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**Profile**

Fran \_\_\_\_\_ Cohen \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Middle Initial Last Name Suffix

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address Suite or Apt

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Postal Code

**Mailing Address (optional)**

\_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Phone

**Work Phone**

**Cell Phone**

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Which Boards would you like to apply for?**

Planning Commission: Submitted

Question applies to multiple boards

**How long have you resided in Beverly Hills? \_\_\_\_\_ (Applicant must be a resident of the City for a minimum of two years prior to filing an application, and if selected, remain a resident to serve.)**

22 Years

Question applies to Planning Commission

**Occupation:**

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Self Employed

Question applies to Planning Commission

**Do you work in Beverly Hills?**

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Yes  No

Question applies to Planning Commission

**Have you ever applied to the Team Beverly Hills Program?**

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Yes  No

Question applies to Planning Commission

**Are you a member or alumnus of the Team Beverly Hills Program?**

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Yes  No

Question applies to Planning Commission

**Have you applied previously for a Commission appointment? If so, which Commission(s)?**

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From 2002 to 2008 I was a member of Architectural Commission for the City of BH

Question applies to Planning Commission

**1. Please list community activities in which you are presently involved, and relevant activities in which you have participated in the past (including years of service):**

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I was a BH Commissioner from 2002 to 2008. During that time, in part I was a member of the breakfast with the mayor. I was also a member of BHUSD, Oversight Committee from 2008 to 2013.

Question applies to Planning Commission

**2. Please describe any technical expertise (building, architectural, construction management, development, planning, or landscape design), or other background information (education, business, or personal) that might be useful to you as a Planning Commissioner:**

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Education Purdue University, MBA Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Master of Planning and Architecture Southern California Institute of Architecture, Bachelor of art in Architecture I have worked in property management and development in addition of being the founder pf many small businesses.

Question applies to Planning Commission

**3. Have you observed one or more full Planning Commission meetings within the last 12 months? Please comment on your reactions.**

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Yes, I have. I also have been following up with the planning commission agendas.

Question applies to Planning Commission

**4. Please rate your ability to read and interpret architectural plans: \***

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Proficient

Question applies to Planning Commission

**5. The Planning Commission regularly meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, in the afternoon. How much time do you envision giving to the Planning Commission? How often are you out of town? What other commitments might cause conflicts in your attendance at Commission meetings or activities?**

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Will budget my time to meet and exceed all the Planning Commission's requirements.

Question applies to Planning Commission

**6. Are you familiar with the City's General Plan? What do you see as significant planning issues currently facing Beverly Hills?**

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While following the city, state, CEQA, and relevant planning guidelines allow for growth. In addition, the retention of small businesses is important for our community.

Question applies to Planning Commission

**7. How do you view the balance between the rights of property owners (business and residential) to develop their properties versus the rights of neighbors who may be impacted by such development? You may wish to reference a recent issue as an example.**

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The Commission needs to follow the planning guidelines which are set forth for our city. The city has been cooperative with small businesses which are a vital part of our community in terms of CEQA requirements.

Question applies to Planning Commission

**8. How would you describe an appropriate relationship between the Commissioners and applicants? Would you find it difficult to vote against a friend? Would you find it difficult to vote differently than fellow Commissioners?**

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The relationship has been highly respectful. If a friend comes before the commission and the commissioner feels that the friendship might affect their decision they need to recuse themselves from participating. The Commissioner needs to disclose the relationship before the project is presented. It is productive and constructive to bring different views to an issue which is being considered before the commission. It is fine if a commissioner disagrees or agrees with an issue. Or agree with the project but share his concern so the staff can address it.

Question applies to Planning Commission

**9. Why do you wish to be a member of the Planning Commission? Specifically, why have you chosen this form of community service over the many other avenues of community service available in our community?**

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With my education and experience background in architecture and planning, I believe that I can contribute to the planning our wonderful city

Question applies to Planning Commission

**Completed applications may be returned to the City Clerk's Office, Room 290, 455 North Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210. If you have any questions, please contact the City Clerk at 310.285.2400.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**So that we may preserve the integrity of the application and interview process, please direct all inquiries to the City Clerk, City Manager or the Director of Community Development. Please DO NOT contact the City Councilmembers or the members of the Planning Commission regarding the Planning Commission vacancies.**

**Serving on the Beverly Hills Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Adjustments and Planning Agency**

The Planning Commission is one of twelve (12) Commissions appointed by the City Council to carry out a variety of delegated functions. The City Manager, Department Heads, and other City staff who work for the City Council provide staff support to the Commissions. The Community Development Department provides primary staff support to the Planning Commission, although depending on the issues, other Departments occasionally provide support as well. The Community Development Department also provides primary support to the City's Architectural Commission, Design Review Commission, Cultural Heritage Commission, and Rent Stabilization Commission. As with the other Departments, Community Development staff also provides support to other Commissions and to the City Council.

There are five Planning Commission positions, serving a staggered first term of two years, with a single four-year reappointment possible. Commissioners generally serve until their replacements are appointed. It is recommended that those seeking appointment attend a few Planning Commission meetings to familiarize themselves with some of the current issues and to see how the meetings are conducted.

When there is an anticipated vacancy, the City Council announces the upcoming vacancy and invites interested persons to submit application forms. A subcommittee of City Council and Planning Commission members will interview all interested candidates and make recommendations to the full City Council. The City Council makes its final selection and appointment at a formal public meeting. The City Clerk swears in the new Planning Commissioners, sometime before their first meeting, but generally immediately prior to their first meeting.

**Legal Authorities and Responsibilities**

State law sets out the areas over which the Planning Commission has authority, either as a decision-making body, or advisory to the City Council. The Commission is responsible for recommending broad development policies to the City Council, and once adopted in the form of the