



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA

April 15, 2010

Applicant Review Panel
555 Capitol Mall, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Review Panel:

I write to highly recommend Connie Galambos Malloy, Application ID #17483, for the position of Redistricting Commissioner for California's 2011 Redistricting process. Over my career I've met many energetic young professionals. However, Connie stands out to me as an exemplary citizen who personally and professionally understands California's diversity, brings the perfect suite of analytical skills, and whose integrity in maintaining impartiality when weighing public interest decisions is above reproach. I have known Connie for the past four years during my tenure as a member of the board of Urban Habitat.

Connie's understanding of California's diversity is grounded in her personal experience of having lived in various areas of the state—San Diego, Riverside, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Alameda Counties—along with having traveled or worked across all regions of the state. She has first-hand knowledge of the unique characteristics of each area and of the demographics of the racial and ethnic communities that call those places home. She speaks and writes Spanish fluently, which enables her to intimately understand California's history and culture as an extension of the Americas. Furthermore she has a strong grounding in the study of demography from her time as a graduate student and does not base her understanding of a place on solely her observations, but on careful review of the data available. She has been involved with various nonpartisan efforts to educate the public on critical issues such as the state's budgeting process, and to engage a broader cross section of the public as regular voters to weigh in on those issues. Connie recently participated in the 2008-09 Women's Policy Institute of the Women's Foundation of California where she also gained a first hand understanding of the legislative process in Sacramento and established working relationships with key staffers across party lines.

Connie's vast range of analytical skills comprises exactly that which will enable a Redistricting Commissioner to succeed. Through her graduate degree in City and Regional Planning Connie has cultivated solid mathematical and data analysis skills, including creation and interpretation of GIS maps and manipulation of Census and other population data sets. She is not only comfortable working with computers but has also taught community classes to others to help facilitate their learning of Windows, MAC OS, Word, Access, PowerPoint, and other programs. She regularly writes and reviews complex policy documents, legal briefs, and technical planning or zoning maps on behalf of Urban Habitat and is seen as the organization's go-to person for interfacing with public sector decision makers, the media, and public at large.

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Connie brings an open mind to the common challenges of our day and maintains neutrality even in the face of highly controversial policy, planning, and legal issues. She uses her analytical and investigative skills to track down the information she needs to weigh and make decisions. Although she values her experience as a woman of color from an economically disadvantaged family, Connie is able to zoom out and participate in the public process as a citizen of the broader community and integrate the concerns of all relevant stakeholders into her deliberations.

A common theme across Connie's work is always to identify the voices not represented at the decision making table and develop innovative ways to reverse that dynamic. The most poignant example of this that I've observed first hand was her multi-year tenure as Coordinator of the Bay Area Social Equity Caucus. This 12 year old regional coalition in the San Francisco Bay Area aims to unite individuals and organizations across the nonprofit, public, and private sectors toward the mutually beneficial goal of improving quality of life in low income communities and communities of color. As Coordinator she led a year long Evaluation & Strategic Planning Process, hiring and directing staff, conducting focus groups, interviews, and qualitative research to inform the coalition's next ten years of operations. Through her leadership the Bay Area Social Equity Caucus successfully launched an annual State of the Region convening, a Boards & Commissions Leadership Institute, and Speakers and Writers Bureau – dramatically enhancing the coalition's understanding of and reach throughout the region. These remarkable accomplishments led to her promotion to Director of Programs at Urban Habitat, where she now oversees the organization's program staff and a budget of \$2.1 million dollars.

In closing, I highly recommend Connie Galambos Malloy to serve as a member of the Citizens Redistricting Commission. Although communications skills were not one of the specific areas of expertise demanded, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge that her written and oral presentation styles will also prove invaluable to the Commission's work. She is able to present complex information to a variety of audiences in a way that engages them. This will be crucial as the Commission interfaces with the state's elected officials, staff, fellow commissioners, and the public at large. As Connie will elaborate on in her application, she has participated in many taskforces and boards and this role would be a natural next step to mobilize her diverse and deep skill set on an issue so crucial for California's collective future. Please feel free to contact me for more information or if any questions arise in reviewing this letter.

Sincerely,



Romel Pascual
Interim Deputy Mayor for Energy and Environment
City of Los Angeles