

ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

January 23, 2015

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

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have reappointed Mr. Aaron Thomas to the Community Forest Advisory Committee for the term ending January 31, 2017. Mr. Thomas's current term expires on January 31, 2015.

I certify that in my opinion Mr. Thomas is qualified for the work that will devolve upon him, and that I make the appointment solely in the interest of the City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'E. Garcetti'.

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor

EG:dlg

Attachment

COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

Name: Aaron Thomas
Commission: Community Forest Advisory Committee
End of Term: 1/31/2017

Appointee Information

1. **Race/ethnicity:** African American
2. **Gender:** Male
3. **Council district and neighborhood of residence:** 1 - East Los Angeles
4. **Are you a registered voter?** Yes
5. **Prior commission experience:**
6. **Highest level of education completed:** University of California at Berkeley
7. **Occupation/profession:** Urban Forestry Manager, North East Trees
8. **Experience(s) that qualifies person for appointment:** See attached resume
9. **Purpose of this appointment:** Reappointment
10. **Current composition of the commission:**

Aaron J. Thomas

EDUCATION

- University of California at Berkeley (1983-1984)
- Los Angeles City College (2000-2004)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Urban Forestry Manager (1994-present)
North East Trees, Los Angeles, CA

- Coordinate tree planting projects in resource challenged communities
- Develop and implement green job training programs for at risk youth
- Organize environmental stewardship activities for local community groups

COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

Area Representative (2002-2004)

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council

- Advocated local initiatives including the introduction of bicycle lanes, affordable housing, AIDS awareness, and environmental projects

Master Gardener (2006-present)

Unlverslty of California Cooperative Extension

- Disseminate educational material and assist the public in the creation of community gardens

Volunteer Arborist (2008-2009)

Los Angeles Farm Works, Los Angeles, California

- Oversaw the planting and maintenance of fruit tree orchards for an urban, community garden organization

International Volunteer (2010-present)

Iko Poran/Verdejar, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

- Assist with a native tree reforestation project on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Includes working with volunteers from a local "favela" (slum) and raising funds for the long term sustainability of the project.

SKILLS

- Certified Arborist
- Master Gardener
- Comfortable in written and spoken French, some Spanish and Portuguese
- Extensive use of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) and some Photoshop

MEMBERSHIPS

- Western Chapter International Society of Arboriculture
- Native Plant Society of California

CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION

- United States Department of Agriculture (April 2013)
- International Society of Arboriculture (April 2013)
- California Assembly member Jimmy Gomez (April 2013)
- Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (March 2013)
- California Assembly member Holly Mitchell (December 2011)
- Los Angeles City Council member Richard Alarcon (August 2011)

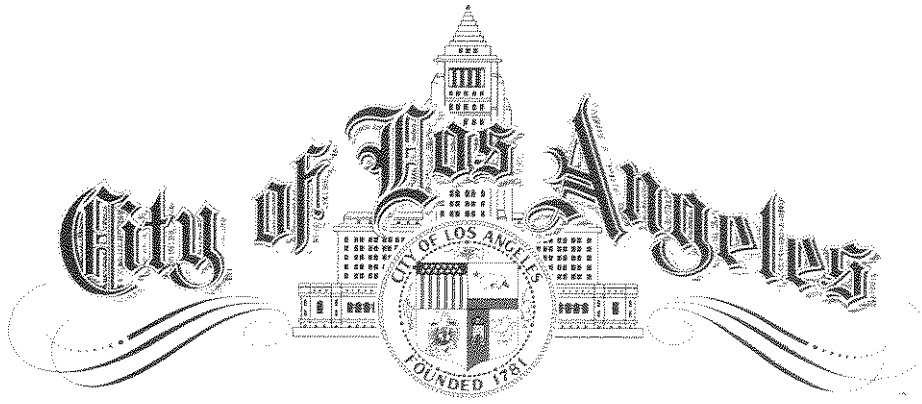
RECENT PROJECTS

- **Ascot Hills Park Reforestation** (\$100,000 budget)- oversee the planting of hundreds native trees and work with volunteers from local schools (2014)
- **Debs Park Reforestation** (\$100,000 budget)- oversee the planting of hundreds of native trees and work with volunteers from local schools (2014)
- **Soto St. Greenbelt** (\$100,000 budget)- oversee the planting of hundreds of native trees and work with volunteers from local schools (2014)
- **Million Trees Los Angeles** (\$200,000 budget)-oversee the planting and distribution of thousands of shade and fruit trees for the City of Los Angeles (2013-14)
- **AQMD Fruit Trees** (\$20,000 budget)-oversee the planting of fruit trees in community gardens throughout the City of Los Angeles (2013-14)
- **Cal Fire Housing Authority Greening** (\$150,000 budget)- oversee the planting of 600 shade trees in low income/ public housing facilities throughout Los Angeles (2013)
- **Cal Fire Housing Authority Raingardens** (\$150,000 budget)- manage the installation of 12 native plant raingardens at the Ramona Gardens public housing facility (2013)
- **Cal ReLeaf Education** (\$10,000 budget)- conduct 3 community workshops for tree care and education (2013)
- **EEMP La Brea Greenbelt** (\$350,000 budget)- manage the planting and irrigation of 1500 native trees at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (2012)
- **Cal ReLeaf/ARRA** (\$500,000)- manage a two year at risk youth job training program for over 100 participants as well as the planting of thousands of trees throughout Los Angeles (2010 and 2011)

PAST PROJECTS

- Los Angeles River Greenbelt
- Arroyo Seco Reforestation Project
- LADWP Cool Schools Program
- San Jose Creek Greenbelt
- Elysian Park Children's Arboretum
- Elysian Park Buena Vista Restoration
- City of San Gabriel Street Tree Project
- City of Pasadena Street Tree Project
- City of Pasadena Arroyo Seco Restoration
- Environmental Affairs Department Street Trees
- Los Angeles State Historic Park Planting
- Rio de Los Angeles State Park Wetland Management

- **Arroyo Pescadero Urban Forestry Maintenance**
- **Bergamot Station Native Plant Installation**
- **Whittier Narrows Restoration Project**
- **LAUSD School Gardens Projects**



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

January 23, 2015

Mr. Aaron Thomas

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I am pleased to inform you that I hereby reappoint you to the Community Forest Advisory Committee for the term ending January 31, 2017.

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 Gilbert Cedillo, your Councilmember, and Councilmember Felipe Fuentes, the Chair of the Energy and Environment 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 Energy and Environment Committee and by 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. Cary Gross will assist you during the confirmation process if you have questions or need parking arrangements.

Commissioners must be residents of the City of Los Angeles. If you move at any point during your term, have any changes in your contact information, 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".

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor

EG:dlg



Attachment I

Mr. Aaron Thomas
January 23, 2015

Nominee Check List

I. Within seven days:

Mail, fax or email the following forms to: Cary Gross, Office of the Mayor, Office of External Affairs, City Hall, 200 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 or email: cary.gross@lacity.org.

_____ **Remuneration Form**

_____ **Undated Separation Forms**

_____ **Background Check Release**

_____ **Commissioner Information Sheet/Voluntary Statistics**

II. possible, the Mayor's Office will schedule a meeting with you and:

_____ **Your City Councilmember Gilbert Cedillo** (contact at (213) 473-7001).

_____ **Councilmember Felipe Fuentes, Chair of the Council Committee considering your nomination** (contact at (213) 473-7007).

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