



Mayor of Providence

Jorge O. Elorza

August 25, 2016

Honorable Members  
Providence City Council  
City Hall

Dear Honorable Members:

Pursuant to Sections 302(b) and 203 of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, as amended, I am this day appointing Ms. Mercedes "Betty" Bernal of 27 Cumerford Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02909, to the Board of Canvassers for a term to expire on the first Monday in March 2019, and respectfully submit the same for your approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized initials "J" and "E" followed by a horizontal line.

Jorge O. Elorza  
Mayor

IN CITY COUNCIL  
OCT 06 2016

READ  
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT  
THE SAME BE RECEIVED AND APPROVED  
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Luis L. Lopez".  
CLERK

Mercedes "Betty" Bernal  
27 Cumerford Street  
Providence, RI 02909

## Objective

Leverage my skills in the areas of program development, project management, creating collaborative partnerships, education and community outreach to drive change that empowers individuals and organizations to reach their goals.

## Skills and Accomplishments

- Enabled and supported tradesmen seeking to become independent building contractors through education, one on one consultation, guidance and referrals to other services / resources..
- One of the founders of the Latina Leadership Institute a major program of the Rhode Island Latino Civic Fund that provided training, skill development and empowered to Latino women enabling them to move into leadership roles in business and public service.
- Developed the curriculum and identified the resources for the Community Leadership Development Initiative (CLDI). Responsible for the recruitment and selection of the participants which over three years graduated 60 emerging Latino leaders.
- Served as the coordinator for the Advanced C.N.A. Program, at Bristol Community College-BCC, a workforce development training, federal funded ARRA grant, that provides intensive nursing aide training to displaced individuals.
- Created the Strategic Plan for the Parents Engagement unit at the RI Nurses Institute that provided opportunities for parents to get involved in the school life of their children.
- Developed and implemented the Latina Initiative at the Gloria Gemma Resource Foundation providing ongoing education, awareness and access to services for Latinos breast cancer patients and their families.
- Delivered American Cancer Society programs to multi-cultural, minority communities reaching under-served populations driving participation levels from almost nothing to significant involvement
- Represented the American Cancer Society before the Cancer Committee at Rhode Island Hospital, Roger Williams Medical Center and Fatima Hospital
- Instrumental in working with senior management at the American Cancer Society and Women & Infants Hospital to get signed the hospital collaboration services agreement.
- Communicated information about programs working with media outlets and directly responsible for the production and conduction of the radio program "Cancer on your Life" at the Latino Public Radio that brought comprehensive information on cancer issues to the public.
- Established on-going partnership and collaborations, at local and national levels, with non-profit agencies and organizations providing education, awareness of programs, resources, referrals and access to health care driving much higher participation of families in need.
- Mobilized Latino families to engage in the Rite-Care program through education, correcting misconceptions about the program and driving increased participation in the program.
- Conducted and continually updated community needs assessments
- Provided guidelines for recruitment underserved and displaced community members to take advantage of the non-credit health career program at Bristol Community College.
- Advocated and mediated for clients who needed bilingual assistance to resolve a wide range of problems, included: housing, cancer treatment, immigration issues and access to health care.
- Responsible for the management, budget and fiscal reporting for community programs and grants.



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- Customized and deployed programs and services with medical staff and volunteers from area hospitals to create education and outreach opportunities for health education, prevention and early detection
- Recruited and hired staff to deliver multiple programs for CHisPA, ACS and the Bristol Community College Non-Credit Health Career: Advanced C.N.A. Program. Recruited, trained and supervised staff and volunteers working in the community to carry out programs and activities. Performed community health education outreach in the areas of cancer control, HIV, lead poisoning and domestic violence prevention.
- Reported status, progress and success measures to executive management, partners and founders.
- Responsible of data collection for program evaluations and program improvements

### Work Experience

Rhode Island Builder's Association	Riverside, RI Aug 2015 - Present
Gloria Gemma Resource Center Foundation Consultant	Pawtucket, RI Oct 2014 - April 2016
Rhode Island Nurses Institute Parent's Support Officer	Providence, RI Sept 2011 - June 2014
Community & Work Force Education Dept. at Bristol Community College Program Director	Fall River, MA April 2010 - July 2011
American Cancer Society Community Executive for Cancer Control	Providence, R July 2000 - Nov 2009
Center for Hispanic Policy and Advocacy Program Director	Providence, RI August 1996 - July 2000

### Community Involvement

Governor's Commission on Women Vice-President	2015 - present
Achievement First Mayoral Academy Treasurer Board Member Founder	2013 - 2015
Rhode Island Latino Political Action Committee Founder and Endorsement Committee Chair Executive Vice-President Board Member	1997 - Present
United Way Rhode Island Community Advisory Board Member	2009 - Present
The Genesis Center Board Member	2008 - 2014
Rhode Island Latino Public Radio Producer of the "Cancer in Your Life" radio program Board Member	2007 - 2013

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Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Board Secretary	2005 - 2012
Rhode Island Cancer Control Commission Commission Member	2004 - 2008
Center for Hispanic Policy and Advocacy Advisory Board Co-Chair	2005 - 2006
Cancer Control Task Force (CCTF) Pawtucket CCTF - Founder & Co-Chair Warwick CCTF - Founder & Board Member East Greenwich CCTF - Founder & Board Member Latino CCTF - Founder & Board Member	2000 - Present
Childhood Lead Action Program Board Member	1999 - 2002
Friends of Nellie Gorbea for Secretary of State Community organizer, managed volunteers, planned and ran fundraiser events.	2014
Friends of Jorge Eloza for Mayor Latino community organizer	2014
Friends of Gina Raimondo for Treasurer Latino outreach & directed events and house parties	2010

### Education

Pedro Ruiz Gallo University B.Sc., Accounting	Chiclayo, Peru 1988
Tufts University Medford, MA Management and Community Development Institute	Medford, MA 1997

### Awards and Presentations

Cesar Chavez Award. Honored by The Cesar Chavez Committee of the Mexican Association of Rhode Island for outstanding community service	2012
Staff Values Award. Honored by the New England Division of the American Cancer Society as an outstanding role model for diversity.	2006
Research and Programs to Eliminate Cancer Disparities Conference. Panelist and presenter of the abstract "Assessing Cancer Registry Systems: Challenges and Opportunities for Improving Outreach in Rhode Island Minority Populations".	New Orleans, LA 2007
New England Regional Minority Health Conference. Panelist and Presenter of the abstract "Building a Coalition for Cancer Control Among Latinos: Outreach and Research by the Latino Cancer Control Task Force of Rhode Island."	Mashantucket, CT 2007