



December 16, 2022

Mayor Karen Bass
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012
Via email to mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org

Re: City of Los Angeles appointees to LA Metro Board of Directors

Dear Mayor Bass:

The Alliance for Community Transit - Los Angeles (ACT-LA) is an LA County coalition of 42 community-focused organizations that strive to create just, equitable, and sustainable transportation systems and neighborhoods, placing the interests of low income communities and communities of color first as we create a more sustainable region. Among the many communities that ACT-LA organizes are the transit riders who use the Metro system everyday, including the 62% of Metro's ridership who earn less than \$20,000 a year¹ and the more than 7 in 10 Metro riders who primarily rely on buses. For years, the working class renters, bus riders, and community/transit advocates that ACT-LA organizes have urged and worked with Metro's Board of Directors and staff to center the needs of these riders in the agency's decision-making.

We look to the next members of the Metro Board of Directors to represent and stand with and for the needs of Metro's working class bus riders and communities of color, who despite making up a majority of Metro's transit ridership, are underrepresented on Metro's Board of Directors.

ACT-LA sees this historic moment of your election as Mayor to the City of Los Angeles as a prime opportunity to uplift the needs of the working class, bus riders, and communities of color—through your appointments to the Metro Board of Directors. We understand that state law (California Public Utilities Code Division 12, Section 130051) confers you the authority to appoint two public members and one member of the City of Los Angeles City Council to the Metro Board. ACT-LA has spoken with and recommends the following individuals to join you in representing the people of the City of Los Angeles on the LA Metro Board of Directors.

- Eunisses Hernandez – City of Los Angeles Council Member, District 1; former nonprofit executive director

¹ Metro 2019 Onboard Customer Satisfaction Survey; and LA Times: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2022-09-12/amid-blistering-heat-bus-riders-wait-in-search-of-shade>

Re: City of Los Angeles appointees to LA Metro Board of Directors

November 30, 2022

Page 2

- Tamika Butler, Esq. – Public Member, former California Transportation Commissioner, former nonprofit executive director, former private sector Director of Planning and Director of Equity & Inclusion, and current UCLA Urban Planning Doctoral Student
- Mike Bonin – Public Member, former City of Los Angeles Council Member, and current Metro Director

These individuals would serve as excellent representatives of Metro's working class bus riders and communities of color. In their respective backgrounds, they have each demonstrated a deep commitment to public service with an emphasis on prioritizing the needs of communities that are the most vulnerable in society. Please consider our recommendations as you assemble your appointments for the Metro Board of Directors. Please feel free to contact Laura Raymond at lraymond@act-la.org for contact information for any of our recommended appointees, as needed.

Sincerely,



Laura Raymond
Director
Alliance for Community Transit - Los Angeles (ACT-LA)

CC:

- City of Los Angeles Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez
- Tamika Butler
- Mike Bonin