

Newsbrief

NEW CAO:

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa announced March 25 that he will appoint City Hall veteran Marcus Allen to take the City's fiscal helm when current City Administrative Officer Karen Sisson leaves to become Vice President and Treasurer of her alma mater, Pomona College.

Mayor Villaraigosa credited Sisson as one of the key architects of his fiscal management policy and for maintaining and improving the City's fiscal position.

"Karen is a good listener and consensus-builder," he said. "She also has the highest integrity. While the City will miss her financial and technical skill, her skill at finding opportunities to solve problems collaboratively and leading management change is the greater loss."

Once confirmed by the City Council, Allen will become the first African American to hold the position of CAO, the highest-ranking non-elected position in Los Angeles' government structure – responsible for the City's \$7 billion budget, labor-relations program and debt management. Sisson is the first woman to hold the post.

Allen comes with more than 15 years fiscal-management experience that cuts across City, County and federal offices, including:

- Five years as Chief Deputy and Assistant General Manager handling day-to-day operations and oversight of City fiscal systems for City Controller Laura Chick;
- Six years in progressively responsible positions for the Chief Legislative Analyst;
- Two years reviewing Medicare programs in the federal Office of Management and Budget;
- Two years running the County Probation Department's finances, serving as a budget deputy for County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky; and
- Two years serving as Mayor Villaraigosa's Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief Operations Officer with an instrumental leadership role in Mayor's first two budgets.

As Chick's Assistant General Manager (2000 to 2001) and Chief Deputy Controller (2002 to 2005), Allen revised the City's multi-billion dollar cash-flow model and designed the current system the Controller uses for performance-auditing, fraud waste, abuse and contract payment audits.

As the Deputy Chief of Staff in the first two years of Mayor Villaraigosa's administration, he was a principle force behind Mayor's FY2007-2008 budget, steering the budget to a unanimous approval in City Council. The budget identified \$50 million in efficiencies on day-to-day operations, while reducing the City's structural deficit by \$130 million over two years.

A graduate of UCLA with a Master's degree in public policy from the University of Chicago, Allen also served as the lead negotiator closing out six labor contracts during his time in the Mayor's Office.

Marcus Allen has spent the past nine months heading the company he created, Marcus Allen and Associates, where he provided public affairs and strategic counsel to a variety of clients.

Sisson has served in City government for more than 14 years, holding multiple positions. She began her City career with the Community Redevelopment Agency in 1990 working on loans for the LA Free Clinic and the LA Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, as well as executing the first bond issue for the Hollywood Redevelopment Project.

As Chief Financial Officer for Los Angeles World Airports, she oversaw LAX's financial recovery from the tragic events of 9/11 including garnering a "AA" rating from Standard & Poor's, the highest rating they had ever given to a general airport revenue bond.

Mayor Villaraigosa appointed Sisson Deputy Mayor for Finance and Performance Management in July 2005. In that role, she and her team successfully concluded the Mayor's first budget, which provided the funding to add 1,000 new officers by 2010.

She was appointed Interim CAO in December 2006 upon the resignation of her predecessor, Bill Fujioka, and confirmed as permanent CAO by the City Council in March 2007.

As CAO she led the team that negotiated the first five-year contract with the City's civilian unions in modern times. It is the first contract to implement gain sharing between the City and its unions and to have clear re-openers tied to economic conditions. She has also been a champion of long term financial planning and has increased the frequency of formal financial reporting to the Mayor and City Council.

"Marcus has incredible shoes to fill. Karen's sharp business acumen, approachability and honesty have made her one of the most effective and respected leaders in City Hall," the Mayor said. "As long as I am Mayor, there will always be a welcome home for her back in Los Angeles City Hall."

In this monthly feature, Club CEO John Hawkins and Member Services Manager Angel Gomez introduce you to people you see every day, but you might not know who they are. The Club reminds you that we all have names and stories to tell.

People We See

in downtown Los Angeles.

No. 4 in a series.
APRIL 2008



Meet John

HIS NEIGHBORHOOD:

San Pedro and First Street.

AGE: 42

BIRTHPLACE:

Torrance. Moved to Los Angeles one year ago.

FAMILY:

No brothers or sisters.

EDUCATION:

Graduate of high school and two years of college.

MILITARY:

Yes, in the United States Navy.

IF YOU COULD WISH FOR ANYTHING, WHAT WOULD IT BE?
"A million dollars."

LAST JOB:

Never worked.

FAVORITE SPORTS:

Football.

FAVORITE FOOD:

Hamburgers.

FAVORITE CANDY:

Snickers.

FAVORITE PLACE IN THE CITY:

"San Pedro and First Street."

ADVICE:

"Be good citizens."

DATE WE MET MIKE:

March 21, 2008

The Club gave John a \$25 McDonalds card and a blanket.



Who are the people you see every day?