

Coalition of Homeowner Associations-Council District 5: Newsletter #4

Preserving and Protecting Neighborhoods

January 2022

Los Angeles City Attorney

Each candidate was individually interviewed for two hours by the Coalition's 3-member Election Committee. Before leaving the interview, each candidate reviewed his/her responses to the questions. The Coalition interviews candidates who have demonstrated the ability to wage a reasonable campaign. We thank all candidates for their interest in public service. This newsletter is meant to be informative. It does not represent support for or opposition to any candidate or issue. This newsletter may be reprinted or emailed in its entirety. Portions may be reprinted only with written permission from a Coalition Election Committee member. For more information, go to the Coalition's website <www.cd5hoas.org>.

	Hydee Feldstein Soto	Kevin James	Teddy Kapur	Marina Torres
Key Candidates:				

BASIC INFORMATION

How long have you lived in Los Angeles?	39 years	34 years	16 years	13 years
Describe your community service positions:	Since 2016 vice president of the Pico Neighborhood Council and chair of the Land Use Committee	10 years on AIDS Project Los Angeles, First in Fire Foundation Board, Operation Progress LA in South LA	Larchmont Village Neighborhood Association-Board member, Imagine LA-Chairman of the Board & mentor	DTLA (Downtown) Strong
Community service accomplishments:	Ensuring developments and modifications conform to rules and community plans	Provided scholarships to students in South LA so they could attend private schools	Facilitating Community Dialogue	Maldef Scholarship Committee, Latina Bar Association Scholarship Committee

	Hydee Feldstein Soto	Kevin James	Teddy Kapur	Marina Torres
Describe any government service prior to your current position:	None	President, Board of Public Works, Director of Mayor's Office of Film & Television Production, Chief of Legislative Affairs, City Liaison to Sports & Entertainment Commission	None	Appointed to Civil Service Commission and served for three months. Had to step down because of appearance of a conflict of interest with my position at the Department of Justice
In this office(s) what do you wish you could have done better:	No government service	When I was on the Board of Public Works I wish we could have trimmed more trees, paved more miles of road, resolved with more copper wire thefts	No government service	Tenure too short to say
Single greatest accomplishment on behalf of the people of Los Angeles:	Keeping people informed about State housing bills (SB827, SB50, SB1120 and 330)	Introduced & implemented technology into the Dept of Public Works, delivers services more efficiently and effectively	Serving as a mentor to formerly homeless families	Work done at the Justice Department
What is your current employment?	Landlady	Entertainment lawyer at Lavelly and Singer, litigator	Attorney at Pachulski Strang Ziehl & Jones	Attorney-Prosecutor at US Department of Justice, Central District
What was your previous job?	Attorney: Equity partners at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP (2007-2012), Paul Hastings LLP (1996-2006)	President of the Board of Public Works (July 2013 to July 2020)	Sun American Affordable Housing Partners-Vice President, O'Melveny & Myers-Associate	Presidential appointee at Homeland Security-Obama Administration (2 years), Wiltman Hale (3 years), Munger Tolles Olson (3 years)
MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE				
A. What is the largest department or unit you have had management responsibility for? B. The budget for this unit? C. Final budget authority?	A. 300 lawyers at Sullivan & Cromwell B. \$100 Million on deals for corporate finance C. Yes when lead counsel	A. 6000 (Manager of the Board of Public Works) B. \$1 Billion plus operational and contracting budget of \$3 Billion+ C. Yes on what the Board presented	A. 20 members of a legal team B. None C. Does not apply	A. 500+ people (responsible for the DACA Program) B. None, self-funding C. No
Strengths as a manager of people:	Lead by example, help people find their own strengths, take massive amounts of information and break it down so I can give people direction	Collaborator, problem-solver, allow people to find their strengths and work on things they are passionate about	Good listener, collaborative, organized	Communication, transparency, working with long-term employees and motivating them
Most serious weakness/drawback as a manager of people:	Get too into the "weeds", get too detailed	Too nice, takes me a little longer to make a final decision if I hadn't been as nice	Set goals that are too difficult to accomplish	Take on too much work, need to delegate more

