



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

April 27, 2016

Honorable Members of the City Council
c/o City Clerk
City Hall, Room 395

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have reappointed Mr. Benjamin Torres to the Commission for Community and Family Services for the term ending June 30, 2020. Mr. Torres's current term expires on June 30, 2016.

I certify that in my opinion Mr. Torres is qualified for the work that will devolve upon him, and that I make the appointment solely in the interest of the City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Garcetti', is written over the printed name.

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor

EG:dlg

Attachment

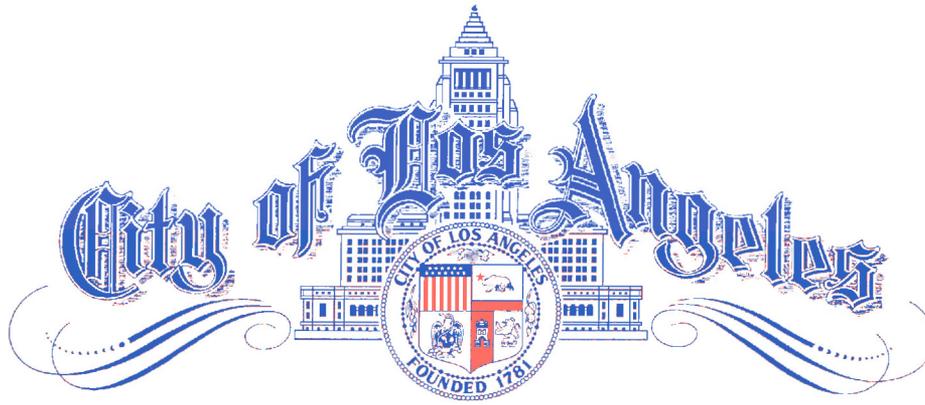
COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

Name: Benjamin Torres
Commission: Commission for Community and Family Services
End of Term: 6/30/2020

Appointee Information

1. **Race/ethnicity:** Latino
2. **Gender:** Male
3. **Council district and neighborhood of residence:** 13 - East Los Angeles
4. **Are you a registered voter?** Yes
5. **Prior commission experience:**
6. **Highest level of education completed:** M.S., Community Economic Development, Southern New Hampshire University
7. **Occupation/profession:** President and Chief Executive Officer, CDTech
8. **Experience(s) that qualifies person for appointment:** See attached resume
9. **Purpose of this appointment:** Reappointment
10. **Current composition of the commission:**

Commissioner	APC	CD	Ethnicity	Gender	Appt Date	Term End
Beserra-Nunez, Irma	South Valley	5	Latina	F	27-Jan-14	30-Jun-18
Collado, Gerlie	North Valley	12	Asian Pacific Islander	F	06-Jun-14	30-Jun-18
Eidmann, Kathryn	East LA	13	Caucasian	F	27-Jun-14	30-Jun-16
Estrada, Ingrid	South LA	10	Latina	F	06-Jun-14	30-Jun-16
Farar, Ilana	West LA	11	Caucasian	F	03-Feb-14	30-Jun-18
Hawthorne, Jacquelynn	South LA	8	African American	F	06-Jun-14	30-Jun-16
Hill, Peggy	Central	4	African American	F	30-Jul-10	30-Jun-16
Legesse, Nikki	West	11	African American	F	10-Mar-14	30-Jun-16
Leviste, Mariedel	South Valley	3	African American	F	06-Jun-14	30-Jun-18
Marcus, Deborah	West LA	11	Caucasian	F	05-Aug-14	30-Jun-18
Maxey, Tara	East LA	1	Caucasian	F	03-Feb-14	30-Jun-18
Rodriguez, William "Blinky"	North Valley	7	Latino	M	03-Feb-14	30-Jun-18
Yaroslavsky, Barbara	Central	5	Caucasian	F	30-Jul-10	30-Jun-18
Zamora, Raquel	East LA	14	Latina	F	06-Jun-14	30-Jun-16



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

April 27, 2016

Mr. Benjamin Torres



Dear Mr. Torres:

I am pleased to inform you that I hereby reappoint you to the Commission for Community and Family Services for the term ending June 30, 2020. In order to complete the process as quickly as possible, there are several steps that must be taken, many of which require visiting City Hall. If you require parking during these procedures, please call Claudia Luna in my Office at (213) 978-0621 to make arrangements for you.

To begin the reappointment process, please review, sign and return the enclosed Remuneration Form, Undated Separation Forms, Background Check Release and Information Sheet **within one week** of receiving this letter. These documents are necessary to ensuring the most efficient, open and accountable City government possible.

As part of the City Council confirmation process, you will need to meet with Mitch O'Farrell, your Councilmember, and Councilmember Gilbert Cedillo, the Chair of the Housing Committee, to answer any questions they may have. You will be hearing from a City Council committee clerk who will let you know when your reappointment will be considered by the Housing Committee. Sometime thereafter, you will be notified by the committee clerk when your reappointment will be presented to the full City Council for confirmation. Once you are confirmed, you will be required to take the oath of office in the City Clerk's Office in Room 395 of City Hall. Claudia Luna will assist you during the confirmation process if you have questions.

