COUNCILMEMBER JESS RIVAS

DISTRICT 5 NEWSLETTER

Dear Neighbor,

I hope you and your family are doing well. We were very excited to welcome our new baby boy to our family in late March. I missed the two Council meetings immediately after his birth and have been attending meetings remotely since then. I look forward to returning to in person meetings in May. I'll also be starting up office hours again this weekend and I'd love to see you there.

April has been an exciting time for the Council. Here are the highlights:

- **City Successfully Defended Lawsuit by California Apartment Association and Landlords Against Measure H/Charter Article XVIII –** At the end of March we were pleased to learn that the court sided with the city and respected the will of Pasadena voters by upholding Measure H/Charter Article XVIII. We had previously agreed to wait for the court to rule before completing the Rental Board appointment process.
- **Appointed Rental Board Members (Measure H/Charter Article XVIII)** – Measure H/Charter Article XVII assigns the powers and duties necessary to "administer and enforce" its provisions to the Pasadena Rental Housing Board. On April 19th, we appointed 13 residents (11 voting members, 2 alternates) to serve on this body so that it can begin its important work. It was inspiring to see so many residents, especially immigrants and tenants, participate in the meeting to make sure their voices were heard. I shared the sentiment of the overwhelming majority of residents who spoke and wrote in – that we should appoint those who are clearly committed to the success of the board and not those who have actively opposed its existence. Congratulations to Yaneli Soriano Santiago, the District 5 appointee.
- **Authorized Purchase of Abandoned Kaiser Property at Corner of Lake/Villa –**Just this past Monday, the Council unanimously authorized the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement with Kaiser for an amount not to exceed $12,000,000 for 450 North Lake Avenue. We anticipate that the County of Los Angeles will contribute $6,000,000, pursuant to Board of Supervisors action on May 2nd. There is no specific project that is proposed for the property at this time, but could include County services (including outpatient health services), city office space, affordable housing, and community serving retail. This is of course tremendously exciting for the entire city, but especially for the neighbors immediately around the property, who have dealt with the negative effects of the abandoned property for years.
- **Began Budget Process** – Budget season has begun. We opened the public hearing for the FY 2024 Capital Improvement Projects budget this week and will soon begin receiving briefings from staff on the operating budget for all city departments in order to adopt the final budget in June.

Please follow me on social media if you haven't already. It's an easy way to stay up to date on what's going on in our neighborhoods and throughout the city. Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter handles are all @PasadenaD5.

Finally, as always, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly atjerivas@cityofpasadena.net. I truly value your opinion and look forward to hearing from you.

-Jess

Commissioner Spotlight
Iesha Siler

Iesha Siler is a full-time mom, part-time student, and has
been a champion of healthy soil & water for years. Having been involved with Arlington Garden, New Horizon School's Peace Garden, Throop Church, Transition Pasadena, Mulch for the People and Zanja Madre, she was a natural fit for the Environmental Advisory Commission, (EAC).

The EAC advise Council and make policy recommendations in support of the goals and objectives of the City's Environmental Charter and guides the Green City Action Plan.

As a native of Pasadena and a Bulldog, Iesha's favorite things about living here are the mountains, beautiful outdoor spaces, our wonderful libraries, parks and the programs our City offers. Iesha also values our community which truly cares about our city and our urban ecology.

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