	Hydee Feldstein Soto	Kevin James	Teddy Kapur	Marina Torres
Experience that best prepared you to be LA City Attorney:	Really good lawyer with clarity, accountability and responsibility	Litigation experience in connection with government service	Practicing as a partner in a law firm and decades of experience with poverty	Management experience at Homeland Security and years as a prosecutor, have to be unafraid
A. Were you ever in private practice? B. What was your specialty?	A. Yes. Sullivan & Cromwell LLP (2007-2012), Paul Hastings LLP (1996-2006) B. Corporate finance	A. Yes. Laverly & Singer (2001-2013, and 2020 to present), Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher (1988-1991) B. Litigation	A. Yes. Pachulski Strang Ziehl & Jones (2009-present), O'Melveny & Myers (2005-2007) B. Corporate restructuring	A. Yes. Munger Tolles (2008-2011), Wilmer Hale (2011-2014) B. White collar crime and investigations
A. Were you ever in legal service for a government entity? B. What types of cases did you primarily handle?	No	A. Yes. US Attorney (1991-2001 received the Director's Award for Superior Performance) B. Drugs, medical insurance fraud, money laundering	No	A. The US Department of Justice, Central district B. Prosecuting money laundering, corruption and drug trafficking cases
What <i>pro-bono</i> legal work have you done for the community:	Better Way Forward promoting affordable housing, working with female entrepreneurs on their start-up businesses, working with Neighborhood Councils on land use and penal issues	National Association for Latino Elected & Appointed Officials, provided legal advice	"Imagine LA", Anti-Defamation League, South Asian Bar Association	Co-counsel with ACLU regarding protecting farm workers, Co-counsel with National Immigration Legal Center
GOALS FOR THE OFFICE OF CITY ATTORNEY				
Why are you running for this office?	Our City is broken and I blame professional politicians, I want to live up to my dad's legacy and make the world a better place	To bring a different legal strategy to the crisis in LA, I will stop settling cases involving public right-of-way	To ensure opportunities that were available to my family are available to everyone	The City Attorney is the prosecutor closest to people, to stand up and protect the people of Los Angeles
What do you bring to this office that is unique from any of the other candidates?	No desire to do any other job or run for another office, no political affiliations past or present, I've managed lawyers before	My municipal government experience regarding infrastructure, economic development, legislative priorities. Knowing how to negotiate contracts on behalf of City	Combination of private practice experience with long-standing commitment to serving people who have experienced poverty	Only candidate with civil and criminal experience, coming from the outside

	Hydee Feldstein Soto	Kevin James	Teddy Kapur	Marina Torres
<p>What are the top three issues facing the City and as City Attorney, what action steps will you take to help address each one:</p>	<p>1) <u>Homelessness</u>- Bring down cost per square foot for housing, charging fees for general fund, money needed for public health and for mental health.</p> <p>2) <u>Rising Street Violence and Domestic Violence</u>-Curb illegal firearms, address human trafficking and prosecute for wage theft violations, enforce Section III of the Municipal Code.</p> <p>3) <u>Corruption, Lack of Transparency and Lack of Honesty</u>-Cooperate not obstruct investigations.</p>	<p>1) <u>Homelessness</u>- Need regional solution to crisis, will try those cases, can bind all cities with judgments, this will level the playing field.</p> <p>2) <u>Lack of Affordable Housing Crisis</u>-Large complex problem, need enforcement of home-share laws because we are losing long-term rental space, against vacation sharing.</p> <p>3) <u>Economic Development/ COVID Relief</u>-Has to be easier for private sector and businesses to deal with City, change culture of "No", remove unnecessary redundancy, follow the law.</p>	<p>1) <u>Homelessness</u>- Not let legal barriers and red tape obstruct building shelters, hold City accountable for housing, increase County services.</p> <p>2) <u>Housing Shortage</u>-Seek to use 55,000 parcels of government-owned and under-utilized land.</p> <p>3) <u>Economic Recovery</u>-Self-help and training programs to help people apply for loans and assistance.</p>	<p>1) <u>Homelessness</u>- Enforce the law, interpret the law, once services are offered to homeless person, the person must leave the street</p> <p>2) <u>Public Safety</u>-Enforce laws with discretion, I'm a prosecutor</p> <p>3) <u>Corruption and Bureaucracy</u>-Work with US Justice Department and have an open books policy, streamline processes of government for example, street vendors, tenants, landlords: reduce inefficiencies</p>
<p>What impediments would prevent you from accomplishing these goals?</p>	<p>"Business as usual" attitude at City Hall</p>	<p>Size and structure of LA City government, but have to chip away at this, for example, more use of technology</p>	<p>NIMBYism, fear of mixed and lower income project in communities</p>	<p>Depends who Mayor is</p>
<p>As City Attorney, how would you overcome these impediments?</p>	<p>Work with City Council, show how it's in the best interest to do the right thing, use pending litigation and settlements so we hold City Council accountable</p>	<p>Reduce bottlenecks and redundancies, open avenues and communication, systems have to talk to each other, work together to review process using technology to cut out red tape</p>	<p>Community dialogue</p>	<p>Work together, litigate</p>
<p>Regarding the homeless issue, in the past what have you done to alleviate this problem within the City?</p>	<p>Pre-pandemic once per month I went to Friends of the Knights of Malta to help people get mental health help, worked on legislative proposals</p>	<p>AIDS Project LA-matched people without living conditions with those who could provide homes</p>	<p>Volunteered to lead "Imagine LA"</p>	<p>Target criminal element that keeps people homeless, coordinating LAPD and removing drug trafficking</p>

