

## ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION

TITLE: At-Large Director Candidate Statements

CANDIDATES:

1. Benjamin Szeghy
2. Jakob Meuser
3. Les Hairrell
4. Delaram Ahmadyveasi
5. Andrea R. Salazar

## ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION

### Benjamin Szeghy

I have been a proud Mar Vista resident my entire life. I will fight to protect the things we Mar Vistans stand for: compassion, equality, accessibility, and community. I am a middle and elementary school assistant teacher and college student. I look forward to bringing my voice as a member of the younger generation into the conversation of our neighborhood's future. I will expand volunteering and leadership for Mar Vista's young people, fight for community safety that serves all residents equally, and bring Open Government to MVCC. I will strive to be a thoughtful representative for all my neighbors.

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### Jakob Meuser

My name is Jakob Meuser. I'm currently in my third year at Loyola Law School and a member of the Transportation, Infrastructure and Sustainability Committee. I'm not a native Angeleno, but I've come to love this city over the past 6 years, and Mar Vista in particular. This council has a lot of power to build a better community and bring its residents closer together. But to do that requires passion and ideas, two things that I will certainly bring if you select me to be an at large director.

My parents were not very involved in the neighborhood where I was raised. I've found it incredibly refreshing to come to MVCC meetings and be able to connect with other members of my community, especially in a post-covid world that often feels so disconnected. I don't think I am alone in feeling this way. In this new world where everyone has been pushed into their remote bubbles, this is our chance to harness people's desire for human connection and come out of this pandemic with a more vibrant and lively community.

I have many big goals that I would like to work with you to achieve. I want to work with Derl to organize local neighborhood trash pickups as a way for neighbors to meet MVCC and each other. I want to think outside the box in terms of outreach and get more committed community members of all ages involved. And I want to make it safer to walk around our beautiful community.

I showed up at my first meeting in May because I wanted to add a traffic safety feature on my street. I know there are plenty more community members like me who would like to get involved but just don't know about the council system. I would like to help reach them with you.

Thank you,

Jakob Meuser

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## Les Hairrell

My name is Les Hairrell and this is my statement of candidacy for the at-large director position on the Mar Vista Community Council. I've lived in Mar Vista since 2007. I was a practicing lawyer from 1990 until my retirement and have since then pursued a second career as a landscape designer. I'm a Master Gardener, Master Beekeeper, and have certificates in Landscape Architecture and Horticulture from UCLA Extension. My home in Mar Vista was previously on the Mar Vista Green Garden Showcase.

I was interested in becoming more involved in the Mar Vista community and my interest in urban agriculture and sustainability led me to become a Phase Representative and Board member at the Ocean View Farms community garden. I also became the Master Gardener Co-Geographic Lead for West LA, working to engage Master Gardeners in the community.

I would like to continue to develop my involvement in the Mar Vista community at the MVCC. Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

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### Delaram Ahmadyveasi

For over a decade, Delaram Ahmadyveasi has worked as an organizer, lobbyist, and representative for humanitarian causes, ranging from local to international campaigns. She spent three years working on educational and developmental programming. Although she's passionate about the general well-being of the world, she actively focuses her work and research on youth civic engagement, and policy reform. As a native of Los Angeles, she spends her free time creating community programming and taking adventures into the wilderness.

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### Andrea R. Salazar

I'm a native Angeleno who's lived in Mar Vista since 1994. I care deeply about the people and politics of the city and my local community.

Both my children – now young adults – attended public school here. As a single mom and busy professional, I made time to support the schools through volunteer work, activities and donations – and continue doing so today. The families I met from kindergarten to 12th grade are still among my closest friends.

The many local nonprofits I support include the Library Foundation of Los Angeles and Planned Parenthood. I know my neighbors and they know they can count on me. My roots here run deep and strong.

I want Mar Vista to thrive and remain safe. I want small businesses to be able to keep serving us. I want Mar Vista to remain a close-knit community where people care about each other. I love the small-town feeling in a big-city setting.

When I started attending MVCC committee meetings, my sense of belonging to this community grew even more. I've participated in lively discussions and have been impressed with how respectful participants are of differing points of view. I know it is our duty to represent all Mar Vista residents.

Professionally, I've often heard colleagues and bosses use the word "diplomatic" to describe me. I think it's accurate. I would also describe myself as inquisitive, enthusiastic, positive and fair. I ask questions because I'm genuinely interested in diverse perspectives and bringing us together in everyone's best interests.

I am honored to be considered as a candidate for an At-Large Director position of the MVCC.