



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: April 1, 2014
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: Byron Pope, CMC
City Clerk
Subject: Human Relations Commission Interview Panel Report

INTRODUCTION

The Human Relations Commission Interview Panel composed of Councilmember William W. Brien, MD, Councilmember Nancy Krasne, Human Relations Commission Chair Rochelle Ginsburg, and Human Relations Commissioner Dr. Sharona R. Nazarian met on Wednesday, February 26, 2014. The panel received fourteen applications. One applicant withdrew prior to the interview date, and the remaining thirteen candidates were interviewed for four positions on the Human Relations Commission.

DISCUSSION

After discussion and careful review, it is the consensus of the Panel to recommend: **(1) Ori Blumenfeld, (2) Karen Popovich Levyn, (3) Jerald Friedman and (4) Sonia Berman** for appointment to fill the positions of: (1) vacancy that occurred when Commissioner Tom Pease resigned, (2) Commissioner Barbara Linder who retired in January 2014, (3) Commissioner Sharona Nazarian whose term was scheduled to end on January 16, 2014, and (4) Commissioner Ilona Sherman whose term is scheduled to end on April 9, 2014.

It is also the recommendation of the Panel, once the City Commissions item has been reviewed and approved by the full City Council, to have the four selected appointees draw to determine the length of their terms for future staggering on the Commission as follows: two members – six year terms, one member – seven year term and one member – eight year term. If the City Commissions item is not approved by the full Council, all four appointees will serve six year terms and term out at the same time.

RECOMMENDATION

The Human Relations Commission Interview Panel recommends that the City Council appoint Ori Blumenfeld, Karen Popovich Levyn, Jerald Friedman and Sonia Berman to the Human Relations Commission. With the concurrence of the Council, a formal report will be prepared for adoption at the next regular City Council meeting on April 22, 2014.

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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 such an exceptional applicant pool and the applicants are encouraged to attend as many future Human Relations Commission meetings as possible and reapply for future vacancies. In addition, those applicants who have not participated in Team Beverly Hills are urged to do so.

Byron Pope
Approved By

Handwritten signature of Byron Pope, consisting of the letters 'BP' in a stylized, cursive font.