

NEW APPOINTEE BIOGRAPHY AND QUALIFICATIONS

Raul Añorve, Nominee to Gateway Cities Service Council



Commissioner Añorve is a member of Long Beach Transit (LBT) Board of Directors. He has been an active community member by previously serving on the City of Long Beach's Citizens Police Complaint Commission, and Grants Committee Panel for the Arts Council of Long Beach. He was also a Fellow with the Equality California Leadership Program. Mr. Añorve works as a Paralegal for the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, Safe Neighborhoods & Gang Division. He is a Long Beach Transit customer, a graduate of Leadership Long Beach, and was inducted into the Equality Plaza at Harvey Milk Park in Downtown Long Beach for his work surrounding LGBTQ causes.

Mary Zendejas, Nominee to Gateway Cities Service Council



Mary Zendejas was elected to the Long Beach City Council and sworn into office on December 3, 2019. She is the first Latina wheelchair user to be elected to office in the nation. As an infant, she was diagnosed with polio. Her family immigrated to the U.S. when she was 3 years old in pursuit of better opportunities and medical care. Ms. Zendejas began using a wheelchair while in high school. The daughter of a field hand and factory worker, Mary earned an undergraduate degree in communication studies from California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) and became the first in her family to graduate from college.

Ms. Zendejas is also the founder and Executive Director of Professional Abilities Association of America, an organization created for and by working professionals with disabilities which advocates for better treatment of people with disabilities in the workplace. She also started MAPS 2 College, a mentoring program at CSULB that assists students with special needs in their transition from high school to college. She is a former board member of Housing Long Beach, a tenant's rights group, a former member of the Long Beach Transit Board of Directors, a Board member of the Disabled Resource Center., a two-time graduate of Leadership Long Beach, and served as a member of Mayor Robert Garcia's Transition Team. Mary is also currently a board member of several local non-profits and advocacy organizations.

Pastor Rudy Trujillo



Pastor Rudy Trujillo has served as a Transportation & Public Safety Commissioner for the City of San Fernando since 2012, and as Pastor of Faith Center San Fernando since 1990.

He has also worked with Los Angeles City's (GRYD) Gang Reduction Youth Development as a Case Manager (2007-2019), the Los Angeles County's (DYD) Department of Youth Development Diversion and most recently, with Cal OES Violence Recovery Program. The mission of the program is to provide financial assistance and support to victim service providers to ensure all victims of crime in California receive the services they need, and create programs that are trauma-informed and victim centered. Last but not least, Pastor Trujillo worked as a Metro Bus Operator from 1991-1996 which provided him with firsthand knowledge of the transportation industry.

Melissa Molina, Nominee to South Bay Cities Service Council



Melissa Molina has managed the Rideshare Program at Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) since July 2019 and has run the LAX Transportation Management Organization (TMO), commuteLAX, since 2021. She directs the Employee Transportation Benefits Programs and leads congestion reduction outreach at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), which includes telecommute, mass transit, vanpool, carpool, biking, and walking programs that serve approximately 22,000 active commuters from over 167 businesses at LAX. As part of LAWA's Mobility Working Group, she advocates for new mobility initiatives to support our mobility vision, mission and values to improve traffic and congestion at the airport and to help move employees to and through the airport in a sustainable way. She also oversees the Inglewood Iride program for LAWA, a free on-demand micro-transit service that reduces nearly 600 employee commute trips on a weekly basis.

Ms. Molina has served on the Board of Directors of the Southern California Chapter of the Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) since 2014 and as the Board Secretary from 2015 to present. Ms. Molina has a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from California State University, Fullerton and is an AQMD-certified Employee Transportation Coordinator (ETC).

Dan Wentzel, Nominee to Westside Central Service Council



Dan Wentzel is an actor, writer, self-described mystic, gay pride activist, and public transit advocate living in Southern California. Mr. Wentzel has served as the Advocacy and Communications Coordinator of the AJC (American Jewish Committee) since 2008. He is the author of a public transit issues blog (ridethepinkline.blogspot.com) and has served as a member of the City of West Hollywood's Transportation Commission, since 2015. He served as Chair from Chair 2017-2018.

Mr. Wentzel is a member of SAG-AFTRA. An avid cyclist, he has also served as a Training Ride Leader, and Team Co-Captain Cyclist for AIDS/LifeCycleAIDS/LifeCycle since 2012. Mr. Wentzel holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Drama / Political Science from UC Santa Barbara, and a Master of Public Administration degree in urban policy from Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs.