

Biography of Vilma Huertas

Ms. Vilma Huertas is presently the Secretary to the Board of the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) having been appointed on June 15, 2005. She has over 20 years of experience in government and the not-for-profit sector, which includes 12 years with NYCHA. As Secretary, she oversees the Calendar Unit, Impartial Hearing Office, Applicant Appeals Unit, Freedom of Information Law Unit, and the Employee Suggestion Unit. She is also a member of the Personnel Board, and Chairs the Contract Review Committee.

Previously, Ms. Huertas was the Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations. A position she held since October 2000 after having served as the department's Legislative Liaison and then Deputy Director. As part of the Chairman's Cabinet, she was responsible to act as the Authority's liaison with the State Legislature, municipal legislative bodies, and various governmental agencies. She worked closely with the State Legislature and New York City Council on matters of legislation and appropriations relative to the Authority's operations, including carrying out the Authority's Annual Legislative Agenda and preparation of comments on regulations and legislation proposed by the State or municipal entities.

In this position, she had also been able to attain several million dollars each fiscal year for capital improvements and programs benefiting developments and contributing to improving the lives of the residents of public housing.

Before joining NYCHA, Ms. Huertas held various positions, including that of Assistant District Attorney in the Office of the Bronx District Attorney where she conducted arraignments, pre-trial hearings and trials.

She then continued her career in public service by serving as the Assistant Housing Director and as Director of Economic Development for the Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council. In these positions, she assisted individuals residing in the community in resolving a host of housing issues and also helped local merchants organize a merchants' association.

Ms. Huertas then served for several years as Chief of Staff to Assembly Member Vito Lopez where she was responsible for the administration of all office operations, constituent services and community programs.

Ms. Huertas holds a Juris Doctorate from the City University of New York Law School at Queens College and a Bachelor of Arts from Fordham University. She is also a graduate from the NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services and Mayor's Office of Operations Management Academy Executive Development Program.

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