	Hydee Feldstein Soto	Kevin James	Teddy Kapur	Marina Torres
As City Attorney, what will you do to help resolve the homeless problem?	Bring down housing costs, secure mental health help, law enforcement help, but not criminalize homelessness or normalize criminal behavior	Not settle cases, ensure more housing and more services including mental health, jobs, housing	Cut red tape and legal impediments to shelters, demand County provide social services	Use law enforcement tools that are available to this office, housing services enforcement
How will you improve the prosecution of homeless who are violating ADA or other laws?	Not much can be done because of consent decrees	Will work with Gascon on this	Improve social worker outreach	Get current victims to cooperate, build trust, offer shelter and enforce the laws
As City Attorney, what will you do differently from the current administration to resolve the homeless issue?	Write more ordinances that are designed to address how to get money for mental health	Use legal leverage	As previously stated, cut red tape and legal impediments to shelters, demand County provide social services	Provide short-term shelter, offering shelter that is denied gives the City the right to enforce the laws
OFFICE OF CITY ATTORNEY SPECIFICS				
Thinking about the City Attorney's office today, what is working well in the office?	Civil litigation as plaintiffs for consumer protection- Protective Equipment (PPE), criminal diversion for first-time offenders	The risk management task force, and I will apply risk management programs to all aspects of the City, and the Neighborhood Prosecutors System	Diversion programs and Neighborhood Prosecutors Program	Neighborhood Prosecutors Program
What are the 3-4 key issues facing the City Attorney's office today?	Morale low, the politicization of the office, misuse of attorney-client privilege to conduct meetings in private in violation of Brown Act, approving single-source contracts, FBI raid on City Attorney's office shows mistrust in office	Problems with how they prepare cases, the morale in the office is very low, no room for advancement, lack of leadership in negotiating with unions, people not doing the types of cases they want	Litigating versus settling cases, drafting laws that are upheld on scrutiny, Lack of enforcement of laws and ordinances	Doesn't follow the law, raided by FBI, too many settlements and paying too much, bureaucracy and inefficiencies

