



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
November 7, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager  
Submitted by: Dr. Lisa Warhuus, Director, Health, Housing, & Community Services  
Subject: Appointment of Interim Health Officer

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution ratifying the action taken by the City Manager to appoint Dr. Anju Goel, M.D., as the Interim Health Officer for the City of Berkeley.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

A full-time, career benefited Health Officer position is budgeted for the current and subsequent fiscal years. After an interim period assessing the current needs for this position and work unit, the position will eventually be filled with a permanent appointment.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In accordance with state law, as a recognized local health jurisdiction the City Council must appoint a local Health Officer who has a medical degree and holds a license issued by the Medical Board of California.

Dr. Goel is a board-certified internist and public health specialist. She graduated from Stanford Medical School and has an MPH from Columbia University. Since 2004, she has worked in multiple California county health departments; addressing a wide range of public health issues. For the last 3.5 years, she has worked with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the COVID-19 response; most recently on vaccine safety research studies.

BACKGROUND

Dr. Lisa Hernandez, the former Health Officer, vacated the position on July 4, 2023, becoming the Santa Cruz County Health Officer after five years of service to the City. Because the City is required to have a Health Officer, the Alameda County Health Officer has been providing coverage for the City of Berkeley Health Officer during the search for the Interim Health Officer.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

State Law requires City Council appoint a physician Health Officer for our local health Jurisdiction. The Department of Health, Housing, and Community Services (HHCS) identified Dr. Goel as the best qualified candidate through a competitive hiring process.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None, the City is required to appoint a physician Health Officer.

CONTACT PERSON

Amy Davidson, Deputy Director, Health, Housing & Community Services

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER

WHEREAS, City of Berkeley has performed local public health functions since 1890 and is one of three city health jurisdictions in California; and

WHEREAS, local health jurisdictions must include a physician health officer; and

WHEREAS, mandatory functions of a local health jurisdiction include communicable disease control, tuberculosis control, public health emergency preparedness and response, and registration of births and deaths; and

WHEREAS, these functions can only be performed under the authority of a physician health officer; and

WHEREAS, the previous health officer vacated the position effective July 4, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Goel is a board-certified internist who has worked in multiple California county health departments; addressing a wide range of public health issues and has accepted the position of Interim Health Officer, beginning work on September 18, 2023.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley by the Council of the City of Berkeley that it ratifies the action taken by the City Manager to appoint Dr. Anju Goel, M.D. as the Interim Health Officer for the City of Berkeley, Department of Health, Housing & Community Services,

