

City Council Applicant

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Ana M Jara

Application Date: 01/17/19

Reside in Santa Monica: yes

If yes, number of years: 40

Registered to vote in Santa Monica: yes

Hold an elected position: no

If yes, please specify:

INTERESTS AND EXPERIENCE

Current or prior service on city boards/commissions:

Currently I am serving as Vice-Chair for the Social Services Commission. Here I am bringing a different perspective on how to problem solve. I bring the experience of a holistic way and ensure we work on a regional level. Previously, I served on the Commission for the Status of Women. I served as Vice Chair and Chair of the commission from July 2007 to June 2010 respectively. During this time, I was able to have the commission listen to the issues of our neighborhood and include recommendations to council as well as be included in the final Report on the Status of Women.

Community activities:

Currently, I am on the Human Relations Council (HRC) working with other leaders to ensure that the voices are being heard and not dismissed throughout the city entities and/or organizations and institutions. I am also a member of Familias Latinas Unidas (FLU) where we work in partnership with Santa Monica Police Department leaders and City leaders to reassure our immigrant community that Santa Monica welcomes all. We have held several community forums informing immigrants of their rights. I am on the school district's newly formed Latino parent group at Santa Monica High School which will provide support to students and parents and address the achievement gap.

At Santa Monica College, I am a member of the General Advisory Board and CSEA Executive Board. I have also been a member of NAFSA, the Classified Staff Senate, and the CSEA Budget Committee.

I have been involved in the City's Cradle to Career Initiative (C2C) since its inception. Through the C2C we use data and testimonies to address some of the community's most difficult challenges. It has been the collective work through the C2C and change in police/community relations that have greatly reduced youth violence in the Pico neighborhood. This work is an example of tackling the most difficult issues with a collective model approach and doing whatever it takes to make an impact. I am currently on C2C's Vulnerable Youth & Families committee providing feedback from our community, doing data analysis, and making policy recommendations to assist with the wellbeing of our most vulnerable youth and families.

Qualifications, experience, education, and technical or professional requirements:

I have lived in the same rent controlled apartment in Santa Monica for almost 35 years and worked at Santa Monica College for over 25 years. As a strategic and tireless advocate, I have worked on smart and inclusive solutions to a wide range of issues. My perspective from the ground level has shaped my work on these issues including housing, policing, education, criminal justice, early childhood education, social services and immigration. I bring refined skills in working with a diverse community, particularly multicultural and multiethnic groups in a real way. I bring my personal knowledge of real life problem solving, current direct advocacy and practical implementation of smart answers to the hard questions.

I have been a volunteer and person of service my entire adult life. My work includes;

- Quiet Minority back in 1985 before starting a family
- Former member of St. Anne's Church and Shrine Pastoral Council
- Boardmember of the Pico Neighborhood Association(PNA)
- LA Voice/Pico Board
- Pico National
- Santa Monica's Allied for Responsible Tourism (SMART) Executive Board
- organizer of the Latina Youth Conference
- Santa Monica Democratic Club Executive Committee
- and parent volunteer at the Santa Monica Boys and Girls Club
- I served on the school district's Race and Discipline Task Force
- Equity and Equality for Education Action Group
- Strategic Planning Design
- Youth Against Violence Task Force
- Intercultural Advisory Council DAC, School Site Council, and Co-President of the SAMOHI PTSA.

I have served on these bodies as a member and in various leadership positions. I am action-oriented and I take my passion and community expertise from vision to reality. I have participated in a variety of formal and informal groups, associations, and task forces in the City and in the school district in my relentless effort for a better quality of life for all Santa Monicans.

Goals:

Safety - Foundation of our Community

My past experiences in this area have taught me that public safety is in large part a public health issue. We learned that youth violence was not simply about safety, but ultimately about the health of our young people, our families, and our community. Residents currently have concerns and there is a need to reduce crime and utilize prevention and intervention methods. The true challenge of public safety is to balance the potential need for complete crisis resources with the amount of daily calls. We need to look at crime trends in each neighborhood and address them accordingly. What may be impacting some neighborhoods may not be impacting others and just the same a solution that works for one may not work for others. The police department is set up in precincts and with neighborhood police teams. We should be using precinct data and maximizing these resources in a more effective way. We should not be afraid to add additional team members if there is indeed a gap.

We must also invest in innovative ideas like Vision Zero to reduce fatalities while building out more transportation options and mitigate traffic. And continue to look at different ways to address homelessness. We need to continue with what works but change what's not working by adapting a best practice approach.

Housing - Accessibility and Stability

One of the most basic human needs is a safe and secure place to live. Many of our residents are in dire need of affordable and sustainable livability. Our housing concerns include creating affordable options, having access to those options, and the longevity of those options. In my work with regional and state leaders we have advocated for policies and budget priorities that would make an impact on residents and families. Working with LA Voice and Pico National on housing issues taught me that we must look at housing on both a local and regional level. At a local level, the diversification of housing options is essential to maintaining the existing housing stock. Smart growth includes options for a variety of residents from low-income to moderate income residents.

A key component of providing housing is accessibility. For many of our residents, they see our housing stock grow without being able to take advantage of this valuable resource. We must be intentional and innovative with policies and practices that demonstrate an understanding of the importance of keeping our residents in their community. In doing so we directly fight those forces that continue to displace our residents.