	Hydee Feldstein Soto	Kevin James	Teddy Kapur	Marina Torres
If you were elected what immediate changes (within the first three months) would you institute?	None immediately, within 90 days talk to staff and listen to people, gather information, set up completely anonymous P.O. Box to get information	Settlement proposals will be reviewed, meet with lawyers to learn about them and their desires, meet with Bar Associations around the city, my website shows my "36+1" plan for example, create an Environmental Affairs Unit in the Civil Division, expand the Environmental Enforcement Unit in the Criminal Division, create an Immigrant Affairs Unit to help immigrant communities and more on my website	More pro-active enforcement of laws	Bring in people who will guide me for the right focus, need people with knowledge of City Attorney's office
What longer-term improvements would you institute?	Draft resolutions and ordinances with clarity and brevity, have laws that people understand, find out what is being enforced and what is not being enforced so ordinances won't be overturned	Expand the short-term plans and populate these units within the City Attorney's office	Strategy to fully litigate cases versus rushing to settle	Revisit contracts with outside attorneys
What impediments would prevent you from accomplishing the immediate and longer-term improvements?	Not a policymaker, so have to communicate between departments, neighborhoods/ constituencies	Unions might, some "civil service" attitudes	Staffing-not enough people, budgeting constraints	None short-term, long-term: how much time it takes to do things
How would you overcome these impediments?	Finding common ground, need more centricity	I've already talked to those who might impede.	Better coordination with Mayor and City Council re allocation of City Attorney resources	Bring people on board, have a strong front office, involve Department heads in City Attorney's office

	Hydee Feldstein Soto	Kevin James	Teddy Kapur	Marina Torres
As City Attorney, who is your primary "client" and who are your secondary "clients"?	The City as a whole, constituents are the people I represent as an elected official, the City is my client	The Municipal Corporation of the City of Los Angeles, Departments with some departments being priorities (LADWP, LAX, Port, etc.), Mayor, City Council	City of Los Angeles, City Council, Mayor	People of Los Angeles, City Attorney is advisor to City Hall
How do you see the role of the City Attorney's office with homeowners and residents in Los Angeles?	As an elected official my job is to be the voice of my constituents and ensure the City is doing what's in the best interests of the City as a whole	Homeowners and residents can take a look at units I'm building and use them as an entry point to the City Attorney's office, more constituent-driven office, accessibility is very important and level of accessibility will be higher	Collaborative open dialogue	More communication with people
What role can the City Attorney and this office play in preservation of neighborhoods in Los Angeles?	Preserve HPOZ, hit hard on SB 9 and SB 10, do a constitutional challenge that SB 9 and SB 10 are overreaching since we are a Charter City	Charter says the City Attorney is the liaison to courts, enforcement of ordinances, creation of ordinances, speed up the writing of ordinances (oil well inspection ordinance still not has been drafted), take instruction from policy makers, have departments enforce ordinances and rules	Understanding the needs of the different communities	Coordination with HOAs and neighborhood groups, having a liaison for this purpose
Sometimes homeowner associations and groups are forced to sue the City because the Departments of Planning, Transportation and Building and Safety are not abiding by City ordinances or they side-step the rules in favor of developers. What would you do to obviate this necessity to sue the City?	No position on this	Enforce the law, follow the law, will remove paralysis in following laws	Greater transparency of laws that need to be enforced, proactive involvement from City Attorney's office, greater involvement and apply pressure to abide by codes, greater penalties for violations as a deterrent	Having direct lines of communication between HOAs and City Attorney's office would prevent this
Would you prosecute City staff and officials who do not enforce City ordinances and laws?	Yes, if you can prove criminal conduct, otherwise fire them	Yes, I have valuable relationships with the Department managers from my tenure in Public Works	Yes, but would apply internal processes first	Can't do this, have to refer cases out to DA, Department of Justice and the State's Attorney General's office

