

From: [Rochna Dhand](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Please consider the HRC candidates carefully
Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 9:45:33 PM

Dear City Council Member,
Hope this letter finds you well.

My name is Rochna Dhand. My husband and I have been Palo Alto home owners and residents for 18 years now. We are raising our family here and love the city. Between our two kids we have been PAUSD parents for 14 years.

I used to be a tech executive but had to quit for health reasons. Now I volunteer extensively with the school district as well as the community. I have participated in the Ravenswood Partners in Education reading project supporting reading for EPA elementary schools. I volunteer on the Pie board as well as the Palo Alto High School PTA executive board.

But today I write in my personal capacity ...not as a representative of any of the associations I volunteer with.

I am writing to you about the current applicant pool for the Human Relations Commission open position.

Mare Lucas will make a very qualified candidate. I have seen her engagement with the Duveneck Elementary School community as well as had many conversations with her over time. Our kids were at the school at the same time. She was the founder of Sparkiverse, my kids enjoyed the STEM based camps very much and she seemed to show a genuine interest in helping the kids grow. She founded the Action Committee to Save Our Youth, already bringing together community members to push for suicide prevention and greater youth support. She is open minded and cares for the people around her.

Salwa Ansari is another candidate I would endorse, were they looking for my endorsement.

I am, however VERY CONCERNED about the following candidates

- Allyson C. Rosen - I have found her past actions to be anti-muslim. Further, As a person of color, I would be very concerned about Allyson being in the City Council.
- Deborah Goldeen - through her actions in the community she seems to be intolerant of views that are different from hers. Her method of engagement in the community can be hostile, far away from the ideals of a civil discourse that has prevailed in Palo Alto for so long. She harassed the pro-gaze peaceful vigil at Town Country. Regardless on what side you are of that argument, there is no excuse for hostile activities.
- Joshu Lory has made anti-LGBTQ+ statements. such bigotry has no place in this city. It can further intensify the mental crisis our tennagers are going through.

I hope you will consider the candidates carefully and prioritize inclusivity and a skill for civil discourse to ensure our city of Palo Alto continues to be an intellectually stimulating place to raise a family.

Thanks,
Rochna Dhand.

From: [Uzma Minhas](#)
Subject: Re: Human Relations Commission Appointments – A Defining Moment for Council Leadership
Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 7:41:28 PM
Attachments: [Screenshot 2025-09-29 at 2.48.24 PM.png](#)
[Screenshot 2025-09-29 at 3.09.15 PM.png](#)

Dear Members of the Palo Alto City Council,

I write as a concerned resident who believe this Human Relations Commission appointment process will define your tenure and legacy on matters of equity and inclusion. The decisions you make now will either strengthen community trust or fracture it in ways that will follow each of you politically and personally.

The Stakes Are Clear:

The Human Relations Commission exists to advance equity, inclusion, justice, and empathy. Your vote on these appointments will be a matter of public record—one that will be scrutinized by residents, advocacy organizations, and media outlets watching how Palo Alto responds to rising bigotry nationwide. You have an opportunity to lead with moral clarity. You also risk becoming complicit in platforming division.

Outstanding Candidates Who Elevate Your Leadership:

Appointing Mare Lucas and Salwa Ansari allows you to champion exactly the kind of community-focused leadership voters expect from you.

Mare Lucas offers you a clear, compelling narrative: a mother who turned devastating personal loss, her son's suicide, into transformative action. She founded the Action Committee to Save Our Youth, mobilizing 50 community members around suicide prevention. With over a decade on Capitol Hill advocating for government transparency and accountability, plus her local work creating Sparkiverse to expand STEM access for underserved children, Mare represents expertise, empathy, and proven results. As the parent of a trans son and a gay daughter, she brings lived experience that strengthens the Commission's ability to protect LGBTQ+ youth. Appointing Mare allows you to point to concrete action on youth mental health—an issue that defines Palo Alto's challenges and your response to them.

