



## CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

**Meeting Date:** December 2, 2008  
**To:** Honorable Mayor & City Council  
**From:** Byron Pope, CMC  
City Clerk  
**Subject:** Planning Commission Interview Panel Report

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### INTRODUCTION

The Planning Commission Interview Panel composed of Mayor Barry Brucker, Councilmember Linda Briskman and Planning Commission Chair Kathy Reims and immediate past Planning Commission Chair Noah Furie met on Wednesday October 15, 2008 to interview six candidates for one upcoming vacancy on the Planning Commission. After the first round of interviews, the Panel narrowed the selection to two candidates, and met on Friday, November 21, 2008 to interview the top two candidates.

### DISCUSSION

After detailed deliberation, the Planning Commission Interview Panel selected Mr. Craig Corman to serve as the next Planning Commissioner to replace outgoing member Kathy Reims.

It is important to note that the applicants were exceptional and that the decision came down to two excellent candidates, Design Review Commissioner Marilyn Weiss and Attorney Craig Corman. According to Mayor Brucker and Councilmember Briskman, they could not remember another commission selection where the applicants were put through such thorough interviews and the selection votes so close. "This is a real credit to the two finalists who both would have been selected had there been another position open," stated Briskman. Brucker added, "Beverly Hills is fortunate to have such talent willing to serve the community...we were proud of all of our applicants".

The City is grateful that Commissioner Weiss will continue to serve on the Design Review Commission (which will likely be getting more responsibility and authority from the Council) and the Panel suggests she apply for the next Planning Commission opening. A key determining factor between these two candidates was that the City could continue to benefit from Marilyn's expertise in her current commission position and place Craig into the upcoming Planning slot. Both candidates were well qualified for the job and the deliberations were lengthy.

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**RECOMMENDATION**

The Planning Commission Interview Panel recommends that the City Council appoint Craig Corman to the Planning Commission. With the concurrence of the Council, a formal report will be prepared for adoption at the December 16, 2008 Formal City Council meeting.

In addition, the Panel requests that the remaining candidates be thanked and advised that they each gave thoughtful and compelling answers to the questions posed by the Panel. The City is fortunate to have a very strong applicant pool and the applicants are encouraged to re-apply and attend as many future Planning Commission meetings as possible. In addition, those applicants who have not participated in Team Beverly Hills are urged to do so.

Byron Pope  
Approved By