	Hydee Feldstein Soto	Kevin James	Teddy Kapur	Marina Torres
Would you work with City Council to change the rules of approval for development so homeowners and residents do not have to sue the City to stop a development that is inappropriate for a site?	Yes	Would enforce the law, remove political decisions, look at my record on following the law	Yes	Yes
What would be your advice to City Council on the EIR process?	Categorical exemptions have been misused, developers lie to get exemptions, City Attorney's office needs to list out for constituents who are getting these exemptions and provide constituents information about these developers	Follow the EIR process, avoid abuse of categorical exemptions	Disassociate developers from reports	City Council has to come on board to make things more efficient
Would you prosecute lobbyists and lawyers who use illegal tactics to secure approval of development projects?	Yes	Yes, can use the courts and RICO laws, can refer cases to DA and US Attorney, and to anti-corruption units	Yes	Yes, nothing would make me happier, would refer to US Attorney's office
Would you prosecute building inspectors who accept gifts from developers or their associates?	Don't know. Depends on facts and circumstances, might refer to supervisor for discipline, or refer to US. Attorney or DA's office	Yes, these are personnel matters, would prosecute as misdemeanors or refer to DA	Yes	Yes
Would you prosecute "white collar" crimes where homeowners have been duped by sales scams?	Create civil case, bring consumer protection lawsuit	Yes	Yes	Yes
Will you file suit against those who violate HPOZ by inappropriate development?	I will issue citations with continuing fines and enforce a lien against the property	Yes in a civil action	Yes	Yes

	Hydee Feldstein Soto	Kevin James	Teddy Kapur	Marina Torres
How would you improve the prosecution of gang members?	Don't know	Prosecute misdemeanor crimes by using data to identify repeat offenders, use diversion tactics to prevent crime, will work with LAPD, will work with DA, the Board of Supervisors and the public	Involve law enforcement to build strongest case possible	Coordinate with other prosecutorial agencies, the Department of Justice
How will you improve the prosecution of taggers?	Don't know, more cameras, 311 has done well, clean up	Taggers are good candidates for diversion programs, would prosecute misdemeanor crimes of repeat offenders	Improve Neighborhood Prosecutor Program and reporting	Enforce the law, have more video cameras and coordination with house and building owners
How will you improve the prosecution of slumlords?	Issue citations and infractions, fine then tax liens	Prosecute fully	Improve representation for tenants	Get current victims to cooperate, build trust
Will you instruct your Assistant City Attorneys to require developers to meet hardship requirements set out in the Municipal Code before receiving exemptions?	Yes, issue \$2,500 fine for each day for each violation, and better enforcement for repeat violators. I will enforce the law.	Yes, we must follow the law	Yes	Yes
Will you organize the City Attorney's office so that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment is properly staffed with City Attorneys?	Don't know	Yes	I will assess the offices and take a fresh look at how to reallocate responsibilities	Reduce inefficiencies and streamline, re-distribute, pivot and realign organization
How do you intend to address/correct the morale problem that currently exists in the City Attorney's office?	Lead by example, help people find their own strengths	Bolster Neighborhood Prosecutors System, understand issues, address them	Provide more opportunities for career development and advancement	These are real problems, I'm an attorney not a politician, make people feel that they are part of the process

	Hydee Feldstein Soto	Kevin James	Teddy Kapur	Marina Torres
Will you pledge to not outsource any cases to law firms that have contributed to your campaign?	Don't know, but no "pay-to-play"	Yes, will not engage lawyers who donated to my campaign, no "pay to play"	No, expertise should not be disqualified	No, want to hire firms that are the best, would have a cautious eye, but want best experience and specialized experience with City Attorney's office
As City Attorney, what actions will you take to counteract SB 9 and SB 10?	Address Constitutional issue to override SB 10	Will fight against stripping cities of local control, will collaborate with other cities, this is a "taking" approach, would sue over it	Oppose SB 9 and SB 10, would look at what local communities need, would look at commercial corridors	Not much City Attorney can do except present challenges to building, protect local zoning with litigation
What will you do to advance the Ridgeline Ordinance?	The devil is in the details-geographic areas in ordinances and lot setbacks need to be worked out	Will move it forward	Expand beyond the pilot area	Have to look at environment policy
What will you do to advance the Wildlife Corridor?	Details need to be worked out	Will move it forward	Work with City Council and neighborhoods to get it approved	Don't know
Do you support or oppose the proposed hotel to be developed in Benedict Canyon?	Oppose	Don't know	Oppose	Don't know
Do you support or oppose the proposed Berggruen project in the Santa Monica Mountains?	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose	Don't know
Crime is on an up-tick. What can you and your office do about it?	Curb illegal firearms, address human trafficking and prosecute for wage theft violations, enforce the Municipal Code fairly and justly	Enforce the laws, have LAPD bring all cases to the City Attorney's office	Be more proactive participant with Neighborhood Prosecutor Program and work with communities	Number 1 issue for City Attorney, need to give people feeling of law and order so they want to live and work here, civil arm of City Attorney's Office is strong

