

# ADDENDUM MATERIAL

DATE 4-7-20 ITEM NO. ADD 6

April 5, 2020

JULIE CASTAÑEDA, PIMA COUNTY CLERK OF THE BOARD  
PIMA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
130 W. CONGRESS ST., 5TH FLOOR  
TUCSON, AZ 85701

Dear Ms. Castañeda,

It is my understanding that the Board of Supervisors will be discussing, and possibly appointing, an Interim Supervisor for District 5 at their April 7, 2020 meeting. The interim person would serve for the remaining eight-month term of my dear friend and colleague, Richard Elías. While no one will ever fill Richard's shoes, I am writing and submitting this letter of interest to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration. It would be an honor for me to fill that space and work in the same spirit as our beloved Supervisor Elías. The residents of District 5, his staff, and family deserve to see his legacy of leadership continued by individuals who can stand for what he stood for, and who have the support of the Elías family.

Richard and I first met more than 25 years ago when he managed La Causa Construction for Chicanos Por La Causa, and I was the Branch Manager and Loan Officer at a bank located in South Tucson. He came to me to discuss the possibility of the bank financing an affordable housing development in the area. I was impressed by his genuine and sophisticated understanding of the importance of members of our community having a secure, safe place to call home. He appreciated my willingness to think creatively and thoughtfully about how to execute his vision. While the project did not work out, this first opportunity to work together led to an immediate friendship and profound mutual professional respect. Fortunately, we would have many more fruitful opportunities to work together.

Our paths crossed again when we both served on the 1997 Pima County Community Housing Bond Oversight and Advisory Committee. We then both began working for Pima County. In our respective roles, we each sought to provide sustainable, affordable, safe, and decent housing opportunities for vulnerable and working families. We celebrated many hard-fought successes in bringing new programs and initiatives to county residents. Together we were devoted and committed to the work we accomplished together. When Richard was appointed to the Board of Supervisors in 2002, I then stepped into his position to become the Pima County Housing Program Manager. Over the years, we expanded our housing work together, including by opening the Pima County Housing Center where county-wide residents experiencing housing or housing-related problems could find assistance and resources.

For more than 25 years, we dreamed, strategized, counseled, and even debated with one another about the best ways to approach being of service to the community. We were constant advisors to one another throughout our individual and collective work to improve the lives of Pima County residents. At the time of Richard's passing, in addition to the many concerns for the vulnerable residents of Pima County, he was deeply concerned about protecting our community from COVID-19. If I am selected, I will continue to care for the most vulnerable in the same spirit that Richard cared and led, until a new Supervisor is elected and takes office.

My experience working for Pima County as the Housing Program Manager for more than 17 years means that I am intimately familiar with how the county structure functions. As well, I possess valuable crisis management experience, having served as a leader in affordable housing during the Great Recession and foreclosure crisis. I would seek to support the Board's efforts to help all of the county's residents and serve as a reminder of the concerns that kept Richard up at night, and as an advocate of the solutions he championed.

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As well, I feel a great sense of responsibility to his staff. It is important to me that they get the support they need during such an unsettling time. Given the longstanding collaborative nature of my work and friendship with Richard, I am already well acquainted with his staff. Richard deeply loved his staff and had a tremendous amount of respect for each person. If appointed, I will seek to ease this time of transition, given what Richard's loss means to them, and especially during such a difficult and uncertain time for all of us. I am confident that together we will continue Richard's legacy of leadership and minimize any disruption of services and representation to the District 5 community.

I never imagined writing this letter. Richard's loss has been a painful shock to all of us. The pain is felt worst and most intimately by his wife Emily, his daughter Luz, and by his family. I know it is essential to his wife and daughter that the person selected stands for what Richard stood for, someone who will continue the work he started in his spirit as a poet warrior who was known for always doing the right thing. I humbly request your consideration to be selected as the Interim District 5 Supervisor. While I cannot fill his shoes, I will seek to walk his talk.

I have included my resume, which outlines my experience. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss further and to answer any questions you may have of me.

