productions off and off-off Broadway in New York and in regional productions in New Jersey. In 2003, she made the move to Los Angeles where she has continued her stage, film, and television career, appearing in the international hit *Inside Private Lives* (Fremont Center Theater, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, East to Edinburgh Festival), as well as the television series "I Hate My 30's," "Rita Rocks," "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia," and the upcoming HBO series, "Togetherness," and the films *Life of Lemon*, and *Manson Family Vacation*. She has also continued her teaching and coaching career in Los Angeles.

Leonora recently completed her first short film, "God I Hope I Get It," which she co-wrote, directed, and stars in, and which is now making the festival rounds.

In addition to her acting, directing, and teaching career, Leonora is a committed community activist. Having served for five years on the Atwater Village Neighborhood Council, four as co-chair, she worked diligently on such events as the annual Tree Lighting ceremony, the Summer Nights on the Boulevard, the Fall Festival: Trick or Treat on the BOOlevard, and the Movie Nights Under the Stars. She is proud to have secured funding for our local elementary schools, the farmers' market, the Director of Animal Welfare Services, and the Independent Shakespeare Company, among many others, and is the first recipient of the Villager of the Year Award from the Atwater Village Chamber of Commerce.

Leonora's community activism has given her the opportunity to work alongside many of Los Angeles's great leaders, most notably Mayor Eric Garcetti and Council Members Mitch O'Farrell and Tom Labonge. Her working relationship with Council Member Labonge led to her nomination as a Local Volunteer Neighborhood Advisory Committee (LVNOC) for the permanent stage in Griffith Park. Her friendships with Mayor Garcetti and Council Member O'Farrell remain strong, and she was glad to have worked hard on both of their recent campaigns.

Leonora was recently elected onto the Board of Directors of the Independent Shakespeare Company, which brings free Shakespeare in Griffith Park to over 43,000 people annually.

Leonora, her husband Scott, and their two young children live in Eagle Rock with their Scottish Terrier, Molly Malone.



**ERIC GARCETTI**  
**MAYOR**

July 3, 2018

Ms. Leonora Gershman Pitts

Dear Ms. Gershman Pitts:

I am pleased to inform you that I hereby reappoint you to the Rent Adjustment Commission for the term ending May 20, 2022. 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 reappointment 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.

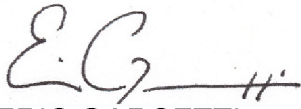
As part of the City Council confirmation process, you will need to meet with Jose Huizar, your Councilmember, and Councilmember Gilbert Cedillo, the Chair of the Housing Committee, to answer any questions they may have. You will be hearing from a City Council committee clerk who will let you know when your reappointment will be considered by the Housing Committee. Sometime thereafter, you will be notified by the committee clerk when your reappointment 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.

Ms. Leonora Gershman Pitts  
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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. Garcetti", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

ERIC GARCETTI  
Mayor

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Attachment I  
Ms. Leonora Gershman Pitts  
July 3, 2018

### **Nominee Check List**

#### **I. Within seven days:**

Mail or email the following forms to: Claudia Luna, Office of the Mayor, 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**

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

\_\_\_\_\_ **Your City Councilmember Jose Huizar**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Councilmember Gilbert Cedillo, Chair of the Council Committee  
considering your nomination**

Staff in the Mayor's Office of Legislative and External Affairs will assist you with these arrangements.