



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LA City Controller Kenneth Mejia Nominates Rabbi Aryeh Cohen to Los Angeles City Ethics Commission

Today, **Los Angeles City Controller Kenneth Mejia** announced the nomination of **Rabbi Aryeh Eli Cohen** to the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission. 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.

Previously, Controller Mejia nominated Ethics advocate **Jamie York** for the same position. "I want to thank Jamie for everything she has done to make Los Angeles a better place. I know she'll continue to advocate for necessary changes to our laws," the Controller said. "She would've been an amazing Ethics Commissioner, and the City Council's treatment of her nomination was unjustifiable."

"Rabbi Cohen's unbroken record as an independent champion of justice and integrity in our community means he will always push for the right outcomes on the Ethics Commission," said Controller Mejia.

"I am very honored to be nominated by Controller Mejia to this important position. I am looking forward to working with the other commissioners and the City Council in order to ensure that city government moves forward on an ethical footing. Much of my research, writing, teaching, and activism of the last decades has focused on what makes a city just," said Rabbi Cohen. "I am excited about the prospect of continuing to work for a more just city and transparent government in this new setting."