Salwa Ansari brings strategic nonprofit experience and a solutions-oriented approach that reflects well on your commitment to minority representation. As a member of a minority community raising children in Palo Alto, Salwa offers perspective the Commission currently lacks. Her emphasis on inclusive dialogue and youth civic engagement demonstrates the kind of forward-thinking leadership that elevates your Council's reputation. Supporting Salwa signals that you understand representation matters—and that you govern for all residents, not just the loudest voices.

Unfit Applicants Who Threaten Your Credibility:

Advancing certain applicants will tie your names to documented bigotry and harassment. This is not hyperbole. It is fact, and it will be cited.

Joshua Lory has made public anti-trans statements that directly contradict the Commission's mission. Appointing him hands your critics a ready-made talking point: that you elevated someone whose rhetoric harms vulnerable youth. When the next controversy arises, and it will, your vote for Lory will be the opening line. (See attached screenshots)

Deborah Goldeen has engaged in documented harassment at local peace vigils and circulated Islamophobic content, labeling human rights advocates as "terror sympathizers." This behavior is not just divisive, it is disqualifying. At a time when hate crimes against Muslim and Arab Americans are rising, platforming someone who traffics in this rhetoric is a political liability you cannot afford.

Allyson C. Rosen has promoted figures like Sam Harris, identified by the Southern Poverty Law Center as a gateway to alt-right extremism, and has advocated for policies at PAUSD meetings that would increase academic pressure on students during a youth mental health crisis. Her positions run counter to the suicide prevention work this community desperately needs.

A Betrayal of the Muslim and Arab Community:

Palo Alto's Muslim and Arab residents have sought representation on city commissions and have been repeatedly overlooked. You now have a chance to correct that with a qualified candidate in Salwa Ansari.

To pass over Salwa while advancing applicants who have promoted Islamophobic content or harassed community members advocating for peace and justice would be an unmistakable betrayal. It would send a clear message: that bigotry against Muslims and Arabs is tolerated, even rewarded, in Palo Alto's civic leadership.

This is not just a policy failure, it is a moral one, and it will be remembered. Your Muslim and Arab constituents will not forget who stood with them and who stood aside.

Your Choice, Your Legacy:

Every council member will own this vote. Community members will know who elevated voices of division and who chose leaders of integrity. Local organizations are watching. Residents are watching. The media is watching.

You can point to Mare Lucas and Salwa Ansari as proof of your commitment to mental health, inclusion, and minority representation. Or you can spend the next months, and election cycles, defending why you gave a platform to individuals whose documented behavior contradicts everything the Human Relations Commission is supposed to stand for.

This is a defining moment. Choose leaders who heal. Reject those who harm. Do not even move forward the highly problematic and harmful candidates further in the process. Your reputation depends on it.

Sincerely,
Uzma Minhas



Joshua Lory  @joshua_ory · Oct 6, 2023



Replying to [@DrEliDavid](#) and [@saifedean](#)

Gender transitioning is the new lobotomy. Wait until the deluge of malpractice lawsuits start a la





Joshua Lory ✓

@joshua_lory



Palo Alto Unified woke leadership has another thing coming



The WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Ending Radical Indoctrination in K-12 Schooling

From whitehouse.gov



ML



Mare >

iMessage

Mon, Oct 13 at 12:55 PM

Hello Vicki. This is Mare Lucas and I've applied for the HRC position. I hope you don't mind that I found your cell phone via a friend and sending you a message.

I was at the Mid-Autumn festival learning mahjong and that was a great event for the city to put on and glad you were there.

I look forward to the interview on Wednesday



iMessage



and not really the type to lobby for myself. If my experience and passion

7:10

40



ML



Mare >

I look forward to the interview on Wednesday and not really the type to lobby for myself. If my experience and passion will be of a benefit to the community now, then I'd look forward to being part of it if I'm chosen. You all will be the best judge of that.

