

Mayor

Gabe Quinto

Mayor Pro Tem

Rebecca Saltzman

**AGENDA****Councilmembers**

William Ktsanes

Lisa Motoyama

Carolyn Wysinger

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TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2026**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING (5:00 PM)**

Hillside Conference Room - 10890 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito

Join Via Zoom:<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89733524666?pwd=LeYVhPsnT7rtGA5Y1C6z9oRveX1D66.1>**Meeting ID:** 897 3352 4666 **Passcode:** 146393 **Dial in:** 1-408-638-0968**Public Comments:**

1. In-person, by submitting a request to speak to the City Clerk.
2. Via Zoom, using the "[Raise Hand](#)" feature to request to speak.
3. By phone, dialing *9 to "raise your hand", and *6 to unmute.
4. Online, using the "[Submit Comments](#)" feature on the [meeting event](#).
5. Via email to cityclerk@elcerrito.gov indicating **Public Comments – Agenda Item #**.

Written comments received by **11:00 AM** the day of the meeting will be provided to the City Council and posted online in advance of the meeting. Comments received after the deadline will be provided to the City Council and posted after the meeting.

Accommodations: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk at 510-215-4305. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable accommodations. Closed Captions are available via zoom.

Conduct: This meeting is held pursuant to City Council [Rules of Order and Procedure](#).

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Gabe Quinto
Mayor Pro Tem
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5:00 PM ROLL CALL - CONVENE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

1. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

All persons wishing to speak should sign up with the City Clerk. Remarks are typically limited to 3 minutes per person and to items on the special meeting agenda only.

**2. BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND LIBRARY TASK FORCE INTERVIEWS,
STATUS AND APPOINTMENTS**

Action Proposed: Staff requests that City Council conduct interviews and, at the conclusion of interviews, confer with staff regarding the ongoing recruitments, any remaining vacancies, and the scheduling of further special meetings to conduct interviews (if applicable). Council may decide to make appointments at the conclusion of the meeting.

Contact: Holly M. Charl  ty, City Clerk, City Management

3. ADJOURN SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The City of El Cerrito serves our diverse community by providing exceptional services that create a safe and resilient future for all.



AGENDA BILL

Agenda Item No. 2.

Date: July 14, 2026
To: El Cerrito City Council
From: Holly M. Charl  y, City Clerk, City Management
Subject: BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND LIBRARY TASK FORCE
INTERVIEWS, STATUS AND APPOINTMENTS

ACTION PROPOSED

Staff requests that City Council conduct interviews and, at the conclusion of interviews, confer with staff regarding the ongoing recruitments, any remaining vacancies, and the scheduling of further special meetings to conduct interviews (if applicable). Council may decide to make appointments at the conclusion of the meeting.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

City staff continues to publicize board, commission and committee vacancies as they occur. Vacancies are published on the City's website and in the West County Times; posted at City Hall, the Community Center, the Library and other various locations throughout the City including Little Libraries. Staff continues to utilize the City Manager's Update, social media outlets, and press releases to increase awareness and opportunities for residents to participate by attending meetings and/or serving on a Board, Commission or Committee.

Library Task Force

On February 17, 2026 the City Council formed the El Cerrito Library Task Force ([Resolution 2026-11](#)) to serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council with regard to a new or updated library for El Cerrito. On March 3, 2026 the City Council provided staff direction on the application structure, selection process, and interview questions. Based on the selection process, as the number of applications received by the deadline exceeded 12, each Councilmember independently reviewed all applications received and put forward a list of applicants, in preferred order, that they wanted to interview for a seat on the Task Force. Based on the feedback, the top 10 ranked candidates were scheduled for interview as listed below.

Interview Schedule

Interviews scheduled for this meeting are as follows:

Interview Time	Applicant	Interviewing for:
5:00 PM	Overview/Questions	N/A
5:15 PM	Amy Chen	Library Task Force
5:30 PM	Rachel Rosekind	Library Task Force
5:45 PM	Bethany Woods	Library Task Force

6:00 PM	Leta Negandi	Library Task Force
6:15 PM	Chelsi Sparta	Library Task Force
6:30 PM	Eden Rosekind (Youth)	Library Task Force
6:45 PM	Council Recess	N/A
7:00 PM	Kimberly Wemmer	Library Task Force
7:15 PM	Linda Takimoto	Library Task Force
7:30 PM	Tom Panas	Library Task Force
7:45 PM	Ian Bader	Library Task Force
8:00 PM	Itai Trilnick	Library Task Force
8:15 PM	Alison Tan	Citizens Street Oversight Committee
8:30 PM	Valerie Woodson	Human Relations Commission (1st Choice)
8:45 PM	Valerie Woodson	Civil Service Commission (2nd Choice)
9:00 PM	Michael Kessler	Arts and Culture Commission
9:15 PM	Council Discussion	

STRATEGIC PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

This action supports the [City's Strategic Plan Goal\(s\)](#) of:

- *High Performing Organization; and*
- *Livability and Belonging.*

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

This section is not applicable to this agenda item.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

This section is not applicable to this agenda item.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

This section is not applicable to this agenda item.

