



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, October 28, 2014

Council Session

Item -1

Approving Appointment of Yolanda Chavez Nuncio to City Council Ward 1

Mayor Jay Vavricek has submitted the name of Yolana Chavez Nuncio for appointment as Councilmember to represent Ward 1. This vacancy was created when Councilmember Kent Mann confirmed a residency change out of Ward 1 has occurred. As is required by City Code Section 2-25, "The mayor shall fill by appointment any vacancy which may exist, caused by death, resignation or disability of any elective officer of the City. Such appointment of the mayor shall be subject, however, to approval of the majority of the council." A MOTION is in order.

Staff Contact: Mayor Vavricek



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Wendy Meyer-Jerke, Public Information Officer
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Pages: 2
Release Date: October 24, 2014—Immediate

Mayor recommends Yolanda Chavez Nuncio for Ward 1 city council opening

Grand Island, Nebr.— Mayor Jay Vavricek announced the resignation of Councilman Kent Mann due to a change in residence from Ward 1 to Ward 5.

The Mayor also announced the recommendation of Yolanda Chavez Nuncio, 4362 Manchester Road, to fill the vacant Ward 1 city council position. The recommendation ensures a seamless transition in leadership and will be effective immediately, as approved by city council.

Mayor Vavricek stated, "Yolanda is a native Grand Island citizen who has consistently expressed an interest in serving the community through a council position. She has been extensively involved in the community and has applied to serve when council position vacancies have existed in the past, including the recent pool of applicants who were considered when the appointment of Kent Mann was made in January 2014."

Chavez Nuncio has extensive experience in the field of education, from elementary school principal to university lecturer. She also was employed by Nebraska Health and Human Services as the Central Services Area Administrator based in Grand Island.

In addition to Chavez Nuncio's professional experience, she also has been very active in the community; serving as a former board member of Habitat for Humanity and YWCA, member of the Grand Island Public Schools' Multicultural Advisory Committee, along with many hours of service to organizations devoted to youth and Latino citizens including Teammates and Nebraska Voices for Children.

(more)

Chavez Nuncio's application for consideration for the previous opening stated, "Since I am semi-retired I am available and committed to serving on the City Council. I have the time, the professional experience, the education, the energy and the desire to be a City Council representative. I also have the people skills required to work as a member of a team."

Vavricek said, "The applicant list and interview process for the previous opening in Ward 1 was completed earlier this year, therefore it was not necessary to go through the process again. The citizen interview team from earlier this year included residents and city council members. Their feedback was provided to me. Yolanda will bring a much-needed perspective to council and is dedicated to leading Grand Island to becoming an even better place to live, work, play, learn and unite."

Mayor Vavricek's recommendation of Chavez Nuncio to serve on the Grand Island City Council, will be brought before the city council for action at the regularly scheduled city council meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 28. Upon city council approval, Chavez Nuncio's term will begin October 28 and end in December 2016.

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January 1, 2014

Mayor Jay Vavricek
City of Grand Island
City Hall
1st and Pine Street
Grand Island, NE 68801

Dear Mayor Vavricek,

I am writing to submit my name for consideration for appointment to the Grand Island City Council as a representative for Ward 1. I have lived in the Ward 1 area for almost 24 years. I believe I know the area well and can be a good representative for my neighbors and friends. I was born and raised in Grand Island and raised my family here. Currently I have a granddaughter in Kindergarten and an older granddaughter in second grade so I continue to be invested in making Grand Island a safe and good community to live in and raise a family.

I believe that I am qualified to be a City Council representative because of my background, education, personal, and professional experiences. I have a Master's degree in Administration and a Bachelor's in Elementary Education. I taught in Grand Island for many years and was an elementary school principal.

One year ago I retired from the Department of Health and Human Services where I was the Central Service Area Administrator, responsible for a 22 county area in central Nebraska and approximately 200 plus staff members. I was the Administrator for the Economic Assistance, Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services, Resource Development, adoption, and foster care programs provided by DHHS. I was in this position for 8 years. I was responsible for a \$10 million dollar budget and for seeing that the programs were available to the qualified citizens in our part of the state. I have experience in managing a large staff and in administering a large budget. I am very conscious of being a good steward of public funds.

Since my retirement I have become a Bureau of Immigration Appeals (BIA) Accredited Representative. The BIA national accreditation recognizes and qualifies me to work with immigration issues and activities. I completed this process to enable me to provide quality immigration services to our citizens who can benefit from the program where I work two days a week

I have been a citizen of Grand Island my entire life and throughout my adult life I have been active in many community activities. I have served on different boards and committees including currently serving on the Mayor's Advisory Committee. I am attaching a copy of my resume, which shows both my professional and personal involvement.

