



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA  
MAYOR

October 5, 2012

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

Re: Appointment of Permanent General Manager, Los Angeles Housing Department:  
Mercedes M. Márquez

Dear Honorable Members:

For your information, pursuant to Charter Section 508(b), I am appointing Ms. Mercedes M. Márquez as Permanent General Manager of the Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD), effective as of the date of your confirmation of the appointment, subject to the confirmation of the City Council. Ms. Marquez has served as the Interim General Manger for LAHD since June 18, 2012. In addition, Ms. Márquez will continue to serve as my Deputy Mayor for Housing.

Ms. Márquez was nominated by President Obama to serve as Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development and was unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate on June 29, 2009. As Assistant Secretary, Ms. Márquez was responsible for more than \$7 billion in annual assistance to America's communities, directing programs that are vital to the well-being of the nation's states and localities. Ms. Márquez administered grant programs to help communities plan and finance their growth, increase their capacity to govern, and provide shelter and services for homeless people. Assistant Secretary Márquez was also responsible for the administration of approximately \$30 billion in Disaster Recovery Assistance, \$4 billion in Housing and Economic Recovery Act (HERA) funding and \$6.75 billion in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding.

Ms. Márquez is the former General Manager of the LAHD, where she was responsible for the direction, development, and implementation of citywide housing production and preservation programs in the City of Los Angeles. Under Ms. Marquez's leadership, the LAHD developed and maintained increased funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, created the City's first Moderate Income Home Buyer Program and the Permanent Supportive Housing Program to finance housing for the chronically homeless. She

Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council

October 5, 2012

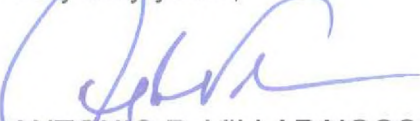
Page 2

established two predevelopment and land acquisition loan funds, the first in the nation \$30 million Supportive Housing Fund and the \$100 million New Generation Fund. Prior to serving the City of Los Angeles, Ms. Marquez was Vice-President of McCormack Baron Salazar, Inc., a national firm specializing in the development, consultation, and management of urban communities. Ms. Marquez also served in the Clinton Administration as the Senior Counsel to Secretary Andrew Cuomo and Deputy General Counsel for Civil Rights and Fair Housing for HUD. Earlier in her career, Ms. Marquez practiced law for 15 years and was a partner at Litt & Marquez, where she specialized in complex public interest litigation.

Ms. Márquez holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Southern California and a Juris Doctorate and a Master of Laws from Georgetown University Law Center. Attached please find Ms. Márquez's resume which more fully describes her qualifications.

With a career working on affordable housing and civil rights, I am confident that Ms. Márquez will do an outstanding job in service of the people of the City of Los Angeles as General Manager of the Housing Department. I look forward to your favorable consideration of her appointment.

Very truly yours,



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA  
Mayor

ARV:mm

Attachment

cc: The Honorable Tony Cardenas, Chair, Housing, Community and Economic  
Development Committee  
Gerry Miller, CLA  
Miguel Santana, CAO  
Maritta Aspen, Office of the CAO  
Paul Girard, Office of the CAO  
Margaret Whelan, Personnel Department  
Phyllis Lynes, Personnel Department  
June Lagmay, City Clerk  
Heather Holt, City Ethics Commission  
General Managers' Association  
Board of Rent Adjustment Commission  
Board of Affordable Housing Commission

**MERCEDES M. MÁRQUEZ, Esq.**  
**Assistant Secretary**  
**Office of Community Planning and Development**  
**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**

Mercedes Márquez was unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate as an Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on June 26, 2009. Assistant Secretary Marquez leads HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development, which administers nearly \$8 billion in programs designed to stimulate community and economic development and affordable housing, and provide for special needs and homeless assistance. In addition to the \$8 billion annual funding, Márquez oversees programs that respond to the current economic climate, including stimulus funding, disaster recovery, neighborhood stabilization, and homeless prevention and rapid rehousing. These programs represent a current portfolio of more than \$50 billion.

Ms. Márquez is the former General Manager of the Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD), where she was responsible for the direction, development, and implementation of citywide housing production and preservation programs in the City of Los Angeles. Under Ms. Márquez's leadership, the LAHD developed and maintained increased funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, created the City's first Moderate Income Home Buyer Program and the Permanent Supportive Housing Program to finance housing for the chronically homeless. She established two predevelopment and land acquisition loan funds, the first-in-the-nation \$30 million Supportive Housing Fund and the \$100 million New Generation Fund. Under her leadership, the LAHD also received the Innovations in American Government Award from Harvard University for its Systematic Code Enforcement Program (SCEP).

Prior to serving the City of Los Angeles, Ms. Márquez was Vice-President of McCormack Baron Salazar, Inc., a national firm specializing in the development, consultation, and management of urban communities. Ms. Marquez also served in the Clinton Administration as the Senior Counsel to Secretary Andrew Cuomo and Deputy General Counsel for Civil Rights and Fair Housing for HUD. Earlier in her career, Ms. Márquez practiced law for 15 years and was a partner at Litt & Márquez, where she specialized in complex public interest litigation. Ms. Márquez holds a BA from the University of Southern California and a J.D. and LL.M. from Georgetown University Law Center.