Reviewed by:

Attachments:

Application(s) on file with the City Clerk

1. Commissioner Interview Worksheet
2. List of Pending Applications

JULY 14, 2026
EL CERRITO BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENT WORKSHEET
SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Legend

ACC = Arts and Culture Commission

CSC = Civil Service Commission

DOA = Date of Appointment *Indicates a PARTIAL TERM*

HRC = Human Resources Commission

LTF = Library Task Force

ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION (2 Seats)

Name	Term
	DOA – 3/1/2029
	DOA – 3/1/2029

2 existing vacancies

Eligible Applicants
Michael Kessler

CITIZEN STREET OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (1 Seat)

Name	Term
	DOA - 3/1/2029

1 existing vacancy

Eligible Applicants
Alison Tan
<i>Arsh Hothi (recent application, not yet scheduled for interview)</i>

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (3 Seats)

Name	Term
	DOA – 3/1/2029
	DOA – 3/1/2029
	DOA - 3/1/2027

3 existing vacancies

Eligible Applicants
Valerie Woodson (also pursuing HRC)
<i>Lillia Refes (unavailable to interview)</i>
<i>Julie Jennings (recent application, not yet scheduled for interview)</i>

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (3 Seats)

Name	Term
	DOA – 3/1/2028
	DOA – 3/1/2027
	DOA – 3/1/2027

3 existing vacancies

Eligible Applicants
Valerie Woodson (also pursuing CSC)
<i>Beverly Green (non-responsive)</i>

LIBRARY TASK FORCE (7 Seats)

Name	Term
	1 year from DOA
	1 year from DOA
	1 year from DOA
	1 year from DOA
	1 year from DOA
	1 year from DOA
	1 year from DOA (Youth Member)

Eligible Applicants
Amy Chen
Bethany Woods
Chelsi Sparti
Eden Rosekind (Youth Applicant)
Ian Bader
Itai Trilnick
Kimberly Wemmer
Leta Negandhi
Linda Takimoto
Rachel Rosekind
Tom Panas
Christina Baumgardner <i>(not selected for interview)</i>
Pamela Austin <i>(not selected for interview)</i>
Rachel Meresman <i>(not selected for interview)</i>
Suzanne Balmaceda <i>(not selected for interview)</i>

Name	Board Name	Application Status	Application Date	Interview Date
Michael Kessler	Arts and Culture Commission	Active	06/10/2026	07/14/2026
Alison Tan	Citizens Street Oversight Committee	Active	03/19/2026	07/14/2026
Arsh Hothi	Citizens Street Oversight Committee	Active	07/06/2026	
Julie Jennings	Civil Service Commission	Active	07/01/2026	
Lillia Refes	Civil Service Commission	Active	01/21/2026	
Valerie McCann Woodson	Civil Service Commission	Active	03/05/2026	07/14/2026
Katherine Kimsey	Community Safety Committee	Active	05/07/2026	
Tova Feldmanstern	Community Safety Committee	Active	06/03/2026	
Arsh Hothi	Design Review Board	Active	07/06/2026	
Erin Gillett	Design Review Board	Active	07/06/2026	
Ann Lehman	Economic Development Committee	Active	07/07/2025	
Beverly Green	Economic Development Committee	Active	10/22/2025	
Jonathan Stern	Economic Development Committee	Active	01/20/2026	
Rahul Iyer	Economic Development Committee	Active	07/14/2025	
Han Miao	Environmental Quality Committee	Active	06/25/2025	
Sasha Hahn	Environmental Quality Committee	Active	01/22/2026	
UlugBeck Nurmatov	Environmental Quality Committee	Active	05/12/2026	
Julie Jennings	Financial Advisory Board	Active	07/01/2026	
Beverly Green	Human Relations Commission	Active	10/22/2025	
Valerie McCann Woodson	Human Relations Commission	Active	03/05/2026	07/14/2026
Amy Chen	Library Task Force	Active	04/06/2026	07/14/2026
Bethany Woods	Library Task Force	Active	03/30/2026	07/14/2026
Chelsi Sparti	Library Task Force	Active	04/17/2026	07/14/2026
Christina Baumgardner	Library Task Force	Active	04/17/2026	

Name	Board Name	Application Status	Application Date	Interview Date
Eden Rosekind (Youth Applicant)	Library Task Force	Active	04/17/2026	07/14/2026
Ian Bader	Library Task Force	Active	03/23/2026	07/14/2026
Itai Trilnick	Library Task Force	Active	04/08/2026	07/14/2026
Kimberly Wemmer	Library Task Force	Active	04/16/2026	07/14/2026
Leta Negandhi	Library Task Force	Active	04/16/2026	07/14/2026
Linda Takimoto	Library Task Force	Active	04/13/2026	07/14/2026
Pamela Austin	Library Task Force	Active	04/03/2026	
Rachel Meresman	Library Task Force	Active	04/17/2026	
Rachel Rosekind	Library Task Force	Active	04/16/2026	07/14/2026
Suzanne Balmaceda	Library Task Force	Active	04/17/2026	
Tom Panas	Library Task Force	Active	04/17/2026	07/14/2026