



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: June 17, 2013

TO: Honorable Council President Todd Gloria and Members of the City Council

FROM: Mayor Bob Filner 

SUBJECT: Appointments to the Community Reinvestment Review Advisory Committee

---

It is my pleasure to appoint Vicky Rodriguez, Carlton Walters, Stephen Russell, and Gabriel Gomez del Rio to the Community Reinvestment Review Advisory Committee, subject to your confirmation.

Vicky Rodriguez is a Program Officer, and the current Interim Executive Director, of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC). Ms. Rodriguez has been responsible for raising millions of dollars for San Diego's low-income families and underserved neighborhoods. Previously the Director of Community Development at the MAAC Project, she is a recognized coalition-builder with substantial experience managing community banking, workforce and economic development programs. I believe Ms. Rodriguez will bring her experience with, and commitment to, serving underserved communities to the committee.

Ms. Rodriguez's commitment to the San Diego community continues in her leadership roles with the United Way of San Diego County and the Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy as well as her involvement with A Community Coalition for Responsible Development and the Affordable Housing Coalition.

Ms. Rodriguez will serve as a representative from a community based organization focused on economic development for a term ending June 30, 2016.

Carlton Stephen Walters is the President of PCS World Network, a provider of computer and internet solutions. Mr. Walters brings more than 30 years of experience owning and operating small businesses. He previously was a partner in Downtown's B Street Café and helped to develop Four Star Limousine Service and PCS Paging and Cellular Service. As a successful entrepreneur in a variety of small businesses throughout Southeastern San Diego, Mr. Walters understands firsthand the importance of providing leadership for small businesses in his community.

Mr. Walters is the President of the Southeastern Diamond Business Association and the Community Business Incubator – both instrumental in serving small and emerging business in Southeastern San Diego. He is also a co-founder of 100 Strong, an organization committed to bringing together business owners, residents, and organizations to improve the quality of life in Southeastern San Diego.

Mr. Walters's strong advocacy for small business and his community will make him a great representative of, and champion for, San Diego's small business community. He will serve for a term ending June 30, 2016.

Stephen Russell is a longtime advocate dedicated to community revitalization. Currently a drafter and designer with Platt/Whitelaw Architects, Mr. Russell focuses on projects that will enhance his community. As a staff member for then Councilmember Toni Atkins, Mr. Russell specialized in redevelopment, land use, housing, small business, and economic development. During this time, he played a key role in the reorganization of the City Heights Business Association and the formation of the City Heights Maintenance Assessment District. His impressive background in community development makes him a great addition ensures that our communities have a strong voice on the committee.

Mr. Russell has served on the Board of Directors of the City Heights Community Development Corporation since 2005, and as Board President since 2010. In this role, he has reorganized the organization, chaired the State Route 15 Mid-City Bus Rapid Transit station Community Working Group and advocated for the community as a whole.

Mr. Russell will serve as the representative of a community based community development organization for a term ending June 30, 2016

Gabriel Gomez del Rio is the Chief Business Officer at Community HousingWorks and is a nationally recognized leader in community reinvestment, homeownership, and foreclosure prevention. During ten years with Community HousingWorks he has developed a nationally recognized Home Ownership Center and raised millions of dollars to spearhead new programs to solve issues related to housing. Previously, Mr. del Rio was a Branch Manager at Southern Start Mortgage, Corp. and the Chief Executive Officer of a start-up construction management and consulting corporation, One World Builders, Inc.

Mr. del Rio brings his passion for community reinvestment to his leadership in civic organizations. He co-founded Housing Opportunities Collaborative, a partnership of all non-profit and municipal housing agencies in five Southern California Counties. He has also served on the Board of Rebuilding Together San Diego, San Diego Capital Collaborative, the Mayor's Task Force on Foreclosure, and the City Heights Area Planning Committee.

Mr. del Rio will serve as a representative of a Community Housing Development Organization for a term ending June 30, 2016.

I ask that you confirm these appointments, and join me in acknowledging these individuals for their willingness to give their time and expertise to serve the City of San Diego in this capacity.

BF/mc

cc: City Clerk Elizabeth Maland

---