



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:**

Mayor's Press Office

312.744.3334

[press@cityofchicago.org](mailto:press@cityofchicago.org)

**CITY COUNCIL APPROVES NEW APPOINTMENTS TO CHICAGO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

*City Council also approves appointments introduced during the September City Council meeting*

CHICAGO – Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot named several individuals to city boards and commissions on Wednesday.

“These appointees will be instrumental in improving the lives of every Chicagoan, especially those living in areas where investment has been missing for decades,” said Mayor Lightfoot. “These individuals have spent their professional careers working to improve the outcomes of others and increase access to needed resources that are the right of every citizen, a mission they will continue for the greater good of all Chicago.”

The Chicago City Council approved the following appointments:

**Approved Appointments to the Chicago Housing Authority Board of Commissioners**

- Angela C. Hurlock, Executive Director, Claretian Associates

**Approved Appointments to the Commission on Chicago Landmarks**

- Paola Aguirre Serrano, Founder/Urban Designer, BORDERLESS Studio
- Tiara L. Hughes, Senior Urban Designer, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP

**Approved Appointment to the Chicago Plan Commission**

- Guacolda Reyes, Vice President of Real Estate Development, Bickerdike Redevelopment

**Approved Appointment to the Community Development Commission**

- Maurice D. Cox, Commissioner, Department of Planning and Development

**Approved Appointment to the Chicago Emergency Telephone System Board**



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- Frank J. Lindbloom, Deputy Chief of Administrative and Logistic Support, Chicago Police Department

In addition to the approvals, Mayor Lightfoot also made the following announcements:

**Appointed to the Illinois International Port District Board**

- Ivan Solis, President, Solis Construction
- Danielle Meltzer Cassel, Shareholder, Vedder Price

Upon approval, Solis will assume the role of Chairman, replacing Michael Forde, who intends to resign from the Illinois International Port District Board. Forde has served as the Port's Chair since 2011 and has been instrumental in turning around the District's financial profitably.

"The Illinois International Port moves more general cargo than any other port on the Great Lakes, reinforcing the state and this city's importance as a global power," said Mayor Lightfoot. "I want to thank Michael Forde for his work in improving the Port's financial performance, as well as his efforts to integrate our ports as part of Chicago's communities."

Appointed in 2011, Mike Forde has spent the last eight years working to improve the financial condition of the District. Under Forde's leadership, the District's \$30 million debt has been cut by more than two-thirds and it has achieved an operating profit over the last two years of \$1.2 million annually. Forde also led the way for the District to realize an average of \$500,000 annual profit from the Harborside International Golf Center due to a vastly improved golf and event experience, which is operated by the Illinois International Port.

"It has been an honor to serve the City and the State in this position to not only improve the feasibility and performance of the District but to also engage with and become a true part of the communities in which we operate," said Michael Forde. "Over the last eight years, the Board has worked tirelessly to improve the District's performance and outlook. It has been an honor to help lead that effort, and I am confident that the Port is in a much better condition today as a result of our efforts."

As President of Solis Construction, Ivan Solis specializes in interior build-outs, new construction and renovations of office spaces, retail, banks, schools, restaurants, clinics, multi-family buildings and light industrial facilities.

Mr. Solis' civic engagement includes serving on the board of directors since 2009 and as president since 2013 of the Hispanic American Construction Industry



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Association (HACIA). Mr. Solis has also served on the Catholic Charities regional advisory Board for the south region since 2010, and a Board member of the Latino Worker Safety Center (LWSC), a nonprofit that provides multilingual workplace safety training.

“I look forward to joining Mayor Lightfoot and Governor Pritzker to continue the forward momentum of improving this vital resource – a resource that solidifies the City and the State’s position as one of the most multimodal areas in the nation,” said Solis. “The Illinois International Port Authority has the potential to propel this region to an even greater position as a domestic and international trade hub that will spur economic development and job prosperity throughout the City and the State.”

Mr. Solis has been honored to serve on the Transportation and Infrastructure transition committees for both Governor JB Pritzker and Mayor Lori Lightfoot, where he served as co-chair.

Both Mr. Solis’s appointment and the appointment of Danielle Meltzer Cassel, who will replace Ray Suarez, whose term has expired, will go before the City Council for approval in November.

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