



**Board Report**

**File #:** 2024-0233, **File Type:** Appointment

**Agenda Number:** 28.

**OPERATIONS, SAFETY, AND CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE  
MAY 16, 2024**

**SUBJECT: MEMBERSHIP ON METRO’S GATEWAY CITIES SERVICE COUNCIL**

**ACTION: APPROVE RECOMMENDATION**

**RECOMMENDATION**

APPROVE nominees for membership on Metro’s Gateway Cities Service Council.

**ISSUE**

Each Metro Service Council (MSC) is comprised of nine Representatives who serve terms of three years; terms are staggered so that the terms of three of each Council’s nine members expire annually on June 30. Incumbent Representatives can service additional terms if re-nominated by the nominating authority and confirmed by the Metro Board.

The Gateway Cities Service Council currently has two vacancies created by Councilmembers who have recently resigned.

**BACKGROUND**

Metro Service Councils were created in 2002 as community-based bodies tasked with improving bus service and promoting service coordination with municipal and local transit providers. The MSC bylaws specify that Representatives should live in, work in, or represent the region of their service council; have a basic working knowledge of public transit service within their region, and an understanding of passenger transit needs. To do so, each Representative is expected to ride at least one transit service per month.

The MSCs are responsible for convening public hearings to receive community input on proposed service modifications, rendering decisions on proposed bus route changes, and considering staff’s recommendations and public comments. All route and major service changes that are approved by the MSCs will be brought to the Metro Board of Directors as an information item. Should the Metro Board decide to move an MSC-approved service change to an Action Item, the MSCs will be notified of this change before the next Service Council monthly meeting.

**DISCUSSION**

The individuals listed have been nominated to serve on the Gateway Cities Service Council by this Council nominating authority to fill the vacancies left by recent resignations from the Council. If approved by the Board, these appointments will serve for the remainder of the three-year terms and the subsequent terms specified. A brief listing of qualifications and the nomination letter for the new nominees are provided in Attachments A and B.

Gateway Cities

- A. Danny Hom, Re-Appointment  
 Nominated by: Gateway Cities Council of Governments  
 Term: Remainder of July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2025 term and subsequent term of July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2028
  
- B. Jesse Flores, New Appointment  
 Nominated by: Gateway Cities Council of Governments  
 Term: Remainder of July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024 term and subsequent term of July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2027
  
- C. Priscilla Papias, New Appointment  
 Nominated by: Gateway Cities Council of Governments  
 Term: Remainder of July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024 term and subsequent term of July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2027

For reference, the table below contracts the 2022 American Community Survey demographic and 2023 Metro Ridership Survey demographics data for the region with Service Council membership, should these nominees be appointed. Each Council has nine seats; one seat is equivalent to 11% of the Council’s membership.

Gateway Cities (GWC) Race/Ethnicity	Hispanic	White	Asian/ Pac Isl	Black	Native Amer	Other
GWC Region	65.9%	14.1%	9.6%	7.9%	0.2%	2.4%
GWC Ridership	51%	16%	10%	18%	1%	4%
GWC Current Membership/No.	88%/8	0%/0	0%/0	0%/0	0%/0	11%/1

Gateway Cities (GWC) Sex/Gender	Male/Man	Female/ Woman	Non-binary/ Non-conforming	Prefer to self-describe
Los Angeles County	49.6%	50.4%	*	*
GWC Ridership	51%	46%	2%	1%
GWC Current Membership/No	55% (5)	44% (4)	0%	0%

Note: Los Angeles County data taken from 2022 Census Quick Facts; Census data includes a question that intends to capture current sex; there are no questions about gender, sexual orientation, or sex at birth.

## **DETERMINATION OF SAFETY IMPACT**

Maintaining a fully appointed service council of representatives for each service area is important, as each Representative is required to regularly use public transit, and each Council is composed of people from diverse areas and backgrounds. This enables each Council to better understand the needs of transit riders, including the need for safe operation of transit service and safe location of bus stops.