Thanks for your work for the community.

Mon, Oct 13 at 2:02PM



Thanks for your note, Mare, thanks for all your



WhatsAppMessageCommunity

and thank you for apply-

8:16

Signal strength, Wi-Fi, and battery icons



1

ML



will be of a **Mare** it to the community now, then I'd look forward to being part of it if I'm chosen. You all will be the best judge of that.

Thanks for your work for the community.

Mon, Oct 13 at 2:02PM



Thanks for your note, Mare, thanks for all your work in the community, and thank you for applying.
-Vicki

Delivered



iMessage



7:06

website. Because of the
holiday, it may not hap-
pen until tomorrow

UM

Uzma

Sun, Oct 5 at 7:42 PM

Hi Vicky, hope you're well! Sent you an email re HRC. Please share concerns privately with your fellow council members. Not putting on public record for fears of harassment and doxxing. Thanks.

Hi, nice to hear from you. I was very pleased to see Salwa apply.

Councilmembers were asked to email votes on Friday as to whom to interview. We will only be voting again tomorrow if



iMessage



for each commission will

7:07

41



2

UM



Uzma
Friday a
interview. We will only be voting again tomorrow if there is a tie. The top 8 for each commission will be interviewed in a couple weeks.

Ah I'm too late then

Not necessarily. If there's a tie for the top 8, we'll vote on that. And then going from 8 to 3—with 2 incumbents—will require hard choices

Edited

Were there more than 8 HRC applications? I



iMessage



many.

7:07

2 incumbents—will re-
quire hard choices



UM



Edited

Uzma >

Were there more than 8 HRC applications? I don't recall counting that many.

12

Ok, hope you read the email I sent carefully. It's as much about who not to move forward.

The clerk will report each of our votes tomorrow. I think you'll find that I read the apps carefully.



Will this be after the council meeting?
During?



iMessage



7:08

Signal strength, Wi-Fi, and 40% battery icons.



2

UM



Uzma

Will this be after the council meeting?
During?



Agendized. During.
Gotta go now

Tue, Oct 7 at 11:06 AM

How many moved forward? Is there a list of their names? It was a bit confusing if the top 8 or top 6 moved forward

Tue, Oct 7 at 2:18 PM

If you didn't watch last night, all of that is on the



Message



forward. Tied up with

7:08

Agendized, During

Got to now

UM



Uzma

Tue, Oct 7 at 10:06 AM

How many moved forward? Is there a list of their names? It was a bit confusing if the top 8 or top 6 moved forward

Tue, Oct 7 at 2:18 PM

If you didn't watch last night, all of that is on the recording. Eight moved forward. Tied up with meetings before heading out of town

Delivered

Ok thanks



iMessage



7:23

ALSO advocate at Council. Don't know if he's a



Katie



Fri, Sep 12 at 6:23 PM

I'm sure you're reaching out to people, but if you know of anyone who would be really good for HRC, please have them apply

It turns out one of our best commissioners is not reapplying and she's an attorney, and it was really helpful having an attorney on the commission

Fri, Oct 17 at 11:34 AM

If you have any time to



Message



your impression of the

HRC

7:16

Signal strength, Wi-Fi, and battery icons (39%)



it turns out one of our best comm. members is not reapplying and she's an attorney, and it was really helpful having an attorney on the commission

Fri, Oct 17 at 11:34 AM

If you have any time to talk I would love to hear your impression of the HRC applicant pool

Edited

Thu, Oct 23 at 4:40 PM

Do you have Raizel's phone number? I'd like to call her



iMessage



< 1 Do you have Raizel's phone number? I'd like to call her



Katie



[Redacted]

Don't worry, she's super excited that she got as far as she did and she will be applying next cycle :)

She also wanted to apply because she wants to shift into a public service career so if you have any recommendations for boards or similar she should join in the mean time

