

NEW APPOINTEE BIOGRAPHY AND QUALIFICATIONS

Maria Davila

Nominee for Gateway Cities Service Council



Maria Davila is a member of the South Gate City Council; she was first elected to the Council in January 2003 and was re-elected for additional four-year terms in 2003, 2007, 2011, and 2015. During that time, she has served one-year terms as Mayor in 2006, 2011, and 2017.

Ms. Davila was born in Michoacán, Mexico and immigrated to the United States when she was a child. She has been a resident of South Gate for the past 35 years. She is a proud mother of four children and has served as a parent volunteer since 1994 in her children's previous schools as well as on various education-related boards and committees. Ms. Davila has also served as a member of the ECO-Rapid Transportation (OLDA) Joint Powers since 2004, the Southeast Water Coalition since 2008, and previously served on the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control Board of Directors from 2004 – 2017.

Desa Philadelphia

Nominee for Westside Central Service Council



Desa Philadelphia, MPD currently works as a Communication and Development Writer and Editor at USC School of Cinematic Arts. She has worked as a journalist for many years, in staff positions at *The PBS NewsHour* and *Time Magazine*, as a contributor to CNN, and as a freelance writer, covering politics, culture and entertainment. She has also provided analysis on politics and entertainment for regional and national television and radio programs, on networks that include NPR, PBS and MSNBC. Prior to joining USC's School of Cinematic Arts, Ms. Philadelphia was a founding partner of Language Fish LLC, a communications consulting and translation services firm.

Ms. Philadelphia is a graduate of City College of New York (CUNY), where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature; and the University of Southern California, where she earned a Master's in Public Diplomacy, a joint degree from the Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism, and the School of International Relations. She is the author of *111 Shops in Los Angeles That You Must Not Miss*—an exploration of the city's history and personality through the lens of its retail culture.