



**Office of the Mayor
City of Los Angeles**

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 24, 2007**

**Janelle Erickson
(213) 978-0741**

MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA APPOINTS NEW COMMISSIONERS

LOS ANGELES – Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa appointed five new commissioners, naming Barry Sanders to the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners, Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker to the Housing Authority, Sonia Molina to the Commission for Children, Youth and Their Families, and Maria Townsend and Mark Vargas to the Rent Adjustment Commission.

Barry Sanders – Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners

Barry Sanders was appointed to the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners. Sanders is currently Chairman of the Southern California Committee for the Olympic Games, where he led the effort to bid for the 2016 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Sanders also serves as Executive Counsel at Latham & Watkins, where he practiced law for over 35 years and led the International Practice Group. Active in civic life, Sanders has served as the Co-Chair of Rebuild LA (RLA) and on the boards of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Performing Arts Center, The Walt Disney Concert Hall Corporation, the Joffrey Ballet and the Otis Art Institute. Sanders currently serves as a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Pacific Council on International Policy and the Board of the Los Angeles Opera. While at RLA, he was chairman of the board of the RLA Community Lending Corporation and served as honorary chair from 1993 to 2000. He received the Learned Hand Award for outstanding leadership in the legal profession in 2001 and the Coro Foundation “Crystal Eagle” Public Affairs Award for community service in 2007. Sanders, an adjunct professor at UCLA’s Communication Studies Department, is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Yale Law School.

- MORE -

Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker – Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles

Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker was appointed to the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles. Dupont-Walker is the president of Ward Economic Development Corporation, a nonprofit community development corporation that specializes in constructing low-income senior housing. She is also the founder of the Exodus Community Preservation Corp., a coalition of nine churches representing five denominations working to establish a community land trust. She has previously served as a consultant for A.M.E. Church - Second Episcopal District; a manager for Rebuild LA; and president of Walker Enterprise. For more than 35 years, Dupont-Walker has matched her deep spiritual roots with a tireless work ethic that has benefited countless neighborhoods and communities. Dupont-Walker also serves as president of the La Fayette Square Neighborhood Association. She earned her Bachelor's Degree from Florida State University, a Master's in Social Work from Atlanta University and a Minority Entrepreneurship Degree from the University of Southern California's School of Business.

Sonia Molina – Commission for Children, Youth and Their Families

Sonia Molina was appointed to the Commission for Children, Youth and Their Families. Molina, a postdoctoral graduate from the UCLA School of Dentistry, serves as president of Molina Edodontics, a dental office specializing in internal oral surgeries, and as president of Nassillon Development Inc., specializing in real estate development in Southern California. Molina, who fled from political turmoil in El Salvador at age 17, is active in community life and is a founding member of the Salvadoran American Leadership and Educational Fund (SALEF), a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to expanding the political and economic contributions of Salvadorans in the United States. Molina serves on the Board of the Los Angeles Dental Society, Latin American Dental Association, Harvard Alumni Association and the Women Dental Society. Molina earned her B.A. from California State University, Long Beach and her D.M.D. from Harvard's School of Dental Medicine.

Maria Townsend – Rent Adjustment Commission

Maria Townsend was appointed to the Rent Adjustment Commission. Townsend, a graduate of California State University Northridge with a degree in Business Administration, currently serves as the marketing manager for San Fernando and Santa Clarita for Providence Health & Services where she specializes in recruiting physicians. She has formerly served as the vice president for Business Development at Granada Hills Community Hospital and director of Marketing and Business Development at Mission Community Hospital.

- MORE -

Mark Vargas – Rent Adjustment Commission

Mark Vargas was appointed to the Rent Adjustment Commission. Vargas, a graduate of the University of Southern California and a downtown resident, is currently a senior project manager and the director of Corporate Communications for Cordoba Corporation, where he is responsible for business development, staff management and client relations. Vargas has more than 10 years of experience in public policy development and management of large organizations. He is a former special assistant to Governor Gray Davis and has served as the Southern California director for the office of the Secretary of State of California, where he oversaw community outreach efforts for the entire region from Los Angeles to San Diego.

The Mayor's appointees are subject to approval by the Los Angeles City Council.

#