

ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

May 9, 2014

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

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have appointed Ms. Leonara Gershman Pitts to the Rent Adjustment Commission for the term ending May 20, 2018. Ms. Gershman Pitts will fill the vacancy created by Paula Leftwich, whose term will expire on May 20, 2014.

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 blue ink that reads 'E. Garcetti'.

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor

EG:dlg

Attachment

COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

Name: Leonara Gershman Pitts
Commission: Rent Adjustment Commission
End of Term: 5/20/2018

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:**
6. **Highest level of education completed:** B.F.A., New York University's Tisch School of the Arts
7. **Occupation/profession:**
8. **Experience(s) that qualifies person for appointment:** See attached resume
9. **Purpose of this appointment:** Replacement
10. **Current composition of the commission (excluding appointee):**

| Name | APC | CD | Ethnicity | Gender | Appt date | Term end |
|----------------------|--------------|----|------------------------|--------|-----------|-----------|
| Cha, Alex | Central | 1 | Asian Pacific Islander | M | 22-Sep-09 | 20-May-14 |
| Daar, Jeffrey J. | North Valley | 12 | Caucasian | M | 18-Feb-03 | 20-May-14 |
| Glenn, Theresa (Tai) | East | 14 | Caucasian | F | 19-Jul-13 | 20-May-14 |
| Handler, Betsy | West | 11 | Caucasian | F | 15-Mar-13 | 20-May-14 |
| Leftwich, Paula G. | South | 8 | African American | F | 02-Nov-94 | 20-May-14 |
| Townsend, Maria | North Valley | 12 | Latina | F | 26-Sep-07 | 20-May-14 |
| Winderman, Allyne | Central | 4 | African American | F | 15-Mar-13 | 20-May-14 |

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

May 9, 2014

Ms. Leonara Gershman Pitts

Dear Ms. Gershman Pitts:

I am pleased to inform you that I hereby appoint you to the Rent Adjustment Commission for the term ending May 20, 2018. 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 Justin Gonzalez in my Office at (213) 922-9788 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 Shannon Prior at the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960.

Ms. Leonara Gershman Pitts

May 9, 2014

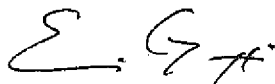
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As part of the City Council confirmation process, you will need to meet with Jose Huizar, your Councilmember, and Councilmember Gilbert Cedillo, the Chair of the Housing Committee, to answer any questions they may have. You will be hearing from a City Council committee clerk who will let you know when your appointment will be considered by the Housing Committee. Some time 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. Cary Gross with the Mayor's staff 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 "Eric Garcetti". The signature is stylized and cursive.

ERIC GARCETTI

Mayor

EG:dlg

Attachment I
Ms. Leonara Gershman Pitts
May 9, 2014

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, 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 fax:
213-978-9719 or email: cary.gross@lacity.org.

- Remuneration Form**
- Undated Separation Forms**
- Background Check Release**
- 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 in the mail 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 City Councilmember Jose Huizar** (contact at 213-473-7014).
- Councilmember Gilbert Cedillo, Chair of the Council Committee
considering your nomination** (contact at 213-473-7001).

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