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PASADENA

Candidates to speak at forum airing on Zoom

Mayoral and City Council hopefuls will address housing and homelessness issues Wednesday

By John Orona
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Faith-based nonprofit organization Making Housing and Community Happen will host a housing and homelessness forum this week for candidates vying for seats on the Pasadena City Council in the March 5 primary election.

The forum, to be conducted over Zoom at 7 p.m. Wednesday, will feature four candidates, all running in different districts, with no incumbents so far slated

to attend. According to organizers, the following candidates have agreed to participate:

- Mayor: Allen Shay
 - District 2: Rick Cole
 - District 3: Brandon Lamar
 - District 4: Jonathan Horton
- Candidates will address the housing and homelessness crisis, and answer questions such as:

- What concrete steps would you take to end homelessness in our city?
- What policies do you support that would create more affordable housing in our city?

▪ Now that rent stabilization is part of our City Charter, what will you do to make sure that tenants in our city are protected and treated fairly?

▪ What steps would you take to support federal and state laws requiring cities to "affirmatively further fair housing" and ensure that there is affordable housing in all parts of our city?

▪ Now that SB 4 rezones religious and college land for affordable housing statewide, what would you do to make sure this bill is implemented in our city and how would you support religious institutions and colleges interested in having affordable housing built on their underuti-

lized land?

▪ Are you in favor of a dedicated fund for affordable housing either through a transfer fee (as Culver City and LA have done), or some other means?

In all, six of the seven seats on the Pasadena City Council will be on the ballot in March, including the mayor and a special election for the 3rd District seat that was held by late Councilmember John Kennedy until his death in 2022.

Councilmember Justin Jones was appointed to represent the district for the first two years of Kennedy's term, through this year, with the upcoming election determining who will serve

the remaining two years to 2026.

Jones will face Brandon Lamar, a community activist and vice chair of the Pasadena Rental Housing Board, on the ballot once again. Lamar ran unsuccessfully for the seat in the 2022 election that Kennedy won, and along with Jones was a candidate to replace Kennedy after that election.

In the 2nd District, former Pasadena Mayor Rick Cole and city commissioner Aaron Milam will face incumbent Felicia Williams, who first announced a candidacy for the 41st State Assembly District seat before dropping out in late July and joined

FORUM » PAGE 5