



CITY OF ALLENTOWN

30919

RESOLUTION

R153 – 2024

Introduced by City Council on September 16, 2024

Authorizes and Approves the Engagement of Maria Montero, Esquire, to Provide Legal Services to Allentown City Council Pursuant to the Allentown Home Rule Charter and Administrative Code.

Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown, That

WHEREAS, Allentown City Council is desirous of hiring an attorney to provide legal advice to Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Allentown approves the engagement of Maria Montero at Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) for one year with the option of a two one-year renewals.

	Yea	Nay
Candida Affa		
Ce-Ce Gerlach	X	
Daryl Hendricks	X	
Santo Napoli	X	
Natalie Santos	X	
Ed Zucal	X	
Cynthia Y. Mota, President	X	
TOTAL	6	0

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, That the above copy of Resolution No. 30919 was adopted by the City Council of Allentown on the 16th day of September, 2024, and is on file in the City Clerk's Office.



 City Clerk

SUMMARY PROFILE & CORE COMPETENCIES

Executive Leadership • Attorney & Advocate • Community & Public Relations

Leadership and Management - Practices and promotes servant-leadership, mentorship, and inspirational team building for personal and professional growth.

- Actively promotes economic growth policies in coordination with community partners
- Directs diverse teams and places into effect performance metrics, team goal setting, and individual evaluations with a mentor-style approach
- Leadership roles in private, government, and non-profit sectors

Relationship and Community Building- Prioritizes people in listening and understanding their concerns to bridge common ground for collective impact success.

- Exceptional interpersonal skills with ability to build trust in achieving common goals
- Socially conscience advocate in leveraging equal access for the underserved
- Expansive professional network in private, government, and non-profit sectors

Public Relations and Communication Skills- Authentic listening and strong public speaking, presenting, facilitating, and training skills.

- Lead in developing and maintaining community, media, and partner outreach
- Frequent panelist on education, conservation, and minority leadership topics
- Interviewee on numerous TV, Radio, and print media outlets in English and Spanish

Cross-sector Experience- Diversified management experience in various sectors.

- Grew up in and ran family business
- Led two state-wide commissions
- Actively serves in non-profit leadership

Political Experience- 30 years of engaged civic activity

- Former U.S. Congressional Candidate in PA-7
- Pennsylvania's Hispanic Liaison for President George W. Bush
- Served as an adviser to Allentown City Council members and PA Governors

WORK EXPERIENCE

Haggerty, Goldberg, Schleifer, Kupersmith, P.C. (HGSK)-Allentown, PA Associate

Community based attorney, advocating for those most in need injured at work and those who are disabled. Resolves a majority of claims pre-litigation to avoid adversarial effects on client and costly litigation; Analyzes probable outcomes of cases using knowledge of

WORK EXPERIENCE, cont.

legal precedents; Develops strategies and arguments in preparation for presentation of cases and manages all preparation for case litigation; Leads depositions of clients and experts; Attends hearings and status review conferences; Conducts depositions and communications with clients, doctors, and employers. Writes memoranda and legal briefs. Files all case pleadings in a timely manner.

**Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority- Philadelphia, PA
Director of Public Affairs**

Part of executive leadership team, charged with providing oversight and direction of the 200 plus person private management operations of the Convention Center. Supported draft and facilitation of "requests for proposal", resolutions, and furnished legal opinions and research for leadership team. Lead government relations, public relations, communications, philanthropic investments, and community outreach divisions with a focus of strengthening relationships with local, state, county, and federal officials/agencies, non-profits, and private sector stakeholders.

**Office of the Governor- Pennsylvania
Executive Director**

Led and directed start-ups of two commissions; Drafted and gained legal recognition of commissions' by-laws and mission statements, conducted all commission member recruitment of 55-member team, developed grass-roots support and outreach, promoted constituency building, implemented policy advocacy, and interacted regularly with the media. Developed and employed fundraising strategies including membership participation with Team Pennsylvania for both commissions. Conducted diversity and inclusion education for various state agencies. Speaker liaison for the Governor across the Commonwealth. Met regularly with elected officials at all levels and interacted with Latino-Hispanic and Women's advocacy groups across the Commonwealth.

Pennsylvania Commission for Women (PCW)

Pennsylvania's lead advocate for women and girls. Directed and actualized the strategic plans of PCW focusing on economic empowerment, mentorship, and increased civic engagement in elected and appointed positions.

Governor's Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs (GACLA)

Foci of educational excellence awareness by increasing high school graduation rates and the attendance and retention of Latino-Hispanic students at institutions of higher learning. Provided culturally on-point business development opportunities. Advocacy in policy and appropriations at state and local community levels.

WORK EXPERIENCE, cont.**Abbott Laboratories- Northeastern Pennsylvania
Territory Manager**

President's Council member-top 5% in sales nationally; Pennsylvania District Leader in sales at 1.7 million; Highest Mid-Atlantic Regional percent to goal at 137%; Regional percent to goal leader in Biotech Sales at 123%.

**Law Offices of Gerald Strubinger- Palmerton, PA
Associate**

Firm focus on Workers' Compensation Claimant side and general practice.

EDUCATION AND CREDENTIALS

Bar Admissions: Pennsylvania; United States District Court, E.D.P.A.

Widener University, School of Law, J.D.

Specialized Legal Studies Degree in Law and Government

St. Joseph's University, B.A. Political Science

Division 1 Track and Field; Alpha Phi National Sorority-Chaplain; Student Government Association- Diversity and Equity Chair

NON-PROFIT LEADERSHIP

- Casa Guadalupe in Allentown- Board of Directors
- Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation- Chairwoman Emerita
- Marian Catholic High School- Board of Directors
- Co-Founder "Power of Women"-Lehigh Valley based Women's Business Organization
- Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley- Executive Board (past)

RECOGNITIONS AND HONORS

- Lehigh Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Rising Star Award
- Pennsylvania's Top 100 Most Influential Latino Leaders
- Delaware Valley's Most Influential Latino
- Pennsylvania National Guard Women's History Month Recipient
- Helping Hand Award-Boy Scouts of America Pack #776
- St. Joseph's University Alumni Volunteer Award