



Mental Health Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR

October 24, 2006

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Mental Health Commission

Submitted by: Carol Patterson, Secretary, Mental Health Commission

Subject: Appointment to the Mental Health Commission

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution appointing Robin M. Williams to the Mental Health Commission, as a representative of the General Public Interest Category, for a three-year term beginning October 25, 2006 and ending October 24, 2009.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Mental Health Commission is authorized to be composed of seventeen members. However, there are presently six vacancies on the Commission. These vacancies impair the Commission's ability to adequately review and evaluate the community's mental health needs, resources, and programs.

BACKGROUND

State law requires that appointments to the Mental Health Commission meet specific categories. The general public interest category may include anyone who has an interest in and some knowledge of mental health services. The special public interest category includes direct consumers of public mental health services or family members of consumers, which together must constitute at least fifty percent or nine of the commission seats. Direct consumers and family members shall each constitute at least 20% of the commission membership. Two members shall be residents of the City of Albany with at least one of these seats filled by a direct consumer or family member.

Mental Health Commission members may, by State law, serve no more than nine consecutive years.

At its September 14, 2006 meeting, the Mental Health Commission passed the following motion:

M/S/C (*Gresher, Taggart*) to recommend that City Council appoint Robin M. Williams to the Mental Health Commission in a general public interest category slot. **Ayes:** Unanimous; **Absent:** Moore.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Approval of the recommended action will allow the Mental Health Commission to move one step closer to having a full and diverse complement of commissioners to review and evaluate the community's mental health needs, resources, and programs.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager concurs with the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report.

CONTACT PERSON

Michael Diehl, Chairperson, Mental Health Commission, (510) 472-6192
Carol Patterson, Secretary, Mental Health Commission, (510) 981-5217

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

APPOINTING ROBIN M. WILLIAMS TO MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

WHEREAS, membership on the Mental Health Commission is composed of seventeen with appointment by Council as a whole: one Mayor (or designee), nine special public interest, two residents of Albany (one of which shall be representative of special public interest), and five general public interest; and

WHEREAS, with the four appointments approved by the City Council on September 19, 2006, the total membership of the Mental Health Commission includes: seven Berkeley Special Interest members, two Berkeley General Interest members, one member representing Berkeley's Mayor, and one Albany General Interest member; and

WHEREAS, with Mental Health Services Act implementation in its beginning stages, the City of Berkeley will need a Mental Health Commission with a full and diverse complement of commissioners to address the many important tasks ahead; and

WHEREAS, at its September 14, 2006 meeting, the Mental Health Commission unanimously recommended that Robin M. Williams be appointed to the Mental Health Commission

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley appoints Robin M. Williams, General Public Interest Category, to the Mental Health Commission for a three-year term beginning October 25, 2006 and ending October 24, 2009.