

Thank you for your interest in applying for the appointment position of District 2 City Councilmember. Please complete the form in full, including the corresponding supplemental questionnaire.

Applications are due by January 20, 2021 by 6 p.m.

If completing the form by hand, please print clearly. Please submit your complete application to the City Clerk's Office at City Hall or by email:

DROP OFF: Office of the City Clerk, 300 W. Third Street, 4th Floor, Oxnard CA 93030

EMAIL: cityclerk@oxnard.org

For questions about the application, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at (805) 385-7803 or via email at cityclerk@oxnard.org.

SECTION I: CRITERIA

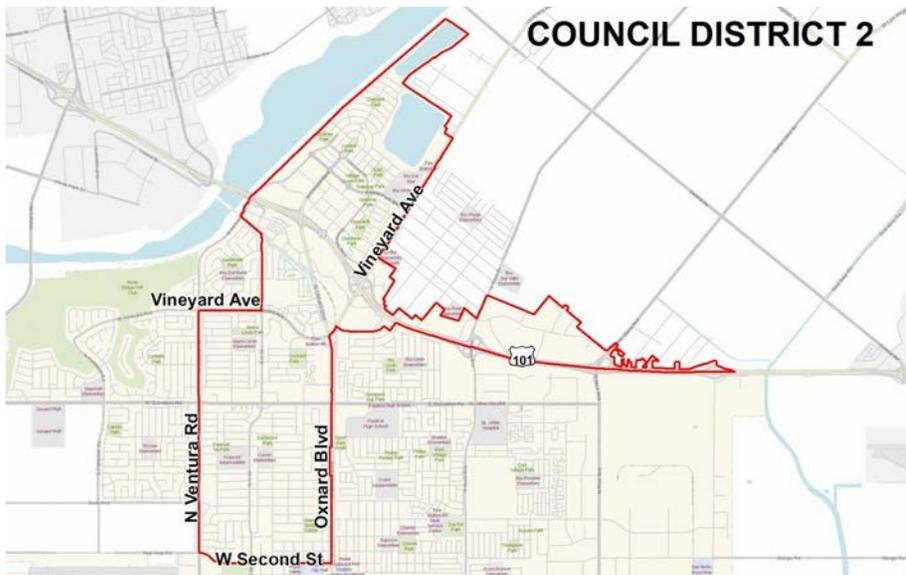
Name: Ricardo Torres _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

Address and Zip Code: _____

Registered Voter: Yes No **Email Address:** _____

Council District No.: 2 * (View online at <https://arcg.is/jDP>. A District map is also included below.)

** Appointment candidates must live in District 2.*



SECTION II: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

1. Please describe your community activities in which you are or have been engaged in Oxnard. Include the organization, your role, a brief description of your activities, and your dates of participation:
(If more space is needed, please continue on a separate page.)

Most recently, in December 2020, I supported a Toy Giveaway organized by Young Quicks, a local rapper, at Hueneme High School. We successfully distributed over 600 toys to local youth in the community..

I am also coaching softball at El Rio Fastpitch Softball from February 2017 to the present (pre-Covid-19). As a coach, we are teaching the youth discipline, how to compete, how to collaborate and we serve as role models. The goal is always to empower all athletes to have fun and reach their full potential in sports, family, academically, and in life in general.

I am also been involved in the Financial Well- Being collaborative with Ventura County Community Development Corporation. The goal is to help all families, especially the underrepresented families, reach financial literacy.

I was a parent volunteer while my daughter attended Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish. Supported field trips, festivals, and school activities as needed (2016-2017)..

2. Please state why you would make a good representative for District 2.
(If more space is needed, please continue on a separate page.)

I consider myself a life-long Oxnard resident and identify as a product of Oxnard. Our family grew up in public housing (Fashion Park Apartments), depended on food pantries, and were participants of the different social services this city and county have to offer. Regardless of our hardships, my mother always found a way to clothe and feed us. The resiliency she demonstrated to advocate for us and our future was heroic. In the early '00s, my father was a mushroom picker at Pictsweet farms in Ventura. He and my uncles were front-line as they fought for their rights; unionizing through the United Farmer Workers. I was young, but remember standing in front of Pizza Hut, boycotting for justice for my father, uncles, and their colleagues.

I say this because those two experiences are the foundation of why I want to represent District 2 and Oxnard. I will advocate for what is fair, be resilient for what is right, and understand the political bureaucracy. As a father of two, I want my children to have the opportunities I had for when the time comes, they can raise their families here. The City of Oxnard will face difficult decisions in the next several months and years, and those decisions will have a permanent outcome in the future of the next generation. I will be the voice of our constituents and protect their quality of life. I will ensure the progression of Oxnard and the needs of our communities are aligned.

Oxnard and my community mean a lot to me. We live in the best city in the world and in order to protect and serve our constituents, we need to ensure we are fiscally responsible. More importantly, we need to find a way to earn their trust. I will be the first step in helping this council regain the trust of the public.

