



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

November 28, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager  
 Submitted by: Mark Numainville, City Clerk  
 Subject: Environment and Climate Commission – Appointment of New Youth Members

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution appointing two youth members to the Environment and Climate Commission recommended by the Berkeley Unified School District Board of Directors.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

At the March 14, 2023 City Council meeting, the Council adopted Ordinance No. 7,856 N.S. amending Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 3.82 to modify the membership and appointment procedures for the Environment and Climate Commission (ECC) to add two youth members.

Ordinance No – 7,856 N.S. states:

Two members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Berkeley City Council as a body with candidates recommended by the Berkeley Unified School District Board of Directors and subject to the following:

1. The following desirable criteria may guide, but not restrict, the Council in appointing candidates to the Commission:
  - (i) Appointees to be residents of the City;
  - (ii) Appointees to be between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five;
2. Appointees shall have demonstrated commitment or interest in the areas outlined in Section 3.82.040.

Currently, the two youth commissioner positions are vacant on the ECC. The Berkeley Unified School District Board of Directors has recommended Mabel Athanasiou and Shanza Syed as eligible youth appointees for the ECC. They meet the eligibility criteria in the City Charter and may be appointed by a majority vote of the Council.

| <b>Commissioner</b>   | <b>Nominated By</b>          |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Vacant (Youth)</i> | <i>Council</i>               |
| <i>Vacant (Youth)</i> | <i>Council</i>               |
| Igor Tregub           | Mayor Arreguin               |
| Sarah Ranney          | Councilmember Kesarwani      |
| Marc Hedlund          | Councilmember Taplin         |
| Brianna McGuire       | Councilmember Bartlett       |
| Daniel Tahara         | Councilmember Harrison       |
| Shannon Allen         | Councilmember Hahn           |
| Leslie (Les) Guliasi  | Councilmember Wengraf        |
| Cecilia Lunaparra     | Councilmember Robinson       |
| <i>Vacant</i>         | <i>Councilmember Humbert</i> |

**BACKGROUND**

All applicants are reviewed and their eligibility is verified by city staff against the requirements of the Municipal Code.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

There are no identifiable environmental effects, climate impacts, or sustainability opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

**RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The appointment is provided for by the Municipal Code and pursuant to the nominations submitted by the Berkeley Unified School District Board of Directors.

**ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED**

None.

**CONTACT PERSON**

Mark Numainville, City Clerk, (510) 981-6900

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1: Resolution
- 2: Commission Applications for Mabel Athanasiou and Shanza Syed

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S.

APPOINTMENT OF MABEL ATHANASIOU AND SHANZA SYED TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE COMMISSION

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 7,856 N.S. was adopted on March 14, 2023 by the City Council amending Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 3.82 modifying membership and appointment procedures for the Environment and Climate Commission; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 3.82 creates two youth member seats on the Commission, which are appointed by the Berkeley City Council as a body with candidates recommended by the Berkeley Unified School District Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Unified School District Board of Directors submitted recommendations for appointment by the full council; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the following applicants are hereby appointed to the Environment and Climate Commission:

| Nominee          | Nominated By  |
|------------------|---|
| Mabel Athanasiou | Berkeley Unified School District Board of Directors |
| Shanza Syed      | Berkeley Unified School District Board of Directors |



APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO BERKELEY  
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Redistricting Commissioners  
may not be eligible to serve.  
Contact the City Clerk to verify.

NAME: Mabel Athanasiou

PREFERRED PRONOUN(S): She/Her

RESIDENCE ADDRESS: Berkeley, CA 94702  
Street City Zip

BUSINESS NAME/ADDRESS: N/A  
Street City Zip

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION/PROFESSION: Student

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS PHONE: N/A

I have been a resident of Berkeley since: 2008

I am interested in being considered for appointment to the following Berkeley board(s)/commission(s):

Name of board/commission: Environmental and climate commission

Name of board/commission: \_\_\_\_\_

List any qualifications (work experience, education, attributes and training) which you feel would provide positive input to the work of the commission and the reason why you are interested in being appointed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please use another sheet of paper, if necessary.

