



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Wednesday June 13, 2017**

**COUNCILMEMBER ENGLANDER ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NICOLE BERNSON AS CHIEF OF STAFF**

Councilmember Mitchell Englander announced today the appointment of former Deputy Chief of Staff Nicole Bernson as Chief of Staff for the Council District Twelve office. Bernson replaces former Chief of Staff John S. Lee who served in that capacity since the Councilmember was elected in 2011 and stepped down from his position earlier this month to pursue private sector opportunities.

"I am proud to have the most committed and professional staff that a Councilmember could ask for," said Councilmember Englander. "And, while John no doubt will be missed throughout the district, my staff and constituents know Nicole to be as passionate and dedicated a public servant as there ever was. I have no doubt that Nicole will manage our staff through a smooth transition and ensure a seamless continuity of our office's operations."

"It has been my deepest honor to serve the residents of Council District Twelve alongside Councilmember Englander and John Lee," Bernson said. "I want to thank the Councilmember for entrusting me with this responsibility and John for being a friend and mentor for all these years. I look forward to continuing our work to ensure the safety and prosperity of our constituents and working to lift up the lives of our most vulnerable residents."

Bernson has served as Deputy Chief of Staff to Councilmember Englander since he was elected in 2011. In this capacity, she staffed him on the City's Budget and Finance Committee, as well as The Executive Employee Relations Committee - specializing in fiscal policy, government administration, environmental and sustainability issues, regulatory matters, grant writing and state and federal legislation.

Prior to serving with Councilmember Englander, Bernson was a Senior Policy advisor to Councilmember Greig Smith. Before joining public service, Bernson was a small business owner for 14 years and worked on the business side of the entertainment industry getting her start in a full-service talent agency mailroom. She was born and raised in Council District Twelve and is a graduate of California State University, Northridge.

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