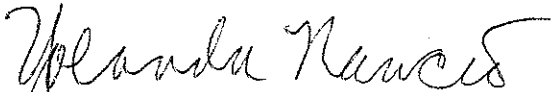
Since I am semi retired I am available and committed to serving on the City Council. I have the time, the professional experience, the education, the energy and the desire to

1 of 7

be a City Council representative. I also have the people skills required to work as a member of a team. In addition I am bilingual in English and Spanish.

I hope that you will consider me for this appointment. I welcome the opportunity to visit with you at your convenience. I look forward to hearing from you and look forward to serving my community in this capacity. I believe I can be an asset to City government and to my community. I have attached a copy of my resume. Thank you.

Respectfully,



Yolanda Chavez Nuncio
4362 Manchester Rd.
Grand Island, NE 68803
308-382-0087
308-380-7760
yonuncio@cccusa.net

2 of 7

Yolanda Chavez Nuncio

4362 Manchester Rd.
Grand Island, NE 68803
308-380-7760
yolanda.nuncio.4@gmail.com

Education

Bachelor of Arts in Education December 1990
Kearney State College
Kearney, NE

Master of Arts in Education
Supervision and Administration
August 1996
University of Nebraska-Kearney

Endorsements

Early Childhood Education
English as a Second Language (K-12)
Principal K-6

Employment

September, 2012- Present

Lecturer/Advisor (part time)
University of Nebraska Kearney
Meet monthly with Peter Kiewitt scholars to support them and to discuss their academic progress in compliance with their contract. Goal is to support them so they are successful and graduate.

October, 2012

Immigration Advocate (part time)
St. Mary's Immigration Program (SMIP)
St. Mary's Cathedral
Grand Island, NE
Volunteer and teach citizenship classes. Certified BIA immigration specialist. Work with individuals that are in the process of changing their legal status in order to gain legal immigration status in the USA, working towards becoming lawful permanent residents, and other immigration services. Assisting students in applying for the DACA program.
Fundraising

October, 2004- September 2012

Retired
Central Services Area Administrator
Nebraska Health & Human Services
Grand Island, NE
Responsible for the implementation of all the arenas within the HHS system in the Central Service Area. The area consists of 22 counties in Central and South Central Nebraska. The arenas include: Protection and Safety, Developmental Disabilities, Economic Assistance, and all the other services offered by HHSS. My staff consists of approximately 300 staff members and a \$12 million budget.

August 2001 - August 2004

Principal
Morton Elementary School
Lexington, Nebraska

Served as the educational leader in the building. I was responsible for a K-5 elementary school. Total enrollment was 380 students. The school had 13 regular classrooms and two Structured English Immersion classrooms. It is a Title 1 school that has a HOSTS program as its Title 1 program. We had two Resource teachers and Speech therapist, a half time counselor, and half time music and band teachers. We had a total of twenty-two faculty and ten Para educators. Morton had almost forty-six percent ESL students, ninety percent minority students, and an almost 50% mobility rate.

Teacher English as a Second Language
Walnut Middle school
Grand Island, NE

I taught at Walnut for 11 years. Walnut had an enrollment of approximately 700-800 students and approximately 100 plus students qualified for ESL services. I participated in the successful transition from a junior high to a middle school. For 9 years I was the only ESL teacher then I worked with 2 other ESL teachers. During my tenure at Walnut I developed and redeveloped the buildings' ESL program. I taught language development, ESL Reading, and ESL Science to sixth through 8th graders. I developed the Newcomer ESL program at Walnut and it was very successful. I also developed and sponsored the Multicultural Club, and the Soccer Club. I also sponsored and implemented tutor and leadership programs for our students for which we received the First Lady's Leadership Award.

Guest Lecturer University of Nebraska –Kearney
Taught undergraduate and graduate level course "Teaching English to Speaker's of other Languages" a method's class

Teacher: Beginning Spanish
Central Community College

Wayne State College- Wayne, Nebraska
Taught graduate and undergraduate ESL methods classes

Hall County Head Start
Grand Island, NE
I began working at Head Start as a bus driver. Through the years I participated in workshops, training, and education classes and received several promotions. I eventually was promoted to a classroom aide, a teacher, home visitor and left as the Education Coordinator. As the Coordinator I was responsible for the entire Education component. I developed the training programs, staff development, CDA training and supervised the education staff. I was responsible for the CDA credentialing of many Head start staff.