+ iMessage

Oh good, I wanted to on-

From: [Julie Lythcott-Haims](#)
To: [Prior, Christine](#)
Subject: Fwd: HRC - check in
Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 2:00:53 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

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Julie Lythcott-Haims (she/they)
[Ted Speaker](#)
www.julielythcotthaims.com



Begin forwarded message:

From: Julie Lythcott-Haims [Redacted]
Date: October 3, 2025 at 11:03:32 AM PDT
To: Salwa Ansari [Redacted]
Subject: Re: HRC - check in

Thank you so much for reaching out Salwa. I'm glad you've applied!
Julie



Julie Lythcott-Haims
[Ted Speaker](#)
www.julielythcotthaims.com



On Sep 30, 2025, at 6:15 AM, Salwa Ansari [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Julie,

It's been a while — I hope you're doing well (and remember me)! Katie Casey suggested I reach out, so here I am. I've been involved with the City in different ways over the years — you may recall you and Vicki came to my home some time back. While I don't have political aspirations, a few council members encouraged me earlier this year to consider HRC, and it resonated. I thought if there's an opportunity to have a seat at the table and represent a less visible community, I should try. I'm strategic, practical, and really just want to help.

Alongside my finance background (I'm currently a forex trader), I'm also professionally consulting with two nonprofits — one focused on narrative change for marginalized communities and another advancing DEI in the legal space. That work, combined with my community involvement, speaks to my commitment to equity and inclusion. I'd love to bring that perspective to HRC if there's an opportunity.

Please let me know if you have any feedback or guidance.

Warmly,
Salwa

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Julie Lythcott-Haims](#)
To: [Prior, Christine](#)
Subject: Fwd: Human Relations Commission Appointments – A Defining Moment for Council Leadership
Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 1:59:50 PM

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Julie Lythcott-Haims (she/they)
[Ted Speaker](#)
www.julielythcotthaims.com



Begin forwarded message:

From: Uzma Minhas [REDACTED]
Date: October 5, 2025 at 7:41:27 PM PDT
To: undisclosed-recipients;;
Subject: Re: Human Relations Commission Appointments – A Defining Moment for Council Leadership

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Sincerely,
Uzma Minhas

<Screenshot 2025-09-29 at 2.48.24 PM.png>

<Screenshot 2025-09-29 at 3.09.15 PM.png>

From: [Julie Lythcott-Haims](#)
To: [Prior, Christine](#)
Subject: Fwd: Human Relations Commission
Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 1:56:09 PM

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Julie Lythcott-Haims (she/they)
[Ted Speaker](#)
www.julielythcotthaims.com



Begin forwarded message:

From: Julie Lythcott-Haims <[\[REDACTED\]](#)>
Date: October 1, 2025 at 11:43:50 AM PDT
To: Rodney Leggett [\[REDACTED\]](#)
Subject: Re: Human Relations Commission

Awesome to hear, Rodney. Thanks for reaching out and I'll keep an eye out for you in the process. Julie



Julie Lythcott-Haims
[Ted Speaker](#)
www.julielythcotthaims.com



On Sep 30, 2025, at 2:36 PM, Rodney Leggett

[REDACTED] wrote:

Good afternoon Councilmember,

My name is Rodney Leggett; I'm not sure if you'd remember me but we've met a handful of times at some of the Palo Alto Forward events. I also spoke briefly at a community event regarding the 80 Willow Road development earlier this year and had a great opportunity to chat with you there. I've been really wanting to get more involved in my community, and so I've applied to be considered for one of the vacancies on the Human Relations Commission. I just wanted to reach out to you and let you know that getting a chance to meet City Councilmembers such as yourself at these various events has been quite inspiring and helped motivate my decision to try and serve my community on this Commission.

Thanks again, and I'm sure I'll see you around some of the other housing events in the future!