The following individuals are qualified to comment on my capabilities:

| NAME                     | ADDRESS | PHONE NO |
|--------------------------|---------|----------|
| <u>Jacqueline Omania</u> | _____   | _____    |
| _____                    | _____   | _____    |
| _____                    | _____   | _____    |

\*\*\*PLEASE COMPLETE DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY \*\*\*

Please indicate gender:  Male  Female  Nonbinary  Prefer not to say  
 Please indicate whether you are currently a student:  Yes  No  
 Please indicate the racial / ethnic category which you most closely identify with below (response optional - please check only one category):

- WHITE (not of Hispanic or Latino origin):** All persons having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East
- BLACK or AFRICAN AMERICAN (not of Hispanic or Latino origin):** All persons having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa
- HISPANIC or LATINO:** All persons of Central / South America or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race
- ASIAN (not of Hispanic or Latino origin):** All persons having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian Subcontinent. This includes, Cambodia, China, Japan, India, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam
- AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKAN NATIVE (not of Hispanic or Latino origin):** All persons having origins in any of the original peoples of North, Central, and South America, and who maintain cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.
- NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER (not of Hispanic or Latino origin):** All persons having origins in any of the peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands
- TWO or MORE RACES (not of Hispanic or Latino origin):** All persons who identify with more than one of the above six races



\*The City of Berkeley's Conflict of Interest Code requires members of all City of Berkeley Commissions except the Youth Commission and Commission on Status of Women to file Statements of Economic Interests – FPPC Form 700. The Form 700 is a public document. For more information, please contact the City Clerk's Department at 981-6900, or visit our website at <https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/public-records/conflict-interest-reports>.

**AFFIDAVIT OF RESIDENCY\***

I, Mabel Athanasiou, hereby declare, under penalty of perjury, that I am a resident of the City of Berkeley. I understand that, with the exception of a temporary relocation outside of Berkeley not to exceed six months, I may no longer serve on a Berkeley Commission should this cease to be true.

Signature of Applicant:  Date: 8/25/23

\*Not required for Police Accountability Board, Loan Administration Board, Elmwood BID Advisory Board, Solano BID Advisory Board, or BUSD appointees

**Return this form to the City Clerk Department: 2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, 94704**



**APPOINTMENT FORM - BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**  
(For Mayor and Council use only)

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBER \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF APPOINTEE \_\_\_\_\_

RESIDENCE ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City Zip

BUSINESS NAME/ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
Street City Zip

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION/PROFESSION \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Check appropriate box:  New Appointment  Reappointment  Temporary Appt.

Temporary Appt.: From (date) \_\_\_\_\_ To (date) \_\_\_\_\_  
(only if appointing for more than one meeting)

Please send mail to:  Home  Business

Please indicate the name of the board/commission to which you are appointing this individual

Board/Commission Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Please indicate the SPECIAL CATEGORY being fulfilled, if appointment is to ANY of the following boards or commissions: Elmwood BID Advisory Board, Human Welfare & Community Action Commission, Loan Administration Board, Solano Avenue BID Advisory Board.

Special Category \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor/Councilmember

**For Mayor/Councilmember and City Use Only:**

|                |               |              |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Interview Date | Appoint. Date | Process Date |
|                |               |              |

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AFFIDAVIT OF RESIDENCY\*

I, Mabel Athanasidou, hereby declare, under penalty of perjury, that I am a resident of the City of Berkeley. I understand that, with the exception of a temporary relocation outside of Berkeley not to exceed six months, I may no longer serve on a Berkeley Commission should this cease to be true.

Signature of Applicant: [Signature] Date: 8/25/23

\*Not required for Police Accountability Board, Loan Administration Board, Elmwood BID Advisory Board, Solano BID Advisory Board, or BUSD appointees

Return this form to the City Clerk Department: 2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, 94704



APPOINTMENT FORM - BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS  
(For Mayor and Council use only)

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBER Laura Babbitt ~~Roberta~~ BUSD School Board

NAME OF APPOINTEE Mabel Athanasidou

RESIDENCE ADDRESS Berkeley CA 94702  
Street City Zip

BUSINESS NAME/ADDRESS N/A  
Name

EMAIL ADDRESS

OCCUPATION/PROFESSION Student

HOME PHONE: BUSINESS PHONE:

Check appropriate box:  New Appointment  Reappointment  Temporary Appt.

