



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

April 8, 2024

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

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have appointed Mr. Justin Mikita to the Board of Zoo Commissioners for the term ending June 30, 2028.

I certify that in my opinion Mr. Mikita is especially qualified by reason of training and experience for the work which shall devolve upon him, and that I make the appointment solely in the interest of the City.

Mr. Mikita will fill the vacancy created by the departure of Mark Gonzalez.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karen Bass'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:tga

Attachment

COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

Name: Justin Mikita
Commission: Board of Zoo Commissioners
End of Term: 6/30/2028

Appointee Information

- 1. Race:** Caucasian
- 2. Gender:** Male
- 3. Council District and neighborhood of residence:** 4 - South Valley
- 4. Are you a registered voter in the City of Los Angeles?** Yes
- 5. Prior commission experience:**
- 6. Highest level of education completed:** J.D., Southwestern Law School, Los Angeles
- 7. Occupation/profession:** Co-Founder/Principal, A Kid Named Beckett Productions, Hawkins Mikta, Co-Founder/Volunteer Executive Director, Tie The Knot/PRONOUN
- 8. Experience(s) that qualifies person for appointment:** See attached resume
- 9. Purpose of this appointment:** Appointment
- 10. Current composition of the commission (excluding appointee):**

Commissioner	APC	CD	Race	Gender	Term End
Vannatim, Elnie	West LA	5	API	F	6/30/2027
Silva, Bernardo	Central	4	Latinx	M	6/30/2026
Smith, Daryl	North Valley	12	African American	M	6/30/2025
Winnick, Karen	West LA	5	Caucasian	F	6/30/2024
VACANT					6/30/2028

JUSTIN NATHANIEL MIKITA, ESQ.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

A Kid Named Beckett Productions, Los Angeles/New York City

Co-Founder/Principal, 2018 – Present

A Two-time Tony Award winning production company, responsible for curating multimedia from various stages of development and getting them made and released via various platforms. Amplifying underserved voices with a focus on LGBTQ+ content and content creators. Engaged in funding and sale of projects to various networks/streamers. Successful independent financing for projects up to three million dollars in budget. Projects include Broadway and touring stage (SHUCKED, Oklahoma!), Spotify Podcast original Gay Pride & Prejudice, Oscar-Award shortlisted WELCOME TO CHECHNYA (HBO), to name a few.

Hawkins Mikita

A Los Angeles based consulting firm bridging the gap between entertainment and progressive movements/politics. Responsible for strategic event management, partnership building, large-scale fundraising efforts & social media engagement. More info at www.HawkinsMikita.com

Tie The Knot/PRONOUN, Los Angeles, CA

Co-Founder/Volunteer Executive Director, November 2012 - Present

Conceptualized, branded & launched a full-scale 501(c)4 organization to advocate for marriage equality in the United States for under \$20,000. Targeted & secured various celebrity guest designers for each collection (Isaac Mizrahi, Patricia Michaels, George Takei, Scott Fujita). Managed a full-scale marketing and media campaign around 4 collection launches, amounting to over \$250,000 in profit & the sale of over 7,000 bow ties. Pitched & secured a full “Tie The Knot” inspired Project Runway episode, which aired on August 8, 2013. Managed various strategic partnerships which include: Air New Zealand, Governor Pat Quinn (Illinois), ACLU New Mexico, Human Rights Campaign, Respect for Marriage Coalition & the Tony Awards. Tie The Knot was just recognized by the Do Something Awards on VH1 in Los Angeles, CA. YTD Raise of over \$1,000,000 for LGBTQ+ Equality.

American Foundation for Equal Rights, Los Angeles, CA

Development Director, October 2011 – July 2013

Responsible for funding an annual budget of two million dollars through large-scale events, grassroots fundraising & major donor cultivation and retention. Targeted new donors and sustained long time donors to maintain major gifts. Secured multiple top celebrities and managed continued engagement (*Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Eric Stonestreet, Darren Criss, Hilary Duff, Josh Hutcherson, Beth Behrs, George Takei, Sofia Vergara and Chris Colfer*). Increased social media traction by 175% on multiple decision days. Aided in the media and public awareness campaigns by conceptualizing and producing digital and print concepts for placement through dozens of national media outlets such as New York Times, Variety, Hollywood Reporter, BuzzFeed, etc.

