



HOUSTON HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL LARGE HISPANIC CHAMBER OF THE YEAR

August 11, 2010

The Honorable Annise D. Parker

Mayor
City of Houston
P.O. Box 1562
Houston, TX 77251

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Dear Mayor Parker:

I am writing on behalf of the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (HHCC) Board of Directors regarding the City of Houston's appointee to the Port of Houston Authority.

Our Chamber represents over 3,000 members ranging from Corporate CEO's to small business owners. The mission of the HHCC is to serve as the leading regional advocate for the economic and civic interests of the Hispanic business community. In 2008, we developed a 10 year Strategic Plan in which one of the key elements included the following:

Vision 1, Strategy 4: The HHCC will Identify and develop future Hispanic leadership to impact Houston area business, community, governmental and public interests. By the year 2018, the HHCC will have been instrumental in...increasing the number of Hispanics holding board seats (corporate, public agencies and non-profit).

We endorse your efforts to position Houston as an international "gateway" city. Hispanics represent approximately 40% of Houston's population which serves as a powerful resource for firms interested in doing business in Houston. Houston and Harris County must fully leverage the Houston Airport System and the Port of Houston's attributes by having bilingual and bicultural representation on the Port's Board of Commissioners.

We strongly encourage the City of Houston to appoint a qualified candidate with unquestioned international experience, preferably a Hispanic. HHCC believes this type of representation would appropriately reflect Houston's diversity and commitment as a trading partner.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Laura Murillo
President & CEO

cc: Honorable Members of City Council
Irma Diaz-Gonzalez, HHCC Chairman of the Board
Gilbert Herrera, HHCC Chair-Elect