From: [Julie Lythcott-Haims](#)
To: [Prior, Christine](#)
Subject: Fwd: Introduction: Raizel Rosenberg, Applicant for Human Relations Commission
Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 1:55:40 PM

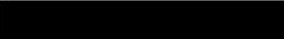

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Julie Lythcott-Haims (she/they)
[Ted Speaker](#)
www.julielythcotthaims.com



Begin forwarded message:

From: Raizel Arielle 
Date: October 9, 2025 at 6:53:48 PM PDT
To: Julie Lythcott-Haims < >
Subject: Re: Introduction: Raizel Rosenberg, Applicant for Human Relations Commission

Dear Councilmember Lythcott-Haims,

Thank you for voting to move my application forward! I'm honored to take part in the upcoming in person interviews and am excited for the opportunity to meet with the HRC.

I appreciate your consideration and thank you again for your continued leadership in our community.

Gratefully,

Raizel A. Rosenberg


On Mon, Sep 29, 2025 at 6:06 PM Julie Lythcott-Haims <me@lythcott-haims.com> wrote:

Thank you Raizel - I appreciate that you're applying!
Julie



Julie Lythcott-Haims
[Ted Speaker](#)
www.julielythcotthaims.com



On Sep 29, 2025, at 5:12 PM, Raizel Arielle 
wrote:

Dear Council Member Lythcott-Haims,

I am writing to introduce myself as an applicant for the Palo Alto Human Relations Commission. I would be honored to serve and contribute to the Commission's work.

Here's a little bit about my goals, priorities, and perspective that I wanted to share with you.

If appointed, I would strive to:

- Support the Commission to further its investment in hosting Palo Alto's first LGBTQ+ Pride event - an opportunity to celebrate inclusion and strengthen community.
- Advance the work done this past year on childcare access and exploration into alternate home ownership pathways, including through collaboration with PTC.
- Contribute to the RV Dwellers Subcommittee to expand safe parking options for residents as affordable housing funds decline.
- Strengthen the Commission's partnerships with libraries and other community stakeholders to improve community education on technology safety, AI and mental health.
- Expand language access by serving as a Spanish-speaking commissioner.

My perspective is shaped by professional experience in engineering and program management, volunteer work across nonprofits that address housing, food insecurity, at-risk youth, and public spaces, as well as my own multi-cultural background (Mexican-Jewish-American heritage). I am passionate about advancing inclusion, representation, and mental health through thoughtful community

engagement.

I would welcome the opportunity to connect with you further and hear from your perspective on how the commission can best serve our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my application.

Sincerely,

Raizel A. Rosenberg

From: [Julie Lythcott-Haims](#)
To: [Prior, Christine](#)
Subject: Fwd: Please consider the HRC candidates carefully
Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 1:57:11 PM

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Julie Lythcott-Haims (she/they)
[Ted Speaker](#)
www.julielythcotthaims.com



Begin forwarded message:

From: Julie Lythcott-Haims <[\[REDACTED\]](#)>
Date: October 6, 2025 at 12:02:46 PM PDT
To: Rochna Dhand <[\[REDACTED\]](#)>
Subject: Re: Please consider the HRC candidates carefully

acknowledging receipt thank you



Julie Lythcott-Haims
[Ted Speaker](#)
www.julielythcotthaims.com



On Oct 5, 2025, at 9:45 PM, Rochna Dhand <rochna@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear City Council Member,
Hope this letter finds you well.

My name is Rochna Dhand. My husband and I have been Palo Alto home owners and residents for 18 years now. We are raising our family here and love the city. Between our two kids we have been PAUSD parents for 14 years.

I used to be a tech executive but had to quit for health reasons. Now I volunteer extensively with the school district as well as the community. I have participated in the Ravenswood Partners in Education reading project supporting reading for EPA elementary schools. I volunteer on the Pie board as well as the Palo Alto High School PTA executive board.

But today I write in my personal capacity ...not as a representative of any of the associations I volunteer with.

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Regardless on what side you are of that argument, there is no excuse

for hostile activities.

