



# COUNCILMEMBER JESS RIVAS

## D I S T R I C T 5 N E W S L E T T E R

Dear Neighbor,

We're already into early March, which means it's time for a look back on the month of February. As always, I am honored to represent you and be a progressive voice on the Council during these challenging times. Here are some highlights of what came before the Council over the past month:

- **Gas Powered Leaf Blower Ban** – The Council unanimously voted to ban these noisy, polluting machines. I was primarily motivated by the environmental and health effects, but I know many will also welcome the much quieter electric leaf blowers. The typical leafblowing machine uses a two-stroke engine, where the engine mixes gasoline and oil, which results in air emissions which are generally more impactful than that from a typical, recent year, automobile. For example, the smog-forming pollution generated by the use of a leaf blower for one hour is comparable to driving a 2017 Toyota Camry 1,100 miles, which is the approximate distance from Los Angeles to Denver. We will use a phased approach to educate and inform the community about the prohibition and in turn, allow time for those with gas-powered leaf-blowers to purchase electric ones.
- **Task Force on Early Childhood Development**– The Council has appointed a new task force to work with staff to review the status of the implementation of the City's Early Child Development Policy adopted in 2015. In doing so, the task force will ensure the Policy's alignment with the most recent science regarding best practices on implementing early childhood programs, and identify any policy changes needed to support the City's youngest children and families because of immediate issues including COVID, racial injustice, cycles of violence, and economic instability.
- **Reproductive Freedom Resolution** – I was proud to introduce this resolution with Councilmember Madison and it was adopted by the Council. It is unfortunate that such a resolution is even necessary in 2022, but that is the reality we face. It is a clear statement that we are "a champion and defender of health equity and reproductive freedom, so that every resident in our community may have access to the reproductive services they need when they need them."
- **Historic Preservation Ordinance (HPO) Amendments** – In April 2021, a series of amendments to the HPO became effective. The intent of those amendments was to address public concerns and ensure that the HPO reflects the best practices in historic preservation. However, since they became effective, City staff identified an implementation issue and a few minor clean-up items. The intended effect of these new amendments is to return the establishment of landmark districts to a neighborhood driven process. Read the details [here](#).

Please don't hesitate to share your thoughts on the above or any other issues by reaching out to me directly at [jerivas@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:jerivas@cityofpasadena.net). I truly value your opinion and look forward to hearing from you.

-Jess

## Commissioner Spotlight Michael Warner Sr. & Michael Warner II



If volunteer hours made us action heroes and Pasadena was Gotham City, this father and son team would be our very own dynamic duo. Michael Warner Sr. and Michael Warner II have logged countless hours serving our City.

Born with a disability, Michael II was a regular user of Dial-A-Ride and experienced issues with the service. At the time, Pasadena Transit did not exist as we know it and smart phones were not a thing. Communicating

with drivers was difficult and improvements needed. It was soon after voicing his concerns that he was appointed to the Accessibility and Disability Commission. Not one to be idle, Michael Sr. began serving on the Code Enforcement Commission soon after his son was appointed. He also serves as a Board Member of the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee. Both are active in their neighborhood association, Bungalow Heaven.

For Michael II, getting involved in government policies, being surrounded by subject experts and affecting change are what he likes best about being a commissioner. For Michael Sr. it's being able to use many of the skills honed through his former job as a construction inspector that he enjoys the most.

If you are interested in serving on one of Pasadena's volunteer commissions, check out this list of [current vacancies](#) and apply today! Capes are optional.

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