## **EQUITY PLATFORM**

Metro seeks to appoint Service Council members who represent the diverse communities, needs, and priorities of each respective region. To encourage nominating authorities to nominate individuals who will closely reflect the region and its ridership, staff shares regional ridership, resident, and Service Council membership race/ethnicity and gender demographics with each nomination request. These practices will continue to be utilized in an effort to work towards Council composition that more closely matches the demographics of each region and its ridership. Staff will also continue to encourage nominating authorities to improve representative membership through their appointments as opportunities arise.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS**

Approval of this recommendation supports the following Metro Strategic Plan Goal: 30 Enhance communities and lives through mobility and access to opportunity.

## **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

The alternative to the recommendation would be for these nominees to not be approved for appointment. To do so would result in reduced effectiveness of the Service Councils, as it would increase the difficulty of obtaining the quorum necessary to allow this Service Council to formulate and submit their recommendations to the Board. It would also result in the Service Councils having a less diverse representation of their respective service areas.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Staff will continue to monitor the major contributors to the quality of bus service from the customer's perspective and share that information with the Service Councils for use in their work to plan, implement, and improve bus service and the customer experience in their areas.

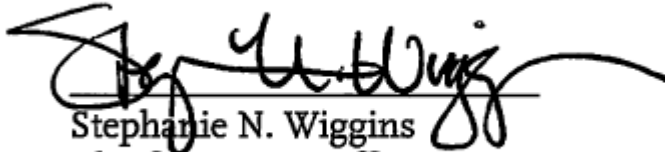
## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A - Nomination Letter

Attachment B - New Nominees Biographies and Qualifications

Prepared by: Dolores Ramos, Senior Manager, Regional Service Councils, (213) 922-1210

Reviewed by: Conan Cheung, Chief Operations Officer, (213) 418-3034



Stephanie N. Wiggins  
Chief Executive Officer

NEW APPOINTEES NOMINATION LETTER

S O U T H E A S T L O S A N G E L E S C O U N T Y

Artesia

Avalon

Bell

Bellflower

Bell Gardens

Cerritos

Commerce

Compton

Cudahy

Downey

Hawaiian Gardens

Huntington Park

Industry

La Mirada

Lakewood

Long Beach

Lynwood

Maywood

Montebello

Norwalk

Paramount

Pico Rivera

Santa Fe Springs

Signal Hill


South Gate

Vernon

Whittier

County of Los Angeles

Port of Long Beach



**GATEWAY CITIES**  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

April 8, 2024

**Ms. Stephanie Wiggins, CEO**  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Ms. Wiggins:

**Nominees for the Metro Gateway Cities Service Council**

Acting in its capacity as the convening coalition of the Metro Gateway Cities Service Council, the Board of Directors of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments has nominated three elected officials to fill 2 seats expiring on June 30, 2024, and one (1) seat expiring June 30, 2025.


At its regularly scheduled meeting of April 3, 2024, the Gateway Cities Council of Governments Board of Directors nominated the following applicants:

- Jesse Flores, a community member & resident of Norwalk. Jesse Flores will fill the seat expiring June 30, 2024, for the term beginning July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027;
- Priscila Papias, a community member & resident of Long Beach. Priscila Papias will fill the seat expiring June 30, 2024, for the term beginning July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027; and
- Danny Hom, a community member and current member of the Service Council. Danny will complete his term expiring June 30, 2024, he will finish Marisela Santana's term that expires June 30, 2025, and will also serve the subsequent term expiring June 30, 2028.

A copy of the nominee's applications is enclosed.

