

# **Candidate Statements for Zone 4 Director Vacancy\***

**Listed in Alphabetical Order**

Adams, Andrew

Berezin, David

Jeevangee, Kamila

Perry, Natalie

Rafeedie, Jennifer

Rosenstein, Brian

\*Personally Identifiable Information (PII) has been redacted from statements.

# Andrew Adams, Esq.

November 12, 2021

Kathryn Wheeler, Chair  
Mar Vista Community Council

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to express my interest in the Zone 4 Director Vacancy. I am over 18, and I live and work in Zone 4. My wife and I purchased this house 2 1/2 years ago, after living at National and Federal for the three years before that.

I love this neighborhood, and would never live anywhere else.

I am an attorney, and do real estate litigation in my role as a Health and Safety Code receiver ([www.calreceivers.com](http://www.calreceivers.com)) and I have a small side firm that takes on smaller real property disputes ([www.andrewfadams.com](http://www.andrewfadams.com)). I have been practicing for 11+ years now, and have done all aspects of real estate litigation. I grew up in Los Angeles, and my parents still live in Sunset Park (SM) and Pasadena. They are at my house on a weekly basis watching my kids.

In addition to practicing law, I have spent the last 20 years or so in the political world. I worked on campaigns for Democrats and the Sierra Club in even years up until my daughter was born. I ran David Ryu's successful campaign for City Council. I have not done more than volunteer a few hours or donate money since then, mostly because of personal restrictions and responsibilities, but I know that world well.

I want to get involved now because the status quo is unacceptable. Mar Vista Park is periodically unusable, and the Venice Boardwalk encampment was an absolute disgrace. I cringed as Venice became a talking point and tool for politicians, and cannot abide Mar Vista falling to the same fate. I realize that neighborhood councils cannot alone fix the litany of problems that the City faces, but I want to be there to assist in the fight and I think that some pugnacity and experience in this forum is called for.

Sincerely,

*Andrew Adams*

Andrew Adams

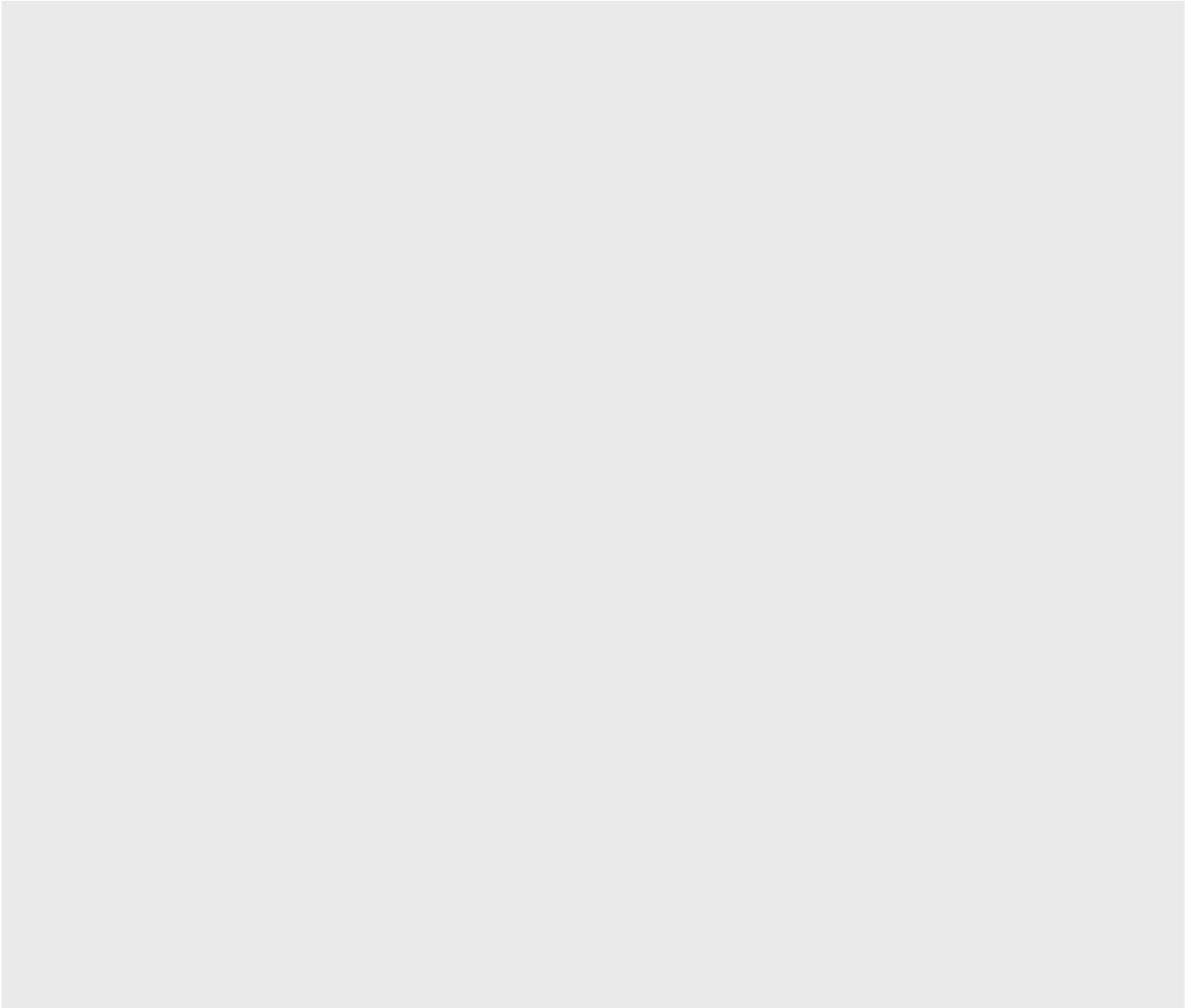
David Berezin Candidate Statement:

