



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

July 11, 2012

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

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have today reappointed Mr. Benjamin Torres to the Board of Community and Family Services Commissioners for the term ending June 30, 2016. Mr. Torres' current term expired on June 30, 2012.

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

Very truly yours,


ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
Mayor

ARV:sd

Attachment

COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

Name: Benjamin Torres
Commission: Board of Community and Family Services Commissioners
End of Term: June 30, 2016

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. **Attendance record of past commission appointment(s):**
7. **Highest level of education completed:**
8. **Occupation/profession:** President and CEO, CDTech
9. **Experience(s) that qualifies person for appointment:** See attached resume
10. **Purpose of this appointment:** Reappointment
11. **Current composition of the commission:**

Commissioner	APC	CD	Ethnicity	Gender	Term Ends
Castillo, Carolina	East	14	Latina	F	30-Jun-12
Chan, Yvonne	North Valley	12	Asian Pacific Islander	F	30-Jun-14
Davies, Deborah	South Valley	6	Caucasian	F	30-Jun-12
Duardo, Debra	East Los Angeles	14	Latina	F	30-Jun-14
Garcia, Mary	South Valley	4	Latina	F	30-Jun-12
Hill, Peggy	Central	10	African American	F	30-Jun-12
Iglehart, Alfreda	Central	10	African American	F	30-Jun-12
Lara, Alicia	Central	4	Latina	F	30-Jun-14
Little, Marc T.	East	14	African American	M	30-Jun-14
Manigault, Michael	West Los Angeles	5	Caucasian	M	30-Jun-14
Miller, Carrie	Central	4	Caucasian	F	30-Jun-14
Pak, Erin K.	West	11	Asian Pacific Islander	F	30-Jun-14
Pinto, Angela	South Valley	2	Other	F	30-Jun-12
Torres, Benjamin	East	13	Latino	M	30-Jun-12
Yaroslavsky, Barbara	Central	5	Caucasian	F	30-Jun-14

Benjamin Torres Jr.

EDUCATION

Thesis in process

M.A., Department of Chicano/a Studies, California State University, Northridge
Chicano/a Studies with an emphasis on Chicano/a Latino/a politics, culture and progressive social movements in Los Angeles.

August, 1997

B.A., Chicano/a Studies, University of California at Santa Barbara.

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

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. In addition I also specialize in civic engagement strategies, community organizing models and the active participation of residents to build community ownership and improve their quality of life.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2004 - Present

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 1 million dollar 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. I still direct the Community and Economic Development Department's Community Planning program at LATTCC.

2002 - 2004

Director, Community Planning Program at Los Angeles Trade Technical College Los Angeles CA.
A Program of the Community Development Technologies Center.
Director of an education and training program that offers 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, curriculum and faculty. In addition my duties also include program planning, recruitment, 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, the project was 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 strategies to affect community change from a social justice perspective. Additional responsibilities included grant writing.

1997 - 2000

Project Director, The MultiCultural Collaborative. 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 specialists.

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. Focussed on developing campaigns that allowed for community input and 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. 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 Coordinator and Facilitator, Consultant.* Los Angeles and Santa Barbara, CA.
 Developed, conducted and facilitated numerous training format 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.
 I conducted a Needs Assessment for the Watts Century Latino Organization. We surveyed and assessed the violence, needs and participation in leadership programs by Latinos and African Americans in the Watts Housing Projects. Conducted data analysis and project recommendations for the five housing projects in the Watts area.

1998 *Research Internship* Los Angeles, CA.
 I developed a study analyzing the Environmental Justice initiatives in Los Angeles by Latino communities who reside in areas that over-concentrated with environmental hazards.

VOLUNTEER

2004 - Present *President of the Board of Directors, Figueroa Corridor Community Land Trust, South Los Angeles, CA.*
 2004 - Present *Funding Board Member, Fund for a New Los Angeles, Liberty Hill Foundation, Los Angeles, CA.*
 2004 - Present *Board of Directors, Strategic Action for a Just Economy, Los Angeles CA.*
 1998 - Present *Board of Directors, Statue of Liberty Center, Los Angeles CA.*
 1997 - Present *Member of the Advisory Committee, Watts Century Latino Organization, Watts 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.



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

July 11, 2012

Mr. Benjamin Torres

Dear Mr. Torres:

I am pleased to inform you that I hereby reappoint you to the Board of Community and Family Services Commissioners for the term ending June 30, 2016. In order to complete the process as quickly as possible, there are several steps that must be taken, many of which require a trip downtown. If you require parking during these procedures, please call Sui Duong in my Office at (213) 978-0724 and he will arrange it for you.

To begin the appointment process, please review, sign and return the enclosed City Commissioner Ethics Pledge, Commission Remuneration Form, Undated Separation Form and Background Release **within one week** of receiving this letter. These documents are necessary to help us ensure the most efficient, open and accountable City government possible.

Under separate cover you will be receiving a packet from the City Ethics Commission containing information about the City's conflict of interest laws and a copy of the State Form 700/Statement of Economic Interests. City law requires that you complete and return this form **within 14 days** of your nomination to the City Ethics Commission, 200 North Spring Street, City Hall, 24th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90012. Any inquiries regarding this form should be directed to Shannon Prior at the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960.

As part of City Council confirmation process, you will need to arrange a meeting with Councilmember Eric Garcetti, and Councilmember Tony Cardenas, the Chair of the Housing, Community and Economic Development 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 appointment will be considered by the Housing, Community and Economic Development Committee. Some time thereafter, you will also be notified by the committee clerk when your appointment will be presented to the full City Council for

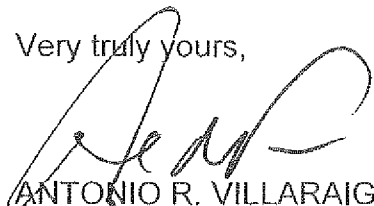
Mr. Benjamin Torres
July 11, 2012
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confirmation. Once you are confirmed, you will be required to take the oath of office in the City Clerk's Office, Room 395, City Hall. Deputy Mayor Larry Frank's staff will be responsible to assist you during the confirmation process if you have questions.

Commissioners must be residents of the City of Los Angeles. 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.

Warmest congratulations and thank you for agreeing to continue helping in my efforts to serve the people of the City of Los Angeles.

Very truly yours,



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
Mayor

ARV:sd

Attachment I
Mr. Benjamin Torres
July 11, 2012

Nominee Check List

I. Within one week:

Mail or fax the following forms to: Office of the Mayor, Attn: Sui Duong, Office of Legal Counsel, 200 N. Spring St., # 303, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Fax: (213) 978-0720.

_____ **Ethics Pledge**

_____ **Remuneration Form**

_____ **Undated Separation Form**

_____ **Background Check Release**

_____ **Commissioner Information Sheet/Voluntary Statistics**

II. Within 14 days:

File the following forms with the City Ethics Commission. *If you are required to file, you will receive these forms in the mail from that office.*

_____ **Statement of Economic Interest ("Form 700")**

IMPORTANT: The City Council will not consider your nomination until your completed form is reviewed by the Ethics Commission.

_____ **Residence Verification Form**

III. As soon as possible, schedule a meeting with:

_____ **Your City Councilmember Eric Garcetti (contact at 213-473-7013).**

_____ **Councilmember Tony Cardenas, Chair of the Council Committee considering your nomination (contact at 213-473-7006).**

A member of Deputy Mayor Larry Frank's staff can assist you with these arrangements. (Mayor's Office: 213-978-0600)