Temporary Appt.: From (date) To (date)  
(only if appointing for more than one meeting)

Please send mail to:  Home  Business

Please indicate the name of the board/commission to which you are appointing this individual  
Board/Commission Name: Environmental & Climate Commission

\*\*\*Please indicate the SPECIAL CATEGORY being fulfilled, if appointment is to ANY of the following boards or commissions: Elmwood BID Advisory Board, Human Welfare & Community Action Commission, Loan Administration Board, Solano Avenue BID Advisory Board.

Special Category  
Signature: [Signature]  
Mayor/Councilmember

Date: 10/17/2023



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I have been involved in climate and environmental activism since I was ten years old. I became interested in being zero waste and fighting for climate action on my first day of third grade, when my teacher told my class that we wouldn't have a trash can. This first day of school set the tone for the rest of the year, *a single mason jar, I thought*, where were all of my chocolate stained Z Bar wrappers going to go? At the end of the school year we successfully fit all of our waste from a classroom of 20 10 year olds into a single mason jar. That year, 2 of my classmates and I spoke in front of the Mayor and city council member Sophie Hahn at the Berkeley Transfer Station, where we advocated to pass the Disposable Free Dining Ordinance (DFDO) in an effort to limit the amount of single use plastic disposables (or SUDS) given out by local restaurants in Berkeley. After this press conference, my peers and I continued to speak up until the DFDO was passed in January 2019.

More recently in an effort to reduce disposable plastic in our schools, I have presented to the Berkeley School Board to encourage them to switch to reusable foodware in all Berkeley Schools. This year Martin Luther King Middle School has started to hand out metal utensils and cups to students at lunch. I think that this change in our school district was crucial because the disposable utensils caused so much pollution and were really bad for our health. There is no justification for knowingly exposing kids to harmful chemicals like the PFAS contained in disposables. I enjoyed working with the school board because I felt that as a student in BUSD, my voice was being heard and I was bringing real change to my school. I am excited for the opportunity to work on the Environmental and Climate commission to continue to represent the voice of my generation.

I aspire to be a powerful voice for the youth in Berkeley, especially because our future is going to be most affected by climate change and plastic pollution. The activism of my peers in Montana and other youth across the globe who have participated in politics and government inspires me to contribute my effort and time to this cause. I am humbled by this opportunity and I will strive to always be my best and most thoughtful self if chosen to be on the board.

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO BERKELEY  
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Redistricting Commissioners  
may not be eligible to serve.  
Contact the City Clerk to verify.

NAME: Shanza Syed

PREFERRED PRONOUN(S): She / her

RESIDENCE ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City Zip  
Berkeley, CA 94709

BUSINESS NAME/ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City Zip

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION/PROFESSION: student

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

I have been a resident of Berkeley since: 2006

I am interested in being considered for appointment to the following Berkeley board(s)/commission(s):

Name of board/commission: Environmental and Climate Commission

Name of board/commission: \_\_\_\_\_

List any qualifications (work experience, education, attributes and training) which you feel would provide positive input to the work of the commission and the reason why you are interested in being appointed:

seperate page attached at the end  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please use another sheet of paper, if necessary.

The following individuals are qualified to comment on my capabilities:

| NAME                     | ADDRESS | PHONE NO |
|--------------------------|---------|----------|
| <u>Jacqueline Omania</u> | _____   | _____    |
| <u>Aryn Faur</u>         | _____   | _____    |

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- Please indicate whether you are currently a student:  Yes  No
- Please indicate the racial / ethnic category which you most closely identify with below (response optional - please check only one category):
- WHITE (not of Hispanic or Latino origin): All persons having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East
  - BLACK or AFRICAN AMERICAN (not of Hispanic or Latino origin): All persons having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa
  - HISPANIC or LATINO: All persons of Central / South America or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race
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AFFIDAVIT OF RESIDENCY\*

I, Shanza Syed, hereby declare, under penalty of perjury, that I am a resident of the City of Berkeley. I understand that, with the exception of a temporary relocation outside of Berkeley not to exceed six months, I may no longer serve on a Berkeley Commission should this cease to be true.