Mr. Benjamin Torres
April 27, 2016
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If you move at any point during your term, have any changes in your telephone numbers, or in the future plan to resign (resignation must be put in writing), please contact my office immediately.

Congratulations and thank you for agreeing to serve the people of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "E. Garcetti". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor

EG:dlg

Benjamin A. Torres

EDUCATION

Thesis process: M.S., Community Economic Development, Southern New Hampshire University. 1997
B.A., Chicano/a Studies, University of California at Santa Barbara.

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Resident led community and economic development, civic engagement strategies, community organizing models/methods and the active participation of individuals and community-based organizations to build ownership and improve their quality of life in low-income, racially diverse and marginalized neighborhoods.
- United States politics, civil rights and Chicano/Latino political issues, impacts of race, class and culture on community participation, leadership, community development and the practice of democracy as a means of social, political and economic change.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2010 - Present President and Chief Executive Officer, CDTech . Los Angeles CA.
As President and CEO, I am responsible for the implementation of CDTech's vision, mission and comprehensive programs. I am responsible for managing and leading the Board of Directors, supervising the Senior Executive Team and leading the Management team to effectively meet our financial and programmatic responsibilities. As the CEO my responsibilities also include raising financial resources to support the organizations staff and programs, manage our funding relationships, portfolio, assets and investments. I provide strategic vision and manage political relationships in the community and academic institution. I also oversee the academic and training Community Planning and Economic Development program at Los Angeles Trade Technical College.
- 2004 - 2010 Vice President, Working Democracy Division for CDTech Center. Los Angeles CA.
Direct and Manage the Working Democracy Division of CDTech, responsible for providing strategic vision, management, fund compliance and development, staff evaluation, and implementation of a multi-tiered program focused on building the capacity of residents, youth, emerging leaders and traditional stakeholders to apply community building principles, systems, tools and knowledge to engage in community development issues affecting low-income communities in Los Angeles. In addition, I direct the Community and Economic Development Department's Community Planning program at LATTCC.
- 2002 - 2010 Director, Community Planning Program at Los Angeles Trade Technical College. Los Angeles CA.
Direct education and training programs that offer a Certificate Degree and an Associate of Arts Degree in the field of Community Planning and Economic Development. My responsibilities include: administration and management of the programs, student recruitment, marketing, curriculum development and faculty supervision. In addition my duties also include program planning, community outreach, and fund development. As part of my campus responsibilities I serve on various committees and advise student groups.
- 2000 - 2002 Program Director, The MultiCultural Collaborative (MCC). Los Angeles CA.
Directed MCC's Neighborhood Development Projects, projects were focused on building strategic relationships among multi racial community stakeholders in different sectors of Los Angeles. I created networks of community leaders, organizations, residents, policy makers, and funding organizations to develop effective strategies aimed at affecting community change through a social justice perspective. Additional responsibilities included fund development, grant writing and reporting.
- 1997 - 2000 Project Director, The MultiCultural Collaborative (MCC). Los Angeles CA.
Coordinated the Community School Initiative program in the Watts community of Los Angeles; Developed programs in the area of Community Capacity Building and Leadership Networking. Served as a technical assistant and trainer to their community outreach efforts with an emphasis on building grass-root African American and Latino leadership cadres. Was a mentor/coach to the Parents and Students Organized community outreach specialist to assist in reaching established membership, leadership and activity goals.

1995 - 1997 Director, Multicultural Education Consortium. Santa Barbara CA.
 Developed and coordinated a project that attempted to diversify school staff and curriculum in the primary and secondary school district. I implemented a Latino and African American outreach and leadership project. I managed program activities and supervised volunteers. I organized community driven campaigns, education sessions and policy circles that allowed for community input on issues connected with Multi-Cultural Education.

1991 - 1997 Director, Youth Development Programs, La Casa de la Raza Inc. Santa Barbara, CA.
 Developed and coordinated youth development and leadership programs. I developed youth program curriculum, grant writing for all programs, supervised staff and coordinated the Latino parent's network to support the youth programs.

TEACHING/TRAINING

2000 – Present Adjunct Faculty, Los Angeles Trade Technical College. Los Angeles, CA.
 Community Planning and Economic Development Center: I teach multiple courses in the Community Planning Program; Introduction to Community Organizing; Comprehensive Community Violence Prevention Strategies; Leadership Development; Community Building Principles and Practice; Community Engagement.

2000 – Present Training and Facilitation, Consultant. Los Angeles and Santa Barbara, CA.
 Developed, conducted and facilitated numerous training formats and strategic planning efforts for individuals, non-profits and government agencies in areas such as: community and economic development, leadership training, social capital assessment and organizing, strategic planning, action oriented planning, board and organizational development.

RESEARCH/CONSULTING PROJECTS

2002 Research Consulting Project, Los Angeles, CA.
 Central American Resource and Education Center (CARECEN)
 Trained youth to develop an extensive research survey instrument to assess the economic, health, service, education, housing and leadership needs of residents in the Pico Union /Mac Arthur Park Neighborhood of Los Angeles. Conducted trainings and mentored 20 youth to conduct and evaluate the data in preparation for presentations for local elected officials, policy makers, service delivery organizations and community groups.

