



Office of the Mayor
Richard M. Daley
Mayor

News Release

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MAYOR DALEY NAMES TWO COMMISSIONERS Fernandez to Head Aviation; McGill Human Services

Mayor Richard M. Daley today named Nuria Fernandez, a civil engineer with experience in both the public and private sectors, as Commissioner of the Department of Aviation, which operates O'Hare and Midway International Airports.

The Mayor also promoted Sheryl McGill from Acting Commissioner to Commissioner of the Department of Human Services, which provides services to the homeless and runs the Service Connector program for public housing residents. McGill has been the department's First Deputy Commissioner since 2002.

"Nuria Fernandez knows how to manage big projects and big organizations, while maintaining high quality and giving top priority to meeting customer needs," Daley said at a City Hall news conference. "I'm confident she will make a fine airport system even better and maintain Chicago's international leadership in air transportation."

For the last five years, Fernandez has been Senior Vice President in charge of the Major Projects Division of Earth Tech, an international consulting, engineering and construction company. She also has held positions with the Federal Transit Administration, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, the Chicago Transit Authority and the former Chicago Department of Public Works. She replaces John Roberson, who resigned last October to enter the private sector.

Daley said McGill "understands the needs of the people who are served by her department, and she also knows how to stretch scarce dollars. This is especially important at a time when money for social services is in short supply."

McGill joined the City Comptroller's Office in 1978 as an accounting technician and rose to Assistant Comptroller before becoming Deputy Budget Director in 1999. She replaces Carmelo Vargas, who retired in January.

Biographies are attached.

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Nuria I. Fernandez

Commissioner, Department