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**OFFICE OF MAYOR JERRY SANDERS, SO. CALIF.  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO**

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE** : October 22, 2008

**TO** : Council President Scott Peters & Honorable Members of the  
San Diego City Council

**FROM** : Mayor Jerry Sanders

**SUBJECT** : Appointment to the Human Relations Commission

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It is my pleasure to appoint Gracia Molina de Pick to the Human Relations Commission, subject to your confirmation.

Gracia Molina de Pick is a life-long educator, feminist, community activist, writer, scholar, professor, and philanthropist. Over her lifetime, she has championed numerous humanitarian causes and advocated for women's equality, civil rights, race relations, indigenous communities, workers' rights, educational reform, and labor reform, and has served as a catalyst for social, economic, and political justice. Professionally, Ms. Molina de Pick has dedicated her life and career to educating, inspiring and serving others. From 1966-1976, she served as a Professor, Adjunct Professor, Summer Faculty Member, and Visiting Professor at various colleges and universities including Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colorado, San Diego Mesa Community College, University of California, Riverside, University of California, Santa Barbara, and Centro Internacional de Documentación in Cuernavaca, Mexico. In addition, while at Mesa College, she founded and wrote the curricula for the first associate's degree in Chicana/Chicano Studies, and was also a founding faculty member of Third College, now Thurgood Marshall College, at the University of California, San Diego. Prior to Ms. Molina de Pick's retirement, she served as a Human Resource Consultant for the Agency for International Development, African Bureau, for the U.S. State Department and an Education and Human Resource Consultant for the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Among Ms. Molina de Pick's many community service activities and contributions at the local, state and international levels, she has been appointed to numerous educational, cultural, charitable, and civic advisory boards, commissions, and committees. Her volunteer history includes service on behalf of the California Post Secondary Education Commission, Centro Cultural de la Raza, Human Relations Commission of San Diego County, Hunger

Project of Temple Beth Israel, Latino Advisory Committee to the Bureau of the Census, Mexican-American National Women's Association (MANA), National Women's History Project, National Women's Political Caucus, United Farm Workers, Women's History Museum and Educational Center of San Diego, and Women's International Network. In addition, she served on the Steering Committee for the creation of the Chicano Federation, co-founded the Association of Mexican-American Educators (AMAE), and founded and directed the first Head Start Program in San Diego County for the Neighborhood House Association.

Ms. Molina de Pick's dedication to serving all peoples, advocacy on behalf of the rights of others, and professional accomplishments have been recognized and honored at the local, state, and national levels. Among her many honors and achievements, Ms. Molina de Pick received the Point of Light U.S. Presidential Award by George H.W. Bush, 2001 Woman of the Year Award for the 76<sup>th</sup> Assembly District by former Assemblymember Christine Kehoe, Community Activist of the Year Award by former California State Assemblymember Peter Chacón, Teacher of the Year Award from Mesa College, and a Community Activist Award from the Chicano Federation of San Diego County. Ms. Molina de Pick was also inducted into the San Diego County Women's Hall of Fame in 2002.

Ms. Molina de Pick received a Bachelor of Arts degree with high honors, and a Master of Arts degree with Distinction, in Spanish Language and Literature from San Diego State University. She also received a K-12 Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from San Diego State University, and pursued doctoral studies at the University of California, San Diego and University of Southern California in Comparative Literature and Education Administration.

Ms. Molina de Pick's compassion for others, natural insight into civil rights and human and race relations, and great ability to cultivate relationships and find solutions will be a tremendous asset to the Human Relations Commission. Ms. Molina de Pick was nominated by Councilmember Ben Hueso, and resides in La Jolla. She will replace Alejandro Balvaneda, who is not seeking reappointment, for a term expiring July 22, 2010.

I ask that you confirm this appointment and join me in thanking Ms. Molina de Pick for her willingness to serve the City of San Diego in this capacity.

  
JERRY SANDERS  
Mayor

JS:lg

cc: City Attorney Michael Aguirre  
City Clerk Elizabeth Maland