We would appreciate your assistance in agendizing the nominations for confirmation by the MTA Board of Directors at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Sincerely,



Hector De La Torre, Executive Director

Enclosure

Cc: Ms. Dolores Ramos, Sr. Administrative Analyst, Regional Service Councils

16401 Paramount Boulevard ■ Paramount, California 90723 ■ phone (562) 663-6850 fax (562) 634-8216  
www.gatewaycog.org

**Jesse Flores, Nominee to Gateway Cities Service Council**



Jesse Flores is employed as a Grants Analyst for the California Workforce Investment Board where he coordinates grantee projects for the Workforce Accelerator Fund (WAF) and provides CalJOBS technical assistance for grantee fiscal reporting and client management.

A resident of Norwalk, Mr. Flores is a regular Metro public transit user and Executive Director of the volunteer-run community-based organization Norwalk Unides, an organization that advocates for active transportation across the Gateway Cities.

Mr. Flores earned his Bachelor degree in Geography and a Master degree in City/Urban, Community and Regional Planning both from University of California, Los Angeles.

**Priscila Papias, Nominee to Gateway Cities Service Council**



Originally from Southeast Los Angeles, Priscila Papias is a resident of North Long Beach and an active transit user. Ms. Papias currently works as a Community Forestry Coordinator for Tree People.

Prior to joining Tree People, Ms. Papias worked with Sowing Seeds of Change, a Long Beach based non-profit that employs transition-age people with disabilities and foster youth (ages 18-22) through a job-readiness program, grow organic produce, and host educational workshops for the neighboring community.

Ms. Papias holds a Master of Science degree from the University of Michigan in Natural Resources and Environment Conservation Ecology and a Master of Arts in Educational Studies Teaching and Learning. Ms. Papias completed her undergraduate work at University of California Berkeley, earning a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Bachelor of Science in Conservation and Resources Studies.



# Nominations to Metro Service Councils May 2024

# Gateway Cities Nominations

- There are 9 members on each Service Council; Members serve three-year terms which are staggered among members. There are no term limits.
- Members are nominated by the region's appointing authority/authorities and confirmed by the Metro Board.
- The Gateway Cities Service Council has 2 vacancies created by the resignation of two members in February 2024, prior to the end of their terms.
- Annual appointments are made in June, and new members are sworn in at the subsequent meeting.
- Due to the difficulty in obtaining and maintaining quorum at the monthly meetings, the nominating authority, Gateway Cities Council of Governments, opted to have their appointments move forward early.



# Nominees and Terms

- Jesse Flores: new appointee
  - ✓ Replacing current member Danny Hom whose term expires June 30, 2024
  - ✓ Also nominated to serve subsequent term of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027
  - ✓ Resident of Norwalk
  
- Priscila Papias: new appointee
  - ✓ Replacing previous member Wally Shidler whose term expires June 30, 2024
  - ✓ Also nominated to serve subsequent term of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027
  - ✓ Resident of Long Beach
  
- Danny Hom: reappointment of incumbent member
  - ✓ Completing term of previous Member Marisela Santana that expires June 30, 2025
  - ✓ Also nominated to serve subsequent term of July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028
  - ✓ Resident of Cerritos

# Council Composition

With these nominees, Gateway Cities Service Council composition and representation will be:

Gateway Cities (GWC) Race/Ethnicity	Hispanic	White	Asian/ Pac Isl	Black	Native Amer	Other
GWC Region	65.9%	14.1%	9.6%	7.9%	0.2%	2.4%
GWC Ridership	51%	16%	10%	18%	1%	4%
GWC Current Membership/No.	88%/8	0%/0	0%/0	0%/0	0%/0	11%/1

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GWC Ridership	51%	46%	2%	1%
GWC Current Membership/No	55% (5)	44% (4)	0%	0%

Area representation will be:

- Cerritos (Councilmember Daniel Hom)
- Huntington Park (Councilmember Karina Macias)
- Long Beach (Councilmembers Raul Añorve, Mary Zendejas, and Nominee Priscila Papias)
- Lynwood (Councilmembers Jose Muñoz Guevara)
- Maywood (Councilmember Samuel Peña)
- Norwalk (Nominee Jesse Flores)
- South Gate (Councilmember Maria Davila)