It is my hope to represent Zone 4 in the Mar Vista Community Council.

Mar Vista, and specifically Zone 4, is in my blood. I was born and raised in Zone 4, I am a homeowner in Zone 4, and I am raising my child in Zone 4. Just like my father did for me, I take my son to Mar Vista Park on the weekends; we get Primos Donuts, Tito's Tacos, and feel incredibly blessed to be able to stay within our small community. I grew up at our local YMCA and have spent much of my adult life volunteering there. My parents have taught all around LA (my mother for 20 years at SMC, my father at UCLA and Harvard Westlake). All three of their children graduated from LAUSD schools. My mother actually used to attend MVCC meetings a decade ago!

In my 36 years I have witnessed Mar Vista change from a sleepy suburban hub within Los Angeles to a thriving small business community, to its current state: somewhere in between our small town feeling and dealing with the problems of greater Los Angeles. I always tell my friends that Mar Vista is the greatest neighborhood in the world to grow up in, [REDACTED] This means keeping Mar Vista safe, clean, thriving, and making sure our schools continue to be the best in the city.

If appointed, I would approach the position of Zone 4 representative in a nonpartisan manner, as I don't consider myself a Democrat or a Republican. I believe that the Mar Vista Community Council should focus on Mar Vista issues and not try to solve all of Los Angeles's problems. I will approach every decision with the question, "What's best for Mar Vista and the people who live here?"



Chair, Kathryn Wheeler

I am Kamila Jeevanjee and I live in mar vista zone 4. I heard from a neighbor that there is a vacancy on the MVCC Board and I'd like to submit the following.

I have been in the same house for 45 years with my husband and have raised three children here. Hence I feel a deep connection to this neighborhood. Many times we have tried to move away but couldn't bring ourselves to do so. Now that I am retired I would like to be involved in this community. I am not politically inclined and do not care to add my voice to political issues but am more interested in finding ways to strengthen bonds and brainstorm creative solutions to issues facing the community. Being a senior and an immigrant I can hopefully bring a valuable perspective to the table. I look forward to participating as a board member.

Thank you for the consideration.

Kamila Jeevanjee

Good Evening,

I am Natalie Perry, PhD a 39-year-old resident of Zone 4 that has recently relocated from Massachusetts to Los Angeles for work. Throughout my professional career, I've worked to develop my skills as an educator and qualitative researcher. Whether leading academic programs, managing teams, launching new initiatives, or collaborating with senior leadership, my work as an administrator over the past 12 years has been focused on promoting access, opportunity, and continuous improvement. My success can be attributed to my carefully curated change management portfolio. I have demonstrated competency in organizing and managing complex projects and monitoring progress toward articulated goals. As a transformational leader I routinely call upon my experiences managing change, leading teams, and engaging stakeholders. As a new resident of Mar Vista, I wish to submit my statement of candidacy for the Zone 4 Director position with the Mar Vista Community Council.