Skills

Bilingual Spanish and English
R.E.A.C.H trainer
S.K.I.P facilitator
Trainer Common Sense Parenting (Spanish/English) Boys Town Model

Presentations:

Closing Ceremony Hispanic Heritage Month Ceremony, Hispanic Student Association, University of Nebraska, Kearney, NE October 2006,

Team Member, External Visitation Team Scottsbluff Public Schools, Scottsbluff, NE; October, 2006; October, 2008

2nd Annual Latinos Educational Summit, Lincoln, Nebraska
Title: "Developing Literacy in Latino Students, March, 2005

4th Annual Latinos in Education Summit, Lincoln, Nebraska
Title: The Effects of Immigration Raids on Children, 2007

Cultural Unity Conference, University of Nebraska –Kearney; March 2004;
Title: Being Latina in a Professional World

Region IV, Aspiring Principal's Conference; January, 2004; Kearney, NE;
Title: Demographic Changes in Nebraska

Mid West Regional Middle School Conference, October 2001, Omaha, NE
Title: Effective Middle School Newcomer ESL Programs

Latino's and Higher Education Conference; November, 2001, UNL, Lincoln, NE
Title: The Effective HOSTS (Helping One Student To Succeed) Program

MIDTESOL Annual Conference, St. Louis, Missouri, July 1998,
Title: Trends in Immigration and English as a Second Language

Nebraska Minority Health Conference, November 1997, Omaha, NE
Title: Effects of Immigration on Rural Communities

TEAM Member External Evaluation Team, Lexington Public Schools, Lexington, NE;
1998

Professional Publications:

Principal Magazine, November/December Edition, 2002; "Latinos in Nebraska"

Volunteer Activities (Past and Present)

Mayor's Advisory Committee

Nebraska Voices For Children Board Member

Steering Committee Hall County Collaborative

Teammate Mentor

UNK Social Work Advisory Committee

Board Member, Multicultural Coalition of Grand Island

Planning Committee for annual Latino Youth Rally

Planning Committee for Latino Educational Summit, Nebraska Department of Education
and Nebraska Mexican American Commission, 1st –11th

Sponsor/Planning committee, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Annual Nebraska Summit on Youth Violence

Executive Committee Member, Coalition for Children

Commissioner, Nebraska Mexican American Commission

Member Nebraska Coalition for Immigration Reform

Davis Scholarship Committee Member (University Systems, State Colleges, Community Colleges)

Board Member Multicultural Human Development Corporation (NAF)

G.I. Task Force on Youth Violence, Mayoral Appointment

Hall County Human Relations Committee, Appointed by Hall County Board of Supervisors

Hispanic Advisory Committee, Central Community College,

Multicultural Advisory Committee, Grand Island Public Schools

Eucharistic Minister /Lector, St. Mary's Cathedral

Parish Council, St Mary's Cathedral

Volunteer Interpreter for Police Department, hospitals, and other community agencies, as requested

Board Member Teacher World

Board Member Community Health Clinic, Lexington, NE

Big Brother's/Big Sister's Program

YWCA past board member

Habitat for Humanity former Board Member

Honors/Awards

1974 Young Career Woman, District IV, BPW

1980 Outstanding Woman of Grand Island, Women of Today, Grand Island Chapter

1990 Nebraska Hispanic Woman of the Year Recipient,

1997 Service Learning Program Award, Nebraska First Lady's Outstanding Community Service Project Award

2000 Graduate Second Citizen's Police Academy

2001 Recipient of Elizabeth Alfred Recognition Award, Presented by the Mexican Government, Omaha, Nebraska

2002 Hispanic Educator of the Year, Heartland Latino Leaders Conference, Omaha, Nebraska

2005 Grand Island Leadership Tomorrow

2006 University of Nebraska Kearney; Hispanic Heritage Month, Closing Ceremony, October, 2006

2007 University of Nebraska Lincoln; for outstanding efforts to promote the value of higher Education to young people in the state of Nebraska

2008 Recipient Champion for Children; Nebraska Voices for Children

2011 Recognized by the Foster Care Review Board for Commitment to Children

2012 University of Nebraska. Nebraska Cultural Unity Conference, Educator of the Year, March 2012

Admiral Nebraska Navy

Appointed to Nebraska Mexican American Commission by Governor's Exon, Kerrey,
Nelson, Johanns, and Heinemann
Multicultural Advisory Committee (past) UNK

REFERENCES:

Available on request

Mary Lou Brown

Subject: FW: Letter of Support for Yolanda Nuncio

From: Jay Vavricek [mailto:JVavricek@krgi.com]
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2014 2:33 PM
To: Mary Lou Brown
Subject: Fwd: Letter of Support for Yolanda Nuncio

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE DROID

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Letter of Support for Yolanda Nuncio
From: Sandra Barrera Fuentes <sandra.barrera@unl.edu>
To: mayor@grand-island.com
CC:

Mayor Vavricek,

I am writing a letter of support for Yolanda Chávez Nuncio for her application to the Grand Island City Council.

