



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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MADELIN MARTINEZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: Pamela G. Beidle, Chair
Antonio L. Hayes, Vice-Chair
Executive Nomination Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus
DATE: March 21st, 2023
RE: Yolanda Maria Martinez's Nomination for the Maryland Stadium Authority.

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Executive Nominations Committee,

The Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus offers our highest support and recommendation for Yolanda Maria Martinez's nomination for the Maryland Stadium Authority. Her wealth of experience and dedication to community service make her well-qualified to serve as a member of the Maryland Stadium Authority.

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 establishing 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.

First, Ms. Martinez is committed to advancing the success of minority-owned businesses. She has used her significant talent and skills to engage countless public officials and government agencies on the need to reform 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 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.

Ms. Martinez has been criticized for having filed for bankruptcy. Bankruptcy laws exist to allow people to take the risk of starting a business, which Ms. Martinez was able to do with *Respira*, a healthcare company that provided home medical equipment for respiratory sleep conditions. Unfortunately, the business faced changing market conditions that caused it to cease operations in 2018. Prior to the nomination, Ms. Martinez disclosed her financial issues to the Governor's administration, which did not impact their decision to move forward with the nomination. Ms. Martinez has faced enormous challenges in her life and has consistently overcome them. We feel that Ms. Martinez's financial past has little bearing on her ability to effectively serve as a member of the board of the Maryland Stadium Authority; in fact, we believe it is her dedication to serve our community while dealing with personal and financial hardships that make her an asset to the body. After all, no one comes with a perfect record. Regardless of her past financial history, she has proven she is qualified by successfully being confirmed and serving on various boards and committees.

Ms. Martinez is an outstanding choice. We offer our highest recommendation and support for her appointment. Her diverse professional and personal background have prepared her to serve on the Maryland Stadium Authority. We urge you to recognize Ms. Martinez's business experience, years of community service and the wisdom she has drawn from her unique personal history, by appointing her to the Maryland Stadium Authority.

Should you have any questions or would like to discuss the scope of this appointment in greater detail, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Delegate David Fraser Hidalgo

Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk

Delegate Gabriel Acevero

Delegate Denis Taveras

Delegate Ashanti Martinez

Delegate Joe Vogel

Delegate Adrian Bofo

Delegate Anne Healey

Delegate Bonnie Cullison

Delegate Diana Fennell

Delegate Heather Bagnall

Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett
Delegate Jen Terrasa
Delegate Jessica Feldmark
Delegate Julian Ivey
Delegate Julies Palakovich Carr
Delegate Karen Simpson
Delegate Ken Kerr
Delegate Lorig Charkoudian
Delegate M. Courtney Watson
Delegate Mary Lehman
Delegate Nicole Williams
Delegate Pam Queen
Delegate Robbyn Lewis
Delegate Sheila Ruth Delegate Terri Hill
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Delegate Andrew Pruski
Delegate Anne Kaiser
Delegate Bernice Mireku-North
Delegate Jeffrie Long
Delegate Linda Foley
Delegate Tiffany Alston