What about me makes me a good representative and the best fit? I am a natural problem solver and checked my ego a long time ago. I am an empathetic listener, but also I do not make decisions based on emotions. I believe in partnership and in the power to influence, not the power to lead. Most importantly, I believe that I am a reflection of our community and will advocate for what is right and fair.

While I have not been groomed politically, I have vast experience in public service and understand budget processes in government, audits, federal reporting, grant submissions, and the importance of establishing partnerships. I also have experience in developing programs and services for our older adults and low-income families, strategic planning, and have done advocacy in DC for affordable housing. My name is respectfully recognized throughout the county for the work that has been done serving our most at-risk populations.

Lastly, why do I make a good representative? I am a neutral voice who is passionate about the well being of our City and genuinely care about our future. I will always bring my best to the dais and will be proactive in making sure the needs of our constituents are met. Tough decisions will have to be made, but if we can earn the trust of our constituents, the growth and progression of our city will align with the needs of our residents.

3. Please discuss any experience you have with policymaking, legislation, budgeting or other related experience. This can include the private, public or non-profit sector.
(If more space is needed, please continue on a separate page.)

I have ten years of experience working in the affordable housing sector. Throughout my experience, I have participated in the implementation of federal programs that have transitioned public housing into public/ private partnerships.

I also currently am responsible for submitting our agency's annual plan to the department of Housing and Urban Development. Our annual plan presents all policy changes to be in effect.

I have experience in strategic planning and developing a five year plan for the future of an a government agency.

I have succesfully appiied for multiple federal grants under HUD.

I have experience in submitting Section 3 and procurement reports to HUD (Certified in Section 3 and Procurement).

Implemented several different programs under PILOT monies and submitted reports to City Councils.

Experience coordinating Resident Councils and offering bylaw and Robert's Rule of Order training.

Have been a key contributor towards the decisionmaking after disasters (Thomas Fire & a fire in a senior building).

Have collabarated in leadership programms (HEAL ZONE) to enrich at risk communities to become advocates

Four years of experience in student government and founder of the Mecha Club at Hueneme High School.

4. How would you approach constituent service for District 2?
(If more space is needed, please continue on a separate page.)

My approach to serving District 2 constituents will mirror my values; loyalty, honesty and respect. Is it important to be transparent (honest) with our constituents and I have full intentions in having an open line of communication to better serve the residents. I also plan on collaborating and connecting with our local neighborhood councils as they are a resource for our residents and would be for me if I am appointed.

Another goal of mine is to empower our constituents to become more involved in our communities. For our city to progress and overcome its fiscal hurdles, it will need community involvement and collaboration from the city, key leaders in the community, and the constituents. The current pandemic has left an unmeasurable impact in our lives, and although we do not know the full fiscal impact of Covid-19, we do know that it is going to take ALL of us working together to help families, small businesses and our essential staff heal from this drastic time.

As far as representing District 2, the shoes are big to fill, but it also creates an opportunity to help bridge our communities together. Our district has grown exponentially over the years and we must have an understanding of our communities and the needs of each.

As far as how I intend to service District 2? Being accessible and transparent. I will work on building trust within our communities and the leadership and use my platform to help educate my constituents of their civic rights and responsibilities. My impact will only be significant, if I am empowered by my constituents, and to do that, we have to empower the voice of our communities.

5. How would you approach balancing City-wide needs with District-specific needs?
(If more space is needed, please continue on a separate page.)

I believe that Oxnard as a whole, faces similar city-wide issues, regardless of which district you are in. As a council member, my decisions will be made in the best interest of Oxnard from the lens of my District 2 constituents. For example, if up for a vote is building a pool in Orchard Park, or funding our public libraries, my vote would be to fund the public libraries. Our libraries are infrastructure and they provide a present and future investment to our residents, specifically the youth.

However, I will also be responsible for making sure the needs of District 2 are addressed during the decision making process. I will represent Oxnard on the dais but will make sure the concerns and needs of the District are taken into consideration, as I would expect all council-members to do for their respective district.

For me, it comes down to the values I can offer; honesty, transparency, loyalty, and respect. The position comes with a big task, but by remaining true to my ethical standards and values, I will not lose sight of the needs of District 2 and use that as we lead the city for today and tomorrow.

DISTRICT 2 CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENT APPLICATION FORM

SECTION III: EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Please include a brief background on your education and employment history. You may also attach a copy of your resume for this purpose.

Hueneme High School, '09
Oxnard, CA

California Lutheran University
Bachelors of Science in Criminal Justice '12
Bachelor of Arts in Spanish '12
Thousand Oaks, CA

California State University, San Bernardino
Master in Public Administration with an emphasis in Leadership-- In progress (May 2021)
San Bernardino, CA

Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura
June 2014 - Present
Resident Services Coordinator

Area Housing Authority of the County of Ventura
September 2009- June 2014
Resident Services Coordinator

Please see the attached Resume for more information on my job history.