	Hydee Feldstein Soto	Kevin James	Teddy Kapur	Marina Torres
Do you support or oppose gun control?	Support	Support	Support	Support
How will you combat illegal gun ownership and gun violence?	Enforce State law, trace and prosecute ghost guns, provide gun violence restraining orders support	Follow lead of Mayor and City Council, be a litigator regarding weapons	Expand "red flag" laws [for gun confiscation] and gun violence restraining laws/orders, close loop holes regarding sale of ghost guns	Have problem with ghost guns, have to coordinate with law enforcement
At the end of your tenure, what would you like your one most important accomplishment to be?	Restoring transparency, trust, accountability to office and City Hall	Completion and success of regional solution to homeless problem	Smaller homeless population, LA can no longer be the capital of wage theft	People of LA feel that the City Attorney's office represents them
INTERACTION WITH CONSTITUENTS				
Will you pledge to adopt and operate according to the Coalition's <i>Constituents Bill of Rights</i> (see last page)?	Yes. Signed pledge.	Yes. Signed pledge.	Yes. Signed pledge.	Yes. Signed pledge.
Will you commit to meeting with the Coalition at least one time per year?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Will you organize a Community Advisory Group for two-way dialogue with HOA leaders throughout the City?	Don't know	Yes	Yes	Yes
If disputes arise, do you pledge to give equal access to homeowners?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
CAMPAIGN METHODS				
Will you pledge to the Coalition to provide its Election Committee with evidence/back-up material within 24 hours when you make accusations against another candidate?	No. Won't run a negative campaign	Yes	Yes	Yes

	Hydee Feldstein Soto	Kevin James	Teddy Kapur	Marina Torres
If you had a previous campaign, did you receive any contributions that were later shown to be laundered funds? If yes, what did you do?	No previous campaign	No	No previous campaign	No previous campaign
Did you ever refuse to accept/keep any campaign contributions? From who?	Yes. Registered lobbyist, Russian national	Yes, from friend's daughter who is under 21 years old, and for over-limit contributions	No	Yes, from bail bondsman and "big oil"
Did you ever have any ethics violations in a previous campaign? How were they resolved?	No previous campaign	No	No previous campaign	No previous campaign

Campaign Funding

Information is as of 9/30/2021 as reported on the Los Angeles City Ethics website: <<http://ethics.lacity.org>>. Best efforts were made to accurately report contribution data.

Amount raised to date:	\$211,392	\$314,439	\$314,051	\$269,798
Loans to campaign:	\$25,000	None	\$75,000	\$15,000

LEADING INDICATORS OF POSSIBLE SPECIAL INTEREST FAVORS OR CONSIDERATIONS: SIGNIFICANT CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM A PARTICULAR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP. BEST EFFORTS WERE MADE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE INFORMATION. HIGH PERCENTAGES OF CONCERN ARE IN YELLOW.

Percentage of money from:

◆ Developers, construction industry, real estate interest, building suppliers, any real estate connection or interests, etc.	4%	16%	3%	13%
◆ Finance, banking, accounting, investing, etc.	2%	1%	6%	6%

	Hydee Feldstein Soto	Kevin James	Teddy Kapur	Marina Torres
◆ Lawyers, attorneys, associates in/of the legal profession	42%	18%	62%	41%
◆ Other special interest groups of concern:	None	Labor unions	None	None
Out-of-state contributions if excessive may indicate potential of special interests	21%	9%	27%	30%
Do you pledge to NOT advocate for, or be involved in any way with any project/issue involving a campaign contributor or client thereof, or give special treatment in any way to a campaign contributor or the contributor's client?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS, WEBSITE AND MARKETING MATERIALS				
<u>ENDORSEMENTS ARE A LEADING INDICATOR OF POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND/OR POSSIBLE BIASED BEHAVIOR IN OFFICE. INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED FROM EACH CANDIDATE'S WEBSITE AND/OR CAMPAIGN LITERATURE. CONCERNS ARE IN YELLOW.</u>				
Endorsement(s) of concern that might inhibit job performance:	None of any concern	18 unions with possible City contracts, LADWP commissioners because of recent scandal at DWP	None of any concern	Los Angeles Port Police Union when examining labor agreement or contract
For more information about the candidates, please go to their websites:	www.hydeeforcityattorney.com	www.kevinjamesforcityattorney.com/	www.teddykapur.com	www.marinatorres.com