Economic Development - Creating Opportunities

New economic opportunity strategies are needed to bring an increased quality of life for our residents that will sustain their longevity in this city. An important piece connected to the longevity of housing is economic development for our city and residents. As a city, economic development is the backbone of what makes it feasible for our city to run and continue to offer the multitude of programs and services. We must continue to strengthen the already thriving businesses that exist. My goal would be to tap into community economic development concepts and programs to encourage and empower our local community to partner with both public and private entities in creating economic opportunities.

On an individual level, new economic opportunity strategies are needed to bring an increased quality of life for our residents that will sustain their longevity in this city. There are many entrepreneurs in our

midst and we must remove bureaucratic barriers and provide support to them in order to create a pathway for them to create and sustain their small businesses. We must be innovative in our approaches to pilot programs and community investment.

Community Wellbeing - Equity for All

The wellbeing goal for our city is not simply about data points, but about the quality of life of real people. We must ensure that people feel cared for physically, emotionally and psychologically in order to create an environment where people fully live and thrive.

Local history and current Wellbeing data points show that while most of Santa Monica is doing well, there are select pockets that are carrying a heavy burden. My goal is to look at those that are most stressed, most disconnected, and least stable to see how we can make our programs and policies effective for them. I am looking for a fully inclusive Santa Monica.

I commit to serve my constituents to the best of my ability; to help create a more cohesive council for the purpose of better serving the people of Santa Monica and those that feel disengaged, bring their voices to the forefront.

Vision:

Santa Monica can be a sustainable city of wellbeing, an innovative leader, focused on diversity and inclusion, economic development, and stability. As a council member I plan to listen intently to the daily impact that our decisions have on our community - residents, staff, and businesses.

I would like for us to continue the Wellbeing model, where we engage our communities and empower them with what needs to be done to better their livelihood. We need to find ways to actively engage those pockets of residents that feel the most stressed and disconnected from their communities and the city at large.

Local businesses play a crucial role. As a city we need to find way to not only make Santa Monica a desirable place to do business, but to find ways to allow new entrepreneurs the access to open new businesses in the city.

Lastly, our future is in our kids. The city of Santa Monica invests millions of dollars in children through bond initiatives, support of the school district and in youth programing. We need to take it a step further. Although young people are thriving, civic participation can improve. Residents need to know that there are many ways to become engaged in city processes. And the way we outreach needs to change with more intentional methods on engaging those who feel less connected.

Personal Qualities:

Leadership

As a worker, we must be willing to take on leadership roles in order to advocate for our rights and benefits. Staff representation in our Union Chapter has always been difficult and we find that less people want to take on the leadership roles because of the time commitment and perceived backlash. However, representation is needed. I currently serve as the Treasurer for CSEA Chapter 36 and bring vision, cooperation and practical solutions to that position. We have been able to make small changes that have

included full assessments for bilingual compensation and proper training for adequate translation and interpretation for students.

Creativity

As the Pastoral Council President I helped to develop a survey to evaluate the Church Pastor that included all of the congregation input. Historically the Pastors evaluation had always been done by the Archdiocese. As Pastoral Council Members we created a survey and engagement model to seek input by the congregation in a way that was informative and could be used to guide growth of church leadership. This resulted in engaging local congregants, empowering them to be critical thinkers and advocates for their church vision.

Innovation

I used my position as a commissioner on the COSW to push for and attain the Pico Neighborhood as a city priority. We recognized that in order to gain the necessary attention to the issues in our local neighborhood we needed to raise awareness amongst the entire city. I was appointed as the official liaison to the PNA in recognition of the importance to that organization. I was successful in having the commission further its charge by including the status of families and youth in particular. I managed to widen the scope of the commission to include the families that many of our women are responsible for.

Ability to work effectively in a group setting

As an employee for the International Education Center at Santa Monica College for the past 29 years, I have seen firsthand the needs of students and have been instrumental in assisting to meet those needs. As one of the representatives of Santa Monica College to NAFSA: Association of International Educators and by becoming a Team Member of the Southern District, I was able to assist in bringing together Educators from Southern California, Nevada and Hawaii. In my role as Chair to the Southern District and Co-Chair to Region XII, I not only brought together Educators but Government Representatives as well as Dignitaries from around the World. Through workshops and forums we were able to discuss ways in which to amend, establish, create or review immigration policies that have a direct effect on our students. Policies brought forth to our schools for interpretation and implementation to ensure the best outcome for our students. The experiences I acquired through NAFSA have enabled me to successfully engage students, leaders, teachers, parents and community members. This has led to change in policies at school level and alternative ways of doing business within our community.

Ability to balance competing needs

I know firsthand the issues that plague us, from housing and traffic to economic instability and safety. My advocacy has been about balancing competing needs. It is tough to rank crisis or real necessities, but I have learned to prioritize responses and triage needs.

I am not afraid of hard work and my experience clearly shows that. I have worked on the ground for decades and believe that this perspective gives me insight to policy making in a radical, refreshing, and practical way. I believe in seeing things through and have always begun my work by listening to those most impacted by a problem, coming alongside them to generate solutions, advocating for change and promoting their leadership as problem solvers and change agents. I know what it takes to see change

through from idea to implement policy and plan to bring that experience to the dais. I am a community leader, an innovator, and a bridge builder.

Will you be able to commit the necessary time to perform your duties if appointed to the Council?

yes

BUSINESS INFORMATION

Occupation: Administrative Assistant

Business name:

Business address: 1925 Cloverfield Blvd Apt 6

Business phone: