

**Laura Cahn
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April 14, 2022

**To: The Honorable Justin Elicker, Mayor
The Honorable Rosa Ferraro-Santana, Chair, and Aldermanic Affairs Committee**

**Cc: Barbara Montalvo, Mayor's Office Legislative Aide to the Board of Alders
Misty Maza, Legislative Aide II, Office of Legislative Services**

**Re: Iris Kaminski, Change from EAC Alternate to Regular Member
Kathleen Fay, Re-appointment to EAC
Florestine Taylor, Re-appointment to EAC
Cindy Xochitl Ahtziri Garcia, Candidate for Appointment to EAC**

Dear Mayor Elicker and Aldermanic Affairs Committee Chair Ferraro-Santana:

The Environmental Advisory Council is one of New Haven's newer boards. We started work in 2016 and have tackled many important issues including pesticides, renewable energy, water conservation, waste management, recycling, plastics, fracking waste disposal, highway tolls, digital billboards, noise, leaf blowers, trees, artificial turf, and bird-safe building zoning and more.

Though by ordinance we are required to meet four times a year we meet at least eight times a year and have continued meeting during the pandemic.

Every member of the EAC has interest and expertise in one or more environmental issue, and we all spend a lot of time researching issues and advocating for the environment. We advocate in our neighborhoods and at the city, state, and national levels. EAC members write advocacy letters, testify at public hearings, and submit written testimony.

We all work hard to educate people about how to take better care of our city and our planet.

Thank you for considering the following candidates for EAC membership:

IRIS KAMINSKI – for promotion from Alternate to Regular Member

Iris is our water expert. Iris attended EAC meetings for two years before being appointed as an Alternate member on October 1, 2018. She attends most every EAC meeting and many meetings and public hearings on behalf of the EAC. In addition, Iris serves on the drought subcommittee of the State Water Planning Council. Iris tracks the drought status for the EAC and serves as our liaison to entities that monitor our drinking and waste water. Thanks to Iris we know what to ask about water preservation.

KAHTY FAY – for re-appointment to Regular Member

Kathy has held the position of EAC Secretary since we began. Kathy is our energy expert. Kathy was instrumental in getting the EAC started. She re-imagined a moribund board originally formed for a group of public utility employees to meet once a quarter into a citizen-led council that invites experts to discuss environmental issues as needed. At Neighborhood Housing Services Kathy started a concierge service to help New Haven property owners conserve resources. She was recently appointed Low-income Representative to the new Connecticut Energy Efficiency Board.

FLORESTINE TAYLOR – for re-appointment to Regular Member

Florestine is our environmental justice and green jobs advocate. She spreads the gospel of sustainability here and in Hartford and adds the vital perspective of a New Haven resident living the quintessential urban life -- dwelling in an apartment and relying on public transportation -- to the EAC.

CINDY XOCHITL AHTZIRI GARCIA – for appointment as a new Member

Cindy Xochitl Ahtziri Garcia is our hope for the future. Unlike those who apply to serve on the EAC without ever attending an EAC meeting or knowing what we do, Xochitl came to EAC meetings because she was interested in our work and then applied to serve. As a native New Havener who is passionate about the future and the health of the environment, Xochitl adds the youth voice we need. Her dedication to attending EAC meetings and willingness and enthusiasm to contribute our work are vital to our continued success. Young people have an outsize impact with their advocacy. We rely on Xochitl to channel the power of her generation.

We are very proud of the work of all of our members. Many matters discussed at EAC meetings are covered by the local press. We know you believe environmental concerns are as important to New Haveners as we on the EAC do.

We could not do our work without your support, for which we are very grateful. Thank you for making sure we have the right people on our council so the EAC can help protect our environment and our health.

Sincerely,

Laura Cahn
Chairwoman, Environmental Advisory Council