Signature of Applicant Shanza Syed Date: 08/24/23

\*Not required for Police Accountability Board, Loan Administration Board, Elmwood BID Advisory Board, Solano BID Advisory Board, or BUSD appointees

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APPOINTMENT FORM - BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS  
(For Mayor and Council use only)

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBER \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF APPOINTEE \_\_\_\_\_

RESIDENCE ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City Zip

BUSINESS NAME/ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Name

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City Zip

OCCUPATION/PROFESSION \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

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Board/Commission Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Special Category \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor/Councilmember

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|                |              |              |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Interview Date | Appoint Date | Process Date |
|                |              |              |

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Over the past 4 years, I've been part of Heirs to Our Oceans, a global, youth-led environmental justice organization. Through numerous webinars and workshops, I have gained a deep understanding of climate change and its impact on local communities. It is my understanding that climate justice and social justice are deeply connected because it is often the most vulnerable communities that are greatly impacted by climate change. If given this opportunity, I would bring this perspective to the table.

In addition, as part of the first cohort of the Youth Advisory Council to the US National Committee for the UN Ocean decade, I have become well versed in policy advocacy which I have used to talk with Federal Representatives about the kind of climate legislation we youth would like to see passed. This has shown me that strong policy is built on specificity and community-based action, which I will advocate for if given this position.

I have also co-organized a climate summit at Berkeley High along with 2 other students. Our aim was to unite the various environmental clubs at Berkeley High and come up with goals that we could work toward together, and that is exactly what we did. There were over 30 students in attendance and the experience gave me valuable insight into what the students of Berkeley High want to see not just for Berkeley High, but also for the City of Berkeley.

Most recently, I participated in an internship called 'Intro to Climate Solutions', where I learned a lot about sustainability and looked into case studies on technologies, systems, and policies that different cities are using to reduce their environmental impact. Many of these solutions can be implemented in Berkeley, and I would appreciate the opportunity to be part of the process.



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AFFIDAVIT OF RESIDENCY\*

I, Shanza Syed, hereby declare, under penalty of perjury, that I am a resident of the City of Berkeley. I understand that, with the exception of a temporary relocation outside of Berkeley not to exceed six months, I may no longer serve on a Berkeley Commission should this cease to be true.

Signature of Applicant Shanzaad Date 08/24/23

\*Not required for Police Accountability Board, Loan Administration Board, Elmwood BID Advisory Board, Solano BID Advisory Board, or BUSD appointees

Return this form to the City Clerk Department: 2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, 94704



APPOINTMENT FORM - BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS  
(For Mayor and Council use only)

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBER Naura Babitt *Mayor Berkeley CA*

NAME OF APPOINTEE Shanza Syed

RESIDENCE ADDRESS  
Street City Zip

BUSINESS NAME/ADDRESS Berkeley, CA 94709  
Name

EMAIL ADDRESS

OCCUPATION/PROFESSION student

HOME PHONE: BUSINESS PHONE:

Check appropriate box:  New Appointment  Reappointment  Temporary Appt.

Temporary Appt.: From (date) To (date)  
(only if appointing for more than one meeting)

Please send mail to:  Home  Business

Please indicate the name of the board/commission to which you are appointing this individual

Board/Commission Name: Environmental + Climate Commission

\*\*\*Please indicate the SPECIAL CATEGORY being fulfilled, if appointment is to ANY of the following boards or commissions: Elmwood BID Advisory Board, Human Welfare & Community Action Commission, Loan Administration Board, Solano Avenue BID Advisory Board

Special Category

Signature: N Babitt  
Mayor/Councilmember

Date: 10/17/2023

For Mayor/Councilmember and City Use Only:

|                |               |              |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Interview Date | Appoint. Date | Process Date |
|                |               |              |