- Joshu Lory has made anti-LGBTQ+ statements. such bigotry has no place in this city. It can further intensify the mental crisis our tennagers are going through.

I hope you will consider the candidates carefully and prioritize inclusivity and a skill for civil discourse to ensure our city of Palo Alto continues to be an intellectually stimulating place to raise a family.

Thanks,
Rochna Dhand.



Mary Kate Stimmler >

Mon, Oct 6 at 2:52 PM

Hello again, I got a note last night from a local activist who wants to remain anonymous but raised a flag on Joshua Lory's X account. It prompted me to check out the Facebook and X accounts of all the HRC applicants. I couldn't see everyone's accounts, but what I found was pretty standard, except for Joshua Lory's (HRC applicant) X account on (@joshua_lory). Oct 6th, 2023 specifically. Seems like he may not be able the best to work with our vulnerable trans residents.



Yep, thank you I think I heard the same thing

Also, it would be great if we could ask for links to social media accounts in applications next time, so we can be transparent about what we will check and make screening them a tad faster

That's great can you send that to the Mayor and City Clerk and CC



Text Message • RCS





Mary Kate Stimmler >

That's great can you send that to the Mayor and City Clerk and CC me?

Yes, will do

Fri, Oct 10 at 11:01 AM

Hey, hope your day is off to a good start. Mare Lucas reached out to me to have a conversation about how the HRC works with council and the city. I told her I was happy to share my thoughts, but that it would also make sense to speak to an HRC chair current or former because they would have a sense of how the agenda is shaped, and where they feel are the opportunities for greater participation and influence. Mare describes herself as very "action oriented" and I have certainly seen this lately in terms of the youth suicide work. I also think of you as very action oriented so I think you may be able to shed light on the operational matters she is interested in. May I give her your email or number?



Text Message • RCS





Julie's AirPods Pro
Connected

Mary Kate Stimmler >

Fri, Oct 10 at 11:01 AM

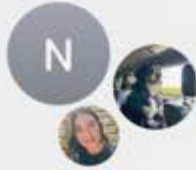
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Yes of course



Text Message • RCS





3 People >



Fri, Oct 3 at 11:39 AM



Alison C Rosen has applied for HRC. I'm hearing there are concerns about her based on "PAUSD issues". Does any of you have an opinion?

Jennifer diBrienza

Yes. Do not let her on there

She's got a PhD in something and bills herself as a data person

But she twists data to suit her agenda

She is one of the math acceleration people

She is very unsympathetic toward Gaza

Thx

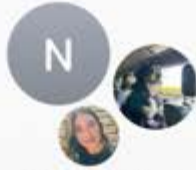
Jennifer diBrienza

She showed up at Mare's second meeting to make sure no one was blaming academic pressure for what happened with the 3 suicides



iMessage





3 People >



Jennifer diBrienza

She showed up at Mare's second meeting to make sure no one was blaming academic pressure for what happened with the 3 suicides



Oy

I'm good I'm good no need to say more!

Fri, Oct 3 at 11:42 AM

Nicki Chiu-Wang removed the name from the conversation.

Nana Chancellor

Julie, she is one of the ones I warned you about. She is the worst!!

N

Nicki Chiu-Wang

Ok I won't pile on, but she should definitely NOT be on HRC

She was also one of the people going after DreamCatchers

And going after me (obvi)



Nana Chancellor

Anti-equity in every way.

She is also a big Downer



iMessage





Julie's AirPods Pro Connected



3 People >

Starting academic pressure for what happened with the 3 suicides



Oy

I'm good I'm good no need to say more!

Fri, Oct 3 at 11:42 AM

Nicki Chiu-Wang removed the name from the conversation.

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Nicki Chiu-Wang

Ok I won't pile on, but she should definitely NOT be on HRC

She was also one of the people going after DreamCatchers

And going after me (obvi)



Nana Chancellor

Anti-equity in every way.

She is also a big Rowena supporter.

N

Okay, enough said.



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