I have been acquainted with Yolanda for 14 years ago. Yolanda is a great leader among the Hispanic Community. She is a professional woman who has given freely of her time and talents assisting new immigrants through the complexities of American society. Yolanda has an outgoing personality and is well liked in the community. Her positive skills show in everything she does. Yolanda is well organized and goal oriented. She is highly self-motivated and well capable of achieving any goal she sets her mind. Yolanda has an excellent work ethic and is determined to be a positive role model for all she meets. She is very dependable and knowledgeable. She is open-minded and respectful of others. She works well with others and their different nationalities and backgrounds. She is positive and enthusiastic as she approaches new opportunities. Yolanda is an asset to any organization and committee that she is a part of. She bring a background in education, multicultural issues, and other community concerns.

The City of Grand Island is fortunate to have her as a member of our community and the role she has in many groups that serve our community. I have had the opportunity to work with Yolanda for the past 14 years on many projects and programs for minorities and youth. She and I share professional and job related roles but she is also a neighbor. I fully support any role she chooses in our community.

If you would like additional information about Yolanda, you can telephone me on 308-380-6915.

SANDRA BARRERA
Extension Associate
UNL Extension Office-Hall County

4019 Boston Cir
Grand Island, NE 68803

Nicki Stoltenberg

From: Mary Lou Brown
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2014 10:45 AM
To: Nicki Stoltenberg
Subject: FW: Recommendation for City Council

From: Jay Vavricek [<mailto:JVavricek@krgi.com>]
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2014 3:05 PM
To: Mary Lou Brown
Subject: Fwd: Recommendation for City Council

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE DROID

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Recommendation for City Council
From: Lisa Avila O'Connor <lisa.avilaoconnor@doane.edu>
To: mayor@grand-island.com
CC:

Dear Mayor,

Our city council needs to more accurately represent the diversity of our community. Over 25% of our population of Latin decent and as far as I know our council does not have a Latino representative. Our youth (largely Latino) need more visible role models contributing to the community who they feel they can relate to.

I am writing today in support for Yolanda Nuncio for City Council! She is an active citizen of Grand Island and I believe she will be the voice to many of our community. Our Latino community needs representation on the council.

Thank you.

Lisa

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Lisa Ávila O'Connor, Services Coordinator
Doane College
School of Graduate and Professional Studies
3180 West US Hwy 34
Grand Island NE 68801
308-398-0800
877-443-6263

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January 10, 2014

Danet Lopez
510 E 9th St
Grand Island NE 68801

Dear Mr. Mayor

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of Yolanda Chavez Nuncio. She was my ESL teacher when I was in Walnut middle school. She would help us with our English writing and speaking. She would always help in anyway she could. She would push us to be the best.

She is the best candidate for a position on the Grand Island City Council. She has work with all kinds of ethnic groups. Working with Health Human Services she had to manage 22 counties, budgets, meetings, work with numerous cases and 300 staff members. Grand Island in changing the percentage of hispanics more and more each year. She would help with issues or concerns the hispanics might have. She is involved with a lot of volunteer programs that help the community like St Mary's immigration program, UNK social work advisory committee, etc.

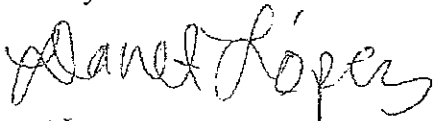
The education she has and the experience she has acquired working in different levels of the community is incomparable to any other candidate.

I would love to have her in our Grand Island City Council. She would reflect the community in every level.

Mr. Mayor seriously consider her for the position.

God Bless you and your family

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Danet Lopez". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Danet Lopez

January 10, 2014

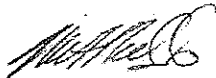
Dear: Mayor

To whom it may concern: My name is Mirta Delgado am writing this letter on behalf of Yolanda Nuncio. I would first would like for you to know that Yolanda it's a wonderful person with a great heart. I have admired Yolanda since I was 14 years old she was my teacher in seventh and eighth grade. Yolanda thought me to be a good student a good person and to never give up and most important to always follow your dreams. When my parents moved to Grand Island, Yolanda became the person that they trusted to help them with their immigration paper work, she helped my parents at no charge to translate find an attorney and to fill out applications. At this point my parents have taken one citizenship class with her and they are going to continue until they are ready to take the citizenship test, Yolanda gives them the confidence and trust that they need. Yolanda was the perfect mentor I could ever ask for she has always been a teacher and a great friend.

Yolanda has the courage to do anything she's a well educated person, she has served the community in so many ways that people around Grand Island love her for all the work she's done. If you need help on anything for anything and you call Yolanda she will get you the help or get you into the right direction in order for you to accomplish your task. Yolanda has volunteered on different activities, has been part of many boards, she has honor and awards for all the great things that she's done around the community.

Yolanda will be a great asset for the Grand Island City Council.

Sincerely;



Mirta Delgado

4041 Reed rd

Grand Island NE, 68803.