Not included on my resume are my job experiences through a local hiring agency in seasonal work. Also not included are my experiences as a student leader under the Student Support Services, a TRIO program, while at California Lutheran University. Also private tutoring for high school students while in college and a gig as a teacher assistant for a STEM summer academy for incoming high school students.

I attest that the information in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature _____  _____

Printed Name Ricardo Torres

Date 20 JAN 2021

Ricardo Torres[REDACTED]
Oxnard, CA 93036
[REDACTED]**SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS**

- Vast experience in implementing social services programs and linking clients to appropriate resources
- Extensive experience working with service providers from the County, nonprofits, faith-based groups and local schools
- Experience in HUD Grant writing, submission, tracking and reporting (Resident Opportunity and Self Sufficiency--Family Self-Sufficiency Program)
- Experience working with people of diverse backgrounds, ethnicities and vulnerabilities
- Reliable, bilingual and with the ability to communicate well with others
- Exceptional leadership skills
- Strategic planning experience
- Vast experience in case management to older adults and people with disabilities
- Phenomenal communication and people skills
- Effective program management skills
- Knowledgeable in HUD Code of Federal Regulations
- Experience in working with Project Based Voucher, Housing Choice Voucher, Public Housing and Rental Assistance Demonstrations programs and program service commitments
- Familiar with Veteran's Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH), Family Unification Program (FUP) and other special program vouchers
- Experience presenting program update reports to governing boards
- Proficient with Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Internet Research and YARDI VOYAGER software

EDUCATION

California State University, San Bernardino, San Bernardino, CAMaster of Public Administration—*in progress*

Leadership Concentration

California Lutheran University; Thousand Oaks, CA

Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice 2012

Bachelor of Arts in Spanish 2012

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura, CA

May 2015- Present

Resident Services Coordinator

- Case management services to older adults and people with disabilities
- Refer clients to different resources as needed
- Secure partnerships, commitments and contracts for supportive services at affordable housing developments

- Support programs at special project properties (Castillo Del Sol Apartments, formerly homeless and behavioral health clients)
- Agency liaison to residents and service providers
- Responsible for all resident employees through agency initiative, Section 3 programs
- Represent and manage four Resident Advisory Councils and one Citywide Resident Advisory Board
- Oversee a Transportation Program and staff that support the program
- Establish partnerships with agencies county-wide to bring services to properties and assure grant/service commitment compliance
- Department representative in the Rental Assistance Demonstration team that is responsible for all temporary relocation matters and resident impact
- Responsible for all department budget expenditures
- In partnership with local agencies, offer educational or evidence based programs to Public Housing and Affordable Housing family and senior/disabled properties
- Develop and translate outreach material and strategies to engage resident participation
- Support property managers when clients present difficulties (eviction prevention)
- Coordinate with the social worker to ensure the needs of the clients are addressed
- Evaluate quality of programs and services (surveys, one-on-one's, resident interview)

Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator

June 2014- May 2015

- Managed the Family Self-Sufficiency Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Grants
- Developed new documentation strategies that assured better management of the program
- Managed program participants Escrow accounts
- Established a Program Coordinating Committee (network of county-wide service providers)
- Developed Individual Training and Services Plans for all program participants
- Linked clients to employment training, financial education, other programs to promote self-sufficiency
- Developed outreach material, English and Spanish
- Established a local network with other FSS Coordinators as a support group

Area Housing Authority of the County of Ventura, CA

September 2009-June 2014

Resident Services Coordinator

- Gather statistics and complete status reports
- Work collaboratively with other agencies to provide services to our residents
- Provide Service Coordination for a 300+ unit, Senior Site
- Assess residents and determine their needs
- Assist in completing federal grants and reporting to HUD (ROSS)
- Provide resources to individuals with special accommodations
- Submit reports to management, respective cities and board members
- Establish working relationships with our residents to enhance the effectiveness of the programs
- Facilitate Resident Council meetings, programs and activities.
- Handle difficult situations between and with residents through calm interactions.
- Manage multiple budgets and different accounts
- Follow up with residents after appointments regarding the status of the matter discussed
- Work closely with the site managers to discuss resident issues and or hold mandatory meetings
- Exercise professional judgment and collaborate with other staff to monitor and evaluate the quality of the programs to ensure that consistent service is being provided to residents

- Maintain strict confidentiality in all aspects of work; abide by the American Association of Service Coordinator code of ethics

CERTIFICATIONS, AWARDS and PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials Annual Conference-- Attendant 2018, 2019
- Nan McKay—Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator
- Nan McKay—Service Coordinator
- Nan McKay—Section 3 Coordinator
- Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura—Employee of the Year 2015