



GARDENA ECONOMIC BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular GEBAC Meeting Notice and Agenda

Website: www.cityofgardena.org

Wednesday, January 21, 2026, 11:30 AM

Nakaoka Community Center, 2nd Floor, Room D

If you would like to participate in this meeting, you can participate via the following options:

1. **PARTICIPATE BEFORE THE MEETING** by emailing the Gardena Board/Commission/Committee at publiccomment@cityofgardena.org two (2) hours before the meeting starts on the day of the meeting and write "Public Comment" in the subject line.

2. **ATTEND THE MEETING IN PERSON**

PUBLIC COMMENT: The Gardena Board/Commission/Committee will hear from the public on any item on the agenda or any item of interest that is not on the agenda at the following times:

- Agenda Items - At the time the Board/Commission/Committee considers the item or during Public Comment.
- If you wish to address the Gardena Board/Commission/Committee, please complete a "Speaker Request" form and present it to staff. You will be called to the podium by name when it is your turn to address the Board/Commission/Committee. The Board/Commission/Committee cannot legally take action on any item not scheduled on the Agenda. Such items may be referred for administrative action or scheduled on a future Agenda. Members of the public wishing to address the Board/Commission/Committee will be given three (3) minutes to speak.

The City of Gardena, in complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), requests individuals who require special accommodations to access, attend and/or participate in the City meeting due to disability, to please contact the City Clerk's Office by phone (310) 217-9565 or email cityclerk@cityofgardena.org at least 24 business hours prior to the scheduled general meeting to ensure assistance is provided. Assistive listening devices are available.

STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR THAT PROMOTE CIVILITY AT ALL PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Treat everyone courteously;
- Listen to others respectfully;
- Exercise self-control;
- Give open-minded consideration to all viewpoints;
- Focus on the issues and avoid personalizing debate; and
- Embrace respectful disagreement and dissent as democratic rights, inherent components of an inclusive public process, and tools for forging sound decisions

Thank you for your attendance and cooperation

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

1. Josh Bettencourt, Chair
2. Paul Guiliano, Vice-Chair
3. Gene Hale
4. Jules Laross Kanhan
5. Naresh Solanki
6. Moe Shemirani
7. Kale Morita
8. Gilbert Bernal, Jr.
9. Christyna Giles Washington
10. Donald Penegar

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

This is the time where the public may address the Gardena Economic Business Advisory Commission on items that are not on the agenda, but within the Gardena Economic Business Advisory Commission jurisdiction. Comments should be limited to three minutes.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.A. Gardena Economic Business Advisory Commission, September 17, 2025

6. NEW BUSINESS / MEMBER INITIATIVES

6.A. Discussion on Imposing Local Hiring Goals

7. CITY MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS

8. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

9. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Gardena Economic Business Advisory Commission will adjourn to the next meeting at 11:30am on March 18, 2026.

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing agenda was posted in the City Hall lobby not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting. A copy of said Agenda is available on our website at www.CityofGardena.org.

 /s/ MINA SEMENZA

MINA SEMENZA, City Clerk

Date Posted: January 16, 2026

MINUTES
Regular GEBAC Meeting of the
Gardena Economic Business Advisory Commission
Wednesday, September 17, 2025

The Regular GEBAC Meeting Notice and Agenda of the Gardena Economic Business Advisory Commission of the City of Gardena, California, was called to order at 11:30 AM on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, in the Nakaoka Community Center, 2nd Floor, Room D at 1670 W. 162nd Street, Gardena, California.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:31 AM.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Joshua Bettencourt; Vice-Chair Paul Giuliano; Commissioner Gene Hale, Commissioner Jules Laross Kanhan; Commissioner Moe Shemirani; Commissioner Kale Morita; and Commissioner Donald Penegar. Employees present: Economic Development Manager Jackie Choi; Assistant Director of Community Development Jo-Anne Burns; Assistant City Attorney Rosemary Koo and Intern Christopher Pulido.

Commissioners Naresh Solanki, Gilbert Bernal Jr. and Christyna Giles Washington were absent.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Joshua Bettencourt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Bettencourt noted that no members of the public were present, and no member of the public wished to speak to the Gardena Economic Business Advisory Commission at this time.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. July 16, 2025

MOTION: A motion was made by Vice-Chair Paul Giuliano and seconded by Commissioner Shemirani to approve the minutes of the meeting on July 16, 2025:

Ayes: Bettencourt, Giuliano, Hale, Kanhan, Shemirani, Morita and Penegar

Noes: None

Absent: Solanki, Bernal and Washington

6. NEW BUSINESS / MEMBER INITIATIVES

1. Introduction of a New Assistant Director of Community Development Department – Jo-Anne Burns

Assistant Director of Community Development Jo-Anne Burns introduced herself, sharing her professional background and expressed her desire to work with all the Commissioners and provide support.

2. Discussion of the Draft Bylaws

Economic Development Manager Jackie Choi provided an update to all the Commissioners regarding the Draft Bylaws from the previous meeting. She mentioned that a two-year term limit would be included, along with some minor formatting changes and language adjustments. Ms. Choi also announced that Assistant City Attorney Rosemary Koo was present and available to answer any questions, as she had assisted in drafting the bylaws.

Chair Bettencourt asked if any member of the Commission had any questions.

Commissioner Shemirani sought clarification on the two-year term. Chair Bettencourt explained that the term limit would pertain specifically to the Chair position. Ms. Choi added that there was no term limit mentioned in the bylaws.

There were no additional questions or comments made by any member of the Commission.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Hale and seconded by Commissioner Morita to approve the Final Draft Bylaws for the Gardena Economic Business Advisory Commission:

Ayes: Bettencourt, Giuliano, Hale, Kanhan, Shemirani, Morita and Penegar

Noes: None

Absent: Solanki, Bernal and Washington

3. Discussion on Imposing Local Hiring Goals

The Commissioners received a presentation from Assistant City Attorney Rosemary Koo on Imposing Local Hiring.

Questions and comments were made by Commissioners Shemirani, Hale, Penegar, Kanhan and Chair Bettencourt and Vice-Chair Giuliano, and Economic Development Manager Jackie Choi. City Attorney Rosemary Koo answered all questions and provided clarification on the matter.

Commissioner Hale excused himself and left the meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made by Vice-Chair Giuliano and seconded by Chair Bettencourt to Continue the Discussion on Imposing Local Hiring Goals to the next schedule GEBAC Meeting:

Ayes: Bettencourt, Giuliano, Kanhan, Shemirani, Morita and Penegar
Noes: None
Absent: Hale, Solanki, Bernal and Washington

7. CITY MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS

No reportable items by the City Manager.

8. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Economic Development Manager Jackie Choi announced upcoming city events.

- 1) Gardena's Food, Wine & Brew, Saturday, September 27, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at City Hall Lawn.

Ms. Choi informed the Commissioners about receiving two tickets for the event and to inform staff if they are interested in attending the event.

9. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

- 1) CHAIR BETTENCOURT – He expressed a desire to see improvements in imposing local hiring goals.
- 2) VICE-CHAIR GIULIANO – No items to report.
- 3) COMMISSIONER KANHAN – No items to report.
- 4) COMMISSIONER SHEMIRANI – No items to report.
- 5) COMMISSIONER MORITA – No items to report.
- 6) COMMISSIONER PENEGAR – No items to report.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Bettencourt adjourned the meeting at 12:39 PM.

SUBMITTED:

APPROVED BY:

Georgina Placido, Secretary

Joshua Bettencourt, Chair