Hydee Feldstein Soto

Kevin James

Teddy Kapur

Marina Torres

NOTE: The Coalition's Election Committee also interviewed City Attorney candidate Faisal Gill. Mr. Gill did not respond to the Committee's numerous post-interview emails and phone messages. The Committee agreed that this non-responsiveness disqualified Mr. Gill from the Coalition's election process. Of further concern to the Committee is that Mr. Gill is endorsed by U.S. Congressman Ilhan Omar, who has made various statements promoting bigotry, anti-Semitism and hate including: equating Hamas (a known terrorist group) and the Taliban with the United States and Israel. (<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-57436573>), refusing to recognize the Armenian Genocide and the murders of 1.5 million Armenians by Ottoman Turkey (<https://www.newsweek.com/ilhan-omar-has-problem-jews-opinion-1605824>), "It's all about the Benjamins baby." <https://t.co/KatcXJnZLV> (@IlhanMN) February 10, 2019, repeating a defaming trope against the Jewish people and their attachment to money, in 2012, Ms. Omar tweeted, "Israel has hypnotized the world, may Allah awaken the people and help them see the evil doings of Israel," using the term "hypnotized" just as the Nazis did. (*The Independent*, New York, Thursday 07 March 2019 16:00), "Omar suggested that lawmakers who support Israel have 'dual loyalty', which is a negative trope and untrue." (MRCNewsbusters, Scott Whitlock, March 4th, 2019 5:02 PM). The Coalition's Election Committee discussed this endorsement with Mr. Gill but he stood firmly by it. Another key concern regarding Mr. Gill is that on July 27, 2021, he issued a media release stating that "...his campaign had surpassed more than \$500,000 in the first fundraising period for the 2022 election" suggesting that he had raised the most money of any candidate, however, Mr. Gill did not disclose that he had loaned his campaign \$325,000, with an actual fundraising total of \$187,974, and thus, less money than five other candidates. When the Election Committee discussed this misleading campaign statement with Mr. Gill, he dismissed it as unimportant. The Coalition Election Committee decided that Mr. Gill's misleading approach to communicating with the people of Los Angeles combined with his non-responsiveness and other factors disqualifies Mr. Gill from participation in the Coalition's Election process.

On December 1, 2007, the Coalition adopted a basic Constituents Bill of Rights. Each candidate was asked to read and accept the standards set forth in this document. All City Attorney candidates interviewed by the Coalition signed and agreed to abide by this document. The Constituents Bill of Rights for the office of City Attorney includes the following:

- i. The right to prompt, professional and efficient City service.
- ii. The right to be treated with dignity and respect by friendly, courteous and attentive City employees and our elected official without arrogance or stone-walling.
- iii. The right to ask questions and receive accurate and useful answers.
- iv. The right to prompt return and follow-up calls concerning complaints or requests.
- v. The right to be educated on the services provided by the City Attorney's Office and how these services are used to support the needs of the City.
- vi. The right to expect frequent communication of the City Attorney's office regarding on-going issues and their process of resolution and information about what is going on in your City.
- vii. The right to have department general managers/staff who constituent-centric and not beholden or biased in favor of any special interest group.
- viii. The right to inclusive and transparent processes.
- ix. The right to have a City Attorney's Office that is not bloated with staff or political appointees.
- x. The right to zero tolerance for corruption, waste and special treatment for any constituency group or campaign contributor.
- xi. The right to have a City Attorney who keeps and executes campaign promises.
- xii. A promise from you to meet with the Coalition not less than one time per year.