



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Controller Kenneth Mejia's Nominee to the Ethics Commission, Rabbi Aryeh Eli Cohen,
Confirmed by LA City Council**

Today, **Rabbi Aryeh Eli Cohen**, Los Angeles City Controller Kenneth Mejia's nominee to the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission, was confirmed by the Los Angeles City Council for a five year term ending June 30, 2028. He will join the five-member board who are appointed by the Mayor, the Controller, the City Attorney, the Council President, and the Council President Pro Tempore.

Rabbi Cohen is a religious leader, scholar, and social justice activist. He is Professor of Rabbinic Literature at American Jewish University, where he studies and teaches the intersection of Talmud, Jewish ethics, and social justice.

Outside the classroom, Rabbi Cohen is a co-convenor of the Black Jewish Justice Alliance (BJJA) and a member of Clergy for Black Lives, and he currently serves as the president of the Society for Jewish Ethics. As Rabbi-in-Residence of Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, Cohen was part of an interfaith table for immigrant rights which, through large public mobilizations and nonviolent direct actions, fought for making Los Angeles a sanctuary city. With Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE), he has participated in labor actions, fighting for workers' rights and fair wages. He is a longtime Angeleno who has lived in the Pico-Robertson neighborhood for almost thirty years with his partner Andrea Hodos, who is Associate Director of New Ground: A Muslim-Jewish Partnership for Change. They have two adult children.

"I am grateful for this opportunity to serve the city of Los Angeles by being an ethics commissioner," said Rabbi Cohen. "I look forward to working with my fellow commissioners to preserve the public's trust in government."

"We are thrilled that a person of Rabbi Cohen's character will be serving Los Angeles to uphold Ethics laws. Rabbi Cohen has dedicated his life to serving his community and championing justice," said Controller Mejia. "His unbroken record of integrity makes us confident that he will always push for the right outcomes on the Ethics Commission. We are proud that he is now an Ethics Commissioner."

The Controller previously nominated Ethics advocate **Jamie York** to the Ethics Commission. "Jamie York would have been an outstanding Ethics Commissioner. We thank Jamie for answering the call to serve our City, and for everything she has done for Los Angeles."

According to their website, "the Ethics Commission was established by Los Angeles voters in 1990 to help preserve the public trust and foster public confidence in city government and elections. The Ethics Commission is required by law to administer City and state laws relating to campaign financing, contracts, developers, governmental ethics, and lobbying."

