

## Biography for Housing Commission

Dr. Paul Furukawa has lived in San Antonio, Texas, for over 25 years in four different zip codes. Military training and assignments brought him here, and the Alamo City's resemblance to his childhood home in East Los Angeles and its culture, arts, and the charm of its people convinced him to stay.

His parents, his sense of adventure, and military assignments have opened the doors for him as an owner or renter of homes in Honolulu, Northern and Southern California, rural Florida and West Virginia, several parts of Greater Washington, D.C., Tehran, Iran, Denver, and back again in 1996 to San Antonio.

As a social worker and program manager with the San Antonio Police Department, he supervised teams working out of SAPD headquarters and each of the six substations, familiarizing him with residents and neighborhoods in all parts of the City. His work in the nonprofit sector and his advisory service with the Alamo Area Council of Governments introduced him to the challenges and needs of residents at all ends of the economic and age spectra.

In reviewing the recommendations of the Mayor's Housing Policy Task Force—to develop a coordinated housing system; to increase City investment in housing; to increase affordable housing production, rehabilitation, and preservation; to protect and promote neighborhoods; and to ensure accountability to the public—he sees opportunities to build on his work and volunteer experiences and to apply his years of teaching “strategic planning” and “human services” in graduate university programs.

Since agreeing to having his name placed in nomination, he has renewed or initiated contact with colleagues on the City staff, nonprofit sector, faith-based community, and academia with interests in topics that relate directly and indirectly to affordable and accessible housing. The composition of the Housing Commission that includes fields that address economic development and other recipients of household expenses recognizes the complexity of the issues.

Dr. Furukawa taught in the City of San Antonio's Municipal Leadership Institute (2003-04). His topic was, “How to make the most of your appointment to boards and commissions.” He will now have an opportunity to review and update his presentation.