

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



ITEM
2.23
(ID # 9972)

MEETING DATE:

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

FROM : ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (EDA) / WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT AND SUPERVISOR JEFFRIES :

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (EDA)/ WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION AND SUPERVISOR JEFFRIES: Riverside County Workforce
Development Board Appointment of Celene Perez; All Districts; [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the appointment of Celene Perez to the Workforce Development Board.

ACTION: Consent

Robert Field, Assistant County Executive Officer/ECD 7/1/2019

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Jeffries, seconded by Supervisor Perez and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Hewitt
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: July 23, 2019
xc: EDA, Board, Appointee, COB

Kecia R. Harper
Clerk of the Board
By:
Deputy

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FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A			Budget Adjustment: No	
			For Fiscal Year: 2019/20	

Type of Nomination:

Labor Representative

Member Name:

Celene Perez
Political Director
Inland Empire Labor Council

Address:

1074 E. La Cadena Drive, Suite #1
Riverside, CA 92507

Telephone: 909-825-7871

Email: cperez@ielabor.org

Term of Appointment: July 23, 2019 through July 23, 2021

BACKGROUND:

Riverside County Workforce Development Board (WDB) is a private sector led policy and oversight body that supports economic expansion and the development of the regional workforce. The WDB is governed by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA) which mandates that more than 50% of the WDB's members must come from the business community. In addition, WDBs are required to have representation from universities or community colleges, economic development, and workforce representatives including labor organizations. This ensures that federal funds for workforce development activities are expended on training and career coaching that meets the needs of the business community. Pursuant to WIOA, the Board of Supervisors, led by the Board Chairman who serves as the Chief Local Elected Official, is responsible for appointing WDB members for two year terms.

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Ms. Celene Perez is the Political Director of the Inland Empire Labor Council, which represents over 89 different union affiliates and more than 200,000 union families in various industries. Ms. Celene Perez has been organizing for over 18 years and continues to do so with the firm belief that empowering workers not only changes the workplace but also workers' families and communities. While obtaining her Bachelor's degree from the University of California, Riverside, she worked various jobs and became aware of health and safety issues facing workers, or even instances of workers being mistreated. Stories that workers shared reminded her of the stories her own parents shared and she decided to help address these issues. Ms. Celene Perez supported and led unions in contract enforcement and comprehensive contract campaigns that resulted in wage increases and improved benefits. One of her many successes was the increase of courses for different trades at LA Trade Tech including the building trades and culinary, with many students finding employment in unionized workplaces with good living wages. She serves, in various capacities, on the Food Chain Workers Alliance, Long Beach Wage Theft Coalition and Southern California Coalition for Occupational Safety & Health in various positions.

In her current position, she works with labor unions that represent workers in different industries including but not limited to construction, manufacturing, logistics, academia, city services, county services, and healthcare. Four of these industries are Riverside County Workforce Development Board identified in-demand industries. Her work with the different organizations required that she work with elected officials, employers, and community organizations. Ms. Celene Perez sees the transformation of the Inland Empire from an economy heavily focused on agriculture to one focused on the logistics, retail, and construction industries. She believes the Inland Empire is entering a new phase where automation will impact the region and folks need to be prepared for those jobs to ensure prosperity for our region. She believes there is a need to diversify the economy in our region and see how we can retain local talent from our universities and colleges with higher paying jobs. Ms. Perez is interested in serving on the Workforce Development Board to explore and address these needs. She believes her participation would address these issues through collaboration with partners and identifying current and future training needs to attract new employers, retain current employers, and address the changing landscape due to automation.

Ms. Celene Perez has expressed interest in becoming a WDB member to serve as a Labor Representative for all Districts. If appointed, her two-year term will commence July 23, 2019 and end July 23, 2021.