In August of 2021 I moved to Los Angeles to lead a multi-year culture change program at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine. The Mar Vista Community Council opening has presented a potential opportunity for me to engage in this same type of work as a member of the community that I now call home. When deciding where to settle within Los Angeles, I chose Mar Vista because it felt like a small community within a large city. As a newcomer to this community, I immediately knew I made the correct choice. Within a matter of months, I've built relationships with neighbors who have lived here for decades. In addition, I've been able to walk through our community and experience many elements of the socioeconomic and ethnic diversity that make Mar Vista unlike any other part of Los Angeles.

I arrived in Mar Vista roughly 10 days before my vehicle and 2 months before my household items. During that time, I was able to truly appreciate the gift of living in such a walkable neighborhood with access to public transportation, fresh produce, and small businesses. As I walked each day, I was directly confronted with many of the homeless issues in our community. In those early days I witnessed the growth of the encampment beneath the 405. My first walk from Sawtelle to Sepulveda gave me insight I don't think I would have gained if I were simply passing through in my car.

In the mornings the wide sidewalks were filled with tents, furniture, bicycles, carts, doors, and barbeque grills. Because the sidewalks had been converted to living space, all walking needed to happen in the bike lane. The bike lane itself began to overflow with trash, needles, glass, and waste. The contents of the bike lane pushed both pedestrians and cyclists into the main flow of traffic. When I returned home in the evenings, I was pleased to see that some resources were being deployed to meet some of the basic needs of the people that I walked past. I saw trucks unloading port-a-potties, trash being swept and collected, and waste being rinsed away with water. My walks through the encampment each morning and evening gave me a glimpse into the lives of the unhoused members of our community as well as an up-close look at the agencies and services that come in each day to address their growing needs.

As a seasoned professional deeply committed to meaningful community engagement, I am excited to apply for the Zone 4 Director position with the Mar Vista Community Council. One of my greatest joys each week is walking down Venice to the Mar Vista Farmers Market each Sunday. I struggle with the dissonance that I must engage in as I walk past smaller encampments at the fire station, library, post office and bowling alley. It is my sincere hope that by engaging with the Mar Vista Community Council I can work with community members that are also heartened by their encounters with these disparities in our neighborhood.

I am deeply committed to making Mar Vista my long-term home and to play an active role in helping this neighborhood continue to flourish. For me this involvement means working with stakeholders to decrease the number of homeless people on the streets of Mar Vista.

Evaluation, innovation, and continuous improvement have guided my work in the professional realm and I am well positioned to use these skills to guide my work with the Mar Vista Community Council. I have been privileged to work with a variety of programs, and departments sharing education and experience with colleagues across disciplines. Upon your review of my application materials, I look forward to our continued communication. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of my candidacy.

With Gratitude,

Natalie J. Perry, PhD

Dear Chair,

My name is Jennifer Rafeedie. I am writing to express my interest in the open MVCC Zone 4 Director position and the 2nd Vice-Chair position on the PHS and Homeless Committee.

As a 23-year resident and homeowner in Mar Vista, I have a vested interest in the quality of life here. I am particularly interested in the safety of Mar Vista's stakeholders in their homes and businesses, and while on the streets of Mar Vista as they go about their daily activities. In the past several years, the quality of life in Mar Vista has diminished sharply. Crime is rampant and allowed to go unchecked, impacting businesses and residences, and putting in jeopardy the physical safety of Mar Vista residents, stakeholders and visitors, who are placed at-risk by people seeking to do harm, for whatever reason, and who are enabled to do so without concern for consequence.

My professional history makes me uniquely suited to the PHS and Homeless Committee. I am a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and a Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics at USC/Children's Hospital Los Angeles. I have spent almost three decades directly helping people with their mental health needs and training other professionals to do the same. The population I see are typically impoverished and frequently impacted by trauma. My expertise is specifically on the impact of trauma on children and adults. Thus, I thoroughly understand that the homeless population is comprised of people with significant trauma histories, leading to a number of negative consequences. These people need help. Where I depart from our current local politicians is on how to address the mental health needs of this population.

My professional experience includes a 12-year period of running a food line for homeless people in Palisades Park. This six-day/week volunteer position was an act of service on my part that benefitted me as much, if not more, than it benefitted the recipients of my food. During those years, I was on a first name basis with hundreds of homeless people, knew their stories and went to great lengths to help them beyond the food line with programs such as Ocean Park Community Center, Step Up on Second, and Section 8 Housing. I used my personal resources to feed over 130 people a week. So, my commitment to helping others should not be in question. Also, this is a population whose characteristics I know and understand very well. I say this as a preface to what I am going to say next. The current position in our community in which people are permitted to camp on the streets in poor conditions, using drugs, assaulting others, and stealing from others is not consistent with any established tenets of mental health promotion, and in fact, continuing the current strategy is tantamount to causing these very people harm. In other words, our local government representatives are responsible for causing harm to the people they purport to help due to their lack of appropriate action and their disdain for appropriate action. As an advocate for mental health, I will participate on this committee by standing for policies that use well-founded psychological principles that are associated with truly helping others rather than simply enabling others to continue self-destructive and harmful behaviors. Equally important, I will promote policies that recognize that community stakeholders deserve an environment that is safe and high in elements that lead to wellbeing and quality of life.

Another Mar Vista topic of great importance to me involves the re-development and overdevelopment of our community without appropriate or satisfactory community participation. Our community is being overcrowded and changed in accordance with agendas that are held by politicians who have very clear political self-interests. The road diet of a few years back is a prime example of an ill-conceived plan that was pushed on our community even though most community stakeholders were against it. All development in our community should involve a very real concern for and advocacy for the interests of the residents and business owners and other stakeholders who sustain the community. Anything less on the part of our local representatives is an act of bad faith in their execution of duties.

As a Zone 4 Director, I will advocate to promote a high level of community involvement in the decisions that impact our community and I will speak out against unfair practices that allow anything other than that. Please accept this letter as my request to be considered for the position.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Rafeedie, PsyD  
Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics  
Keck of USC School of Medicine  
Children's Hospital Los Angeles

Dear Chair & Community Council Members,

My name is Brian Rosenstein and my family and I moved to Mar Vista a little over 2 years ago. I am a fourth generation Los Angeles resident and my wife grew up very close by [REDACTED] where her mother still lives. We have 2 children, [REDACTED]

We love our home and our neighborhood and care about it greatly. We very much enjoy going on walks in our neighborhood and walking to lunches and dinners nearby as a family and going to the farmers market. I have a great relationship with my neighbors which makes us love our home and neighborhood even more. Professionally, I am the Chief Executive Officer of an investment company based in Santa Monica and my wife is a Tax Attorney.

I would like to serve on our Community Council to bring my years of experience in civic & community service to our Council with the hope of being able to enhance and improve the quality of life in our Community. Living near Venice Blvd, I was very glad to see that the current vacancy includes a role on the PHS and Homeless Committee. I am including a summary of my civic & community service for your consideration.

## **Civic & Community Service Resume**

### **Past Service & Leadership with the City of Beverly Hills**

Chair & Vice Chair - Beverly Hills Planning Commission  
Commissioner - Beverly Hills Planning Commission  
Commissioner - Planning Commission Subcommittee on Historic Preservation  
Commissioner - Beverly Hills Traffic & Parking Commission  
Member - City Council Small Business Task Force  
Member - Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce  
Member - Chamber Government Affairs Committee  
Member - Chamber Economic Development Council  
Graduate - Team Beverly Hills

### **Service to the Community & Philanthropy**

Advisory Board Member, Venice Family Clinic  
Volunteer, Beverly Hills Police Department  
Founder & Board Member, Beverly Hills 9/11 Memorial Garden  
Former Board Member & Treasurer, Beverly Hills CPR  
Former Board Member, Temple Emanuel Beverly Hills  
Former Board Member & Executive Committee Member, Los Angeles LGBT Center

### **Awards & Recognitions**

President's Volunteer Service Award  
Rotary International, Paul Harris Fellow  
Beverly Hills City Council Proclamation - 4 times  
Beverly Hills Police Department: Lawrence Shapiro Award for Meritorious Volunteer Service  
Beverly Hills Police Department: Chief's Core Values Award  
Beverly Hills Police Department Commendations - 3 times

Thank you very much for your time, commitment and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Rosenstein  
Chief Executive Officer | Brookhill Corp.  
Board Member & V.P. | Wilbur May Foundation  
2716 Ocean Park Boulevard, Suite 1055  
Santa Monica CA. 90405