



**NEW YORK CITY
HOUSING
AUTHORITY**

NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHAIRMAN TINO HERNANDEZ ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF MARGARITA LOPEZ TO NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD

NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez today announced the appointment of Margarita Lopez to the Board of the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). Lopez, a former New York City Council member, was first elected in November 1997 and reelected in 2001 and 2003. She served as the Chairperson of the Committee on Mental Health, Retardation, Alcoholism, Drug Abuse and Disability Services. The NYCHA Board, appointed at the discretion of the mayor, is composed of two board members and a Chairman. Each board member serves a five-year term. The board reviews and approves contracts, policies, rules and regulations and holds a public calendar meeting to vote on resolutions affecting the business affairs of the Authority. Currently serving on the board are Chairman Tino Hernandez and Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr.

“The New York City Housing Authority is home to more than 400,000 New Yorkers who live in our 344 developments in the five boroughs of our City. We also provide our residents and their families with a rich array of after school initiatives, and senior and social service programs,” said Chairman Hernandez. “Margarita Lopez will bring to NYCHA real-world and practical experience and help us continue to meet our mission to preserve public housing for current and future generations of New Yorkers.”

“I am humbled and proud to be appointed to this important position,” said Board Member Lopez. “I have spent almost thirty years as a community advocate, Community Board Member, and Member of the City Council fighting for low- and moderate-income New Yorkers who need affordable housing. I am very grateful for this new opportunity to serve the cause I have made my life’s work.”

Chairman Hernandez made this announcement today in Albany at the 19th Annual Legislative Conference of the New York State Assembly Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force, also known as the Somos El Futuro conference.

Lopez replaces the position left by the departure of former Board Member Jo Anna Aniello who served in City government for 27 years at both the Department of Housing Preservation and Development and NYCHA where she was Deputy General Manager of Operations prior to being appointed to the Board.

Since 1978, when she moved to Manhattan's Lower East Side from her native Puerto Rico, Lopez has been a strong advocate not only for affordable housing, but for the mentally and physically disabled. Before joining NYCHA, she served as a member of the New York City Council, representing the 2nd Councilmanic District from 1998-2005. In 2001, the Council named her as the first Chair of the then newly expanded Committee on Mental Health, Mental Retardation, Alcoholism, Drug Abuse and Disabilities. Prior to her election to the City Council, she was an active member of Manhattan's Community Board #3. Her efforts in the community resulted in the construction and restoration of hundreds of units of affordable housing and the provision of a wide range of support services for area residents. She is also highly regarded for helping to raise awareness of the problems caused by domestic violence. Lopez has joined with the Authority on several initiatives at NYCHA developments on the Lower East Side. She also worked closely with NYCHA to urge residents to take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit program with the help of the Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union, an organization she co-founded. Board Member Lopez lives in Manhattan with her partner, Francisca Rivera, a social worker.