“8” Los Angeles, March 3, 2012

Produced and executed the Los Angeles premiere of Dustin Lance Black’s “8.” Responsible for securing an A-list cast which included: Brad Pitt, George Clooney, Martin Sheen, Matthew Morrison, Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Matt Bomer, Jamie Lee Curtis, Christine Lahti and Campbell Brown. Raised over \$2 million dollar profit for the fundraiser to support the American Foundation for Equal Rights. Managed a sponsorship with Google/YouTube valued at \$500,000 which included the a live-stream of the production & attracted over 250,000 viewers.

EDUCATION

Southwestern Law School, Los Angeles, CA

Juris Doctor, May 2010

- Top 30%, Dean’s Scholar

University of California, Los Angeles, CA

Bachelor of Arts, Critical Theater Studies, *Minor*, Spanish Language, June 2007

ADMISSIONS

- State Bar of California, June 2011;
- United States District Court, Central District of California, June 2011;
- United States Federal Court, June 2011.

VOLUNTEER

- *Board of Directors, Human Rights Campaign, 2017-Present;*
- *Board of Directors, Center Theater Group, 2023-Present*
- *Volunteer, Special Needs Network;*
- *Development Committee Member, Outfest, 2009 - 2010;*
- *Volunteer Event Coordinator, UCLA Pediatric Oncology/Hematology, 2004 – 2007*
- *Family Member, GLAZA Los Angeles Zoo, 2020-Present*



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

April 8, 2024

Dear Mr. Mikita:

I am pleased to inform you that I hereby appoint you to the Board of Zoo Commissioners for the term ending June 30, 2028, subject to confirmation by the City Council.

To begin the appointment process, please review, sign, and return the enclosed Remuneration Form and undated Letters of Separation **within one week** of receiving this letter. These documents are necessary to ensure the most efficient, open, and accountable city government possible.

Mayor's Office policy requires all potential commissioners to be fingerprinted as part of the background check. The Commissions team will assist in connecting you with Personnel's Background Unit so that you may schedule an appointment to have this done. You must schedule the appointment **within one week** of receiving this letter.

Should this apply to your commission, 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 via the California Fair Political Practices Commission's eDisclosure website, or by mailing the forms to City Hall at 200 N. Spring Street, 24th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90012. Any inquiries regarding this form should be directed to Nicole Enriquez at the City Ethics Commission by email at nicole.enriquez@lacity.org.

As part of the appointment process, Nithya Raman, your Councilmember, and Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez, the Chair of the Neighborhoods and Community Enrichment Committee, may wish to meet with you to answer any questions they have. Our office will assist with arranging these meetings.

Mr. Justin Mikita
April 8, 2024
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Additionally, you will be required to attend public meetings at City Hall where your appointment will be considered. You will be hearing from our office and a City Council Clerk who will let you know when your appointment will be considered by the Neighborhoods and Community Enrichment Committee. Sometime thereafter, you will be notified of the date when your appointment will be presented to the full City Council. Before you may begin serving, you will be required to take the Oath of Office in the City Clerk's Office located in Room 395 of City Hall. If you require parking for these meetings, please contact my Commissions team by email at myr-commissions@lacity.org.

Per the City Charter, most commissioners must be registered voters of the City of Los Angeles, and must therefore reside within Los Angeles. If you move at any point during your term, or your contact information changes, please contact my Commissions team immediately at the email address listed below. While we hope that you complete a successful term, if for some reason you intend to resign, please do so in writing to my Commissions team at myr-commissions@lacity.org.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bass". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:tga

Attachment I
Mr. Justin Mikita
April 8, 2024

Nominee Check List

I. Within 7 days:

- Email the below completed documents, found on the last three pages of this letter, to: myr-commissions@lacity.org OR mail them to:

Office of the Mayor
Attn: Thomas Arechiga
200 N. Spring Street, Room 303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

- Remuneration Form
- Undated Separation Letters (2)

- Schedule an appointment to get fingerprinted to complete a background check. The Commissions team will assist in connecting you with the Personnel Background Unit.

II. Before your appointment is heard in committee or full council (you will be contacted by the Clerk's Office with this date):

- 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. Be sure to take no more than 21 days to file, per City law.

- 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

III. The Mayor's Office will notify the below Councilmembers of your nomination, so that they may reach out to schedule a meeting with you should they wish.

- Your City Councilmember Nithya Raman
- Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez, Chair of the Council Committee considering your nomination

IV. Public Meetings at City Hall:

- Neighborhoods and Community Enrichment Committee Hearing
- Full Council Hearing