Sincerely,




Betty Villegas



cc: Attachment  
Resume

## **Betty Villegas**

5349 S Gila Ave  
Tucson, AZ 85746



### **Work History/Experience**

#### **Pima County Government, Tucson, Arizona**

##### **Pima County Community Development & Neighborhood Conservation Department Housing Program Manager, May 2002 – July 2016**

- Develop, implement and maintain the housing programs; create and support planning strategies designed to meet the current needs of Pima County residents.
- Manage voter approved General Obligation Bond Funds for Affordable Housing, HUD HOME funds, and other federal, state and local entitlement allocations and grant funding.
- Direct the activities of professional and support staff; evaluate staff performance; develop and manage housing budget, manage the additional non-county occupants providing housing services in the housing center; manage all housing center facility activities during work hours and after working hours.
- Develop, negotiate, monitor, and administer contracts, intergovernmental agreements, and financial and service agreements; monitor programs and contracts to ensure compliance and takes corrective action when needed; adhere to all Fair Housing laws and prepare housing reports as required and requested.
- Represent the County on affordable housing at the local, state, and national levels; create presentations and training materials for panels and workshops on Pima County housing programs and initiatives.
- Establish and maintain relationships with interdepartmental staff, housing providers, community leaders to build partnerships and collaborations to enhance and leverage resources and information benefitting community.
- Manage and staff the Housing Commission to achieve the Board of Supervisors direction to expand and preserve affordable housing to low-income families of Pima County.
- Work and respond directly to Pima County constituents concerns, complaints and needs; work directly with Pima County employees experiencing housing-related issues. Ex: foreclosure prevention services, homelessness, other housing needs occurring in Pima County.
- Manage housing development projects from application to completion. □
- Prepare and monitor contracts with developers and other grantees. □
- Conduct inspections and request construction draws as needed.

**Community Services Program Coordinator, February 1999 – May 2002**

- Manage a home improvement loan program.
- Provide the marketing, outreach, application process, contractor bid process, closing of loan documents, and monitoring of project.
- Provide support staff for a Mortgage Revenue Bond program for first time homebuyers in stress area neighborhoods with local partners including lenders, non-profit housing providers, and other housing stakeholders.
- Submit and manage Federal Empowerment Zone designation application,
- Oversee implementation of the EZ designation.
- Represent the department on several committees pertaining to community development.

**Fifth Third Bank, Tucson, Arizona****Community Development/Mortgage Loan Originator, September 1997- February 1999**

- Real Estate loan originator with focus in low to moderate income lending.
- Establish relationships with non-profit agencies and government entities that offer homeownership programs.
- Provide loan products to both the agencies and the families.
- Develop referral business with builders and realtors.
- Keep updated on all loan programs and products available.
- Work with Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) Officer to determine needs and products for low to moderate-income families in Pima County.

**Washington Federal Savings, Tucson, Arizona****Branch Sales Manager/Real Estate Loan Officer, May 1994 - September 1997**

- Responsible for all bank branch functions and production, including deposit growth and Retention, profitability, staff development, real estate loan origination and production, Marketing of all savings and loan products.
- Represent the bank on non-profit boards and community meetings.

**Great American Bank, Tucson, Arizona****Branch Sales Manager, May 1992 – May 1994**

- Responsible for all branch functions and production, including deposit growth and Retention, profitability, staff development, real estate loan origination and production, Marketing of all savings and loan products.

**Operations Manager, 1985-1992**

- Responsible for all branch operations, including supervision of staff, branch audits, quality customer service, assist manager with branch goals and production, maintain security controls.

**Home Federal Savings & Loan****Customer Service Representative, I,II,III, 1980-1985**

- Perform teller transactions, open new accounts, provide quality customer service, advanced to teller supervisor performing more complex transactions, and adhere to company policies and procedures

## **Education** (Professional Development Classes)

**University of Arizona, Tucson Arizona**

**Pima Community College,** Tucson, Arizona

**Institute Of Financial Education & American Institute Of Banking,** *Tucson, Arizona*

**Pima County Government,** *Tucson, Arizona*

## **Volunteer And Community Involvement**

### **1990-2004**

Greater Tucson Economic Council (GTEC)

Southwest Fair Housing Council

City of Tucson Community Development Advisory Committee

United Way of Greater Tucson

House of Neighborly Services

Youth At Risk

El Centro Cultural de las Americas

Mariachi Los Changuitos Feos

### **2004-2020**

Arizona Housing Alliance

Arizona State Housing Commission

EMERGE Arizona Alum

FORCE: Facing Our Risk Of Cancer Empowered

Hope Matters Breast Cancer Foundation

Los Descendientes del Presidio de Tucson

Mexican American Heritage and History Museum

National Latinos in Heritage Conservation

Pima County Community Land Trust

Tucson Pima Historic Preservation Commission

Tucson Pima Public Art Commission

Tucson Convention Center Commission

Tucson Pima Arts Council/Arts Foundation of Southern Arizona

UA Mexican American Studies Dept. Advisory Committee