2001 Research Consulting - Political Analysis, San Pedro, CA
 Political Field Director, Hector Cepeda for Los Angeles City Council Campaign.

2000 Community Outreach Project La Puente, CA.
 Los Angeles Latino Eye Study, University of Southern California
 As the lead consultant, I developed a comprehensive outreach and community awareness campaign strategy to inform, recruit and involve Latinos in the first national study done focussing on Latinos in the area of Eye and other health concerns. I developed an outreach strategy using a variety of different methodologies including; asset mapping, community indicators, leadership development, advertising, neighbor to neighbor outreach and faith based presentations to insure that 40,000 Latinos gained access.

1999 Research Consulting Project, Watts District Los Angeles, CA.
 Conducted a resident "Need Assessment" survey for the Watts Century Latino Organization. We surveyed and assessed the incidents of violence, resident needs and participation rate in leadership program's by Latinos and African Americans in (five) Watts area Housing Projects. Conducted a data analysis and provided project recommendations for the five housing projects in the Watts area of Los Angeles.
 Document was used by a Blue Ribbon committee sponsored by HACL A to mitigate system issues and bring resources to affected residents.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

2011 - Present City of Los Angeles Commissioner, Commission on Community and Family Services Los Angeles, CA.
 2010 - Present Steering Committee Member, Community Learning Partnership Washington, DC.

2010 - Present	Board of Directors, Los Angeles LDC	Los Angeles, CA.
2009 - Present	Board of Directors, Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE)	Los Angeles, CA.
2004 - Present	President of Board of Directors, T.R.U.S.T. SLA	Los Angeles, CA.
1996 - Present	President, Board of Directors, For Chicana/o Studies Foundation	Los Angeles, CA.

LANGUAGES

Fluent in all aspects of the Spanish and English language – translation, interpreting, training and facilitation can be conducted in Spanish language with materials.

[Benjamin Torres Bio:](#)

Benjamin Torres is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Community Development Technologies Center (CDTech), a 501 (C)(3) nonprofit focused on addressing issues of community and economic development in low-income areas of Los Angeles through a social justice lens that empowers residents and communities to rebuild them. Benjamin’s entire career has been focused on placing the tools of democracy directly in the hands of society’s most marginalized residents through education, training, engagement and multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-linguistic community building. His voice and leadership have supported the region’s Black/Brown neighborhoods to increase their social capital and economic opportunity through inclusive democratic action and the strategic utilization of highly effective public, private, nonprofit and resident partnerships. Benjamin has been with CDTech since 2002. Prior to his appointment by the board in 2010 as CDTech’s President and CEO, Benjamin served as the Vice President of the Working Democracy Division and Director of CDTech’s Community Planning program at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College (LATTC); the MultiCultural Collaborative’s Community School Initiative in Watts; and, the Multi-Cultural Education Consortium in Santa Barbara.

Born to immigrant Mexican parents and raised in LA, Benjamin Torres embodies the new executive leadership in California’s nonprofit sector, encompassing the vision required to address changing demographics in South LA with a unique message about equity, social justice and economic empowerment that actively engages African Americans, U.S.-born Latinos and immigrants. His groundbreaking work in building, supporting and sustaining effective coalitions has resulted in: (1) award of two community benefits agreements re-invested in housing, health services, workforce and small business development, (2) the first-ever establishment of the CD-9 Coalition with over 20 multisector stakeholders working in partnership with the newly-elected Council District 9 City Councilman to develop a culture of collaboration in the District, and (3) the establishment of the LA Community Organizing Academy as an institutionalized training model that enables emerging/established grassroots leaders to gain the skills needed to change systemic conditions at the local, state and national levels. He has developed programs in the area of community capacity building and leadership development and served as technical assistant and trainer to their community outreach efforts with an emphasis on building grass-root African American and Latino leadership cadres. Mr. Torres holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of California Santa Barbara and is completing his Masters degree in Community Economic Development from Southern New Hampshire University.

He is committed to building leadership capacity in South Los Angeles and serves on the Board of Directors of key organizations; Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE), Figueroa Community Land Trust and the For Chicana/o Studies Foundation. Benjamin lives in Echo Park, where he proudly grew up and lives with his long-time partner Juana Mora and his daughters Aurelia and Camila Valentina.

Attachment I
Mr. Benjamin Torres
April 27, 2016

Nominee Check List

I. Within seven days:

Mail, fax or email the following forms to: Claudia Luna, Office of the Mayor, Office of Intergovernmental Relations, City Hall, 200 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 or email: Claudia.luna@lacity.org.

_____ **Remuneration Form**

_____ **Undated Separation Forms**

_____ **Background Check Release**

_____ **Commissioner Information Sheet/Voluntary Statistics**

II. As soon as possible, the Mayor's Office will schedule a meeting with you and:

_____ **Your City Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell** (contact at (213) 473-7013.)

_____ **Councilmember Gilbert Cedillo, Chair of the Council Committee considering your nomination** (contact at (213) 473-7001).

Staff in the Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Relations will assist you with these arrangements.