

March 21, 2023

The Honorable Chairwoman Pamela Beidle and Members
Executive Nominations Committee Senate of Maryland
James Senate Office Building, Room 202 1 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21201

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Executive Nominations Committee,

We are writing this letter to express our enthusiastic support for Yolanda Maria Martinez's nomination for the Maryland Stadium Authority. We believe that Ms. Martinez's unparalleled experience and dedication to public service make her an outstanding candidate for this important position.

Ms. Martinez is a lifelong resident of Maryland, born and raised in northeast Baltimore City. She has spent the past quarter-century building a successful career in business and government and has established herself as a respected community leader and philanthropist. Her commitment to public service is unwavering, and she has made it her life's mission to open doors for women and minority communities.

Ms. Martinez's commitment to advancing the success of minority-owned businesses is second to none. She has used her significant talent and skills to engage countless public officials and government agencies on the need for reformed practices to ensure that Black, brown, and women-owned businesses share in the economic opportunity too often dominated by White-owned businesses in government contracts. She has served as Chair for the Baltimore Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Maryland Hispanic Business Conference, and the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation, among others. She has also served as a board member for the Maryland Chamber of Commerce and an executive board member and Secretary for the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Martinez's dedication to public service extends to her work at the municipal and state level. She served on the Healthcare Transition Team for Baltimore City Mayor Sheila Dixon and was Co-Chair of the Advisory Council on Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises for Baltimore City Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. She was a Task Force member of the Baltimore City Public/Private Development Financing Efforts and a board member of the Baltimore Workforce Development Board and the Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Association. During the O'Malley-Brown administration, she represented our community as Chair of the Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs for Maryland for eight years.

Ms. Martinez's philanthropic work is also noteworthy. She is a fierce advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion and has mentored an extraordinary number of aspiring men and women, young and old. She served on the board of the United Way of Central Maryland where she was Co-Chair of 2-1-1 Maryland as a pilot program. She has also served on the board of the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Victim Services Sub-Committee of the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force and as a Hotline Volunteer for the House of Ruth, a shelter that provided her a safe haven almost 30 years ago.

We write as a group of leaders who have nurtured the advance of Latino representation in local and state government. We believe that until the most important commissions include Latinos among their membership, Maryland is failing in its responsibility to adequately include 11.1% of the State's population and a community overrepresented in business new starts. Maria is a woman who has earned her place in our hearts and the person we are asking you to confirm to the Maryland Stadium Commission without delay.

Sincerely,

Public Service Leaders

Governor Martin O'Malley, 61st Governor of Maryland

Gustavo Torres
Executive Director
CASA

Sheila Dixon, former Mayor
Baltimore City

Sharon Middleton, Councilmember District 6
Vice President Baltimore City Council

Hon. Odette Ramos
Councilmember, District 14
Baltimore City Council

Hon. Gabe Albornoz
Councilmember, At-Large
Chair, Health and Human Services Committee
Montgomery County Council

Hon. Natali Fani-González
Councilmember, District 6

Chair, Economic Development
Montgomery County Council

Nancy Navarro
Former Councilmember
Montgomery County Council

Hon. Karla Silvestre
President of the Montgomery County Board of Education

Carlo Sanchez
Former Maryland State Delegate District 47B

Hon. Mayor Celina R. Benitez
City of Mount Rainier

Hon. Mayor Rocio-Treminio Lopez
City of Brentwood

Hon. Rommel Sandino
City of Hyattsville, Council Member

Hon. Briana Urbina, Esq
City of New Carrollton, Council Member

Abel Núñez
Former Cottage City Commissioner

Hon. Christina M. Diaz-Malone
Georgetown Council, Delaware
& Governor's Commission Hispanic
Affairs, Maryland (former member)

Michelle García
Prince George's County Democratic Central Committee, District 21

Kony Serrano Portillo
Prince George's County Democratic Central Committee, District 22

Chris Stevenson
Prince George's County Democratic Central Committee, District 24

Yolanda R. Quintanilla
Prince George's County Democratic Central Committee, District 47

Valeria E. Carranza
Chief of Staff
Montgomery County Council

Catalina Rodriguez Lima
Director
Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
Baltimore City

Laura Gutiérrez
Manager, Office of Community Services, City of Annapolis
Chair, Immigrant Affairs Commission of Anne Arundel County

Mark McCurdy, former Executive Director
Maryland Auto Insurance Fund

Business Leaders

Marco Avila
President
Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Veronica Cool
Cool & Associates LLC, CEO
Maryland Latinos Unidos, Co-founder

Virginia Dinzey-Taveras
Founder & CEO
Adaptive Business Solutions

Angela Franco
President and CEO
DC Chamber of Commerce

Luis Gutierrez
Dream Management, Inc., President/CEO
Maryland Latinos Unidos, Vice-Chair

Betty Hines, Founder and CEO
Women Elevating Women

Omar Lazo

Vice-president of the Wheaton & Kensington Chamber of Commerce
Board member of the Salvadoran American Chamber of Commerce
President of the Montgomery County Latino Restaurant Association

Sharon Pinder, President and CEO
Capital Region Minority Supplier

Nicole Quiroga
President
Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Maria Pilar Rodriguez
MPR Business Solutions, LLC, President
MD Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Executive Director

Shelonda Stokes, President and CEO
Downtown Partnership

Javier von Westphalen
President & CEO
Emergent Element

Organizational Leaders

Jaime Contreras
Executive Vice-President & Southern Region Director
SEIU 32BJ

Emanuel Fernandez
Executive Director
Organization of Hispanic/ Latin Americans of Anne Arundel County, Inc.

Lucia Islas
President
Comite Latino de Baltimore

Dr. Gabriela Lemus, Executive Director
Maryland Latinos Unidos

Glen Middleton, Sr, Executive Director AFSCME, Council 67 and President of
Maryland Public Employees Local 44

Dinorah Olmos
President & CEO
Latino Education Advancement Fund

Walkiria Pool
President and Founder
Centro de Apoyo Familiar CAF

David Rosario
President
Latino Providers Network

Claudia Simasek
Founder, Director and CEO
Espiraes Montessori Bilingual LLC.

Elizabeth Ysla Leight, Esq.
Maryland PTA President, Former Kirwan Commission Member

Susana Barrios
Vice President
Latino Racial Justice Circle

Carlos Orbe, Jr., Public Affairs Specialist
Maryland Latinos Unidos

Frank Patinella
Senior Education Advocate
ACLU of Maryland

Valentina Pereda, Communications Director
When We All Vote

Glenda Sierra-Schulz
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Media and Public Affairs Leaders

Candy Cintron
Broadcast Media Professional and Brand Manager

Tom Coale

Lillian Cruz

Communications Consultant

Jennifer Hernandez
Former Radio Personality - Influencer

Anthony McCarthy Former Baltimore City Communications Director
Former Editor AFRO American Newspaper

Damian O'Doherty, Principal
KO Public Affairs

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Cris Oviedo
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La Alianza Latina Commission Chair

Pedro A. Palomino
Journalist & CEO Palomino Media Group LLC
Somos Baltimore Latino & Mundo Latino Newspaper of Baltimore

Elianne Ramos
1 on 1 with Eliane

Marc Steiner, Host and Executive Producer
The Marc Steiner Show

Individuals

Patricia Arzuaga, Esq

Gilberto de Jesus, Esq

Elda M. Devarie

Luis Diaz-Colorado

Julissa Ferreras

Willie Flowers

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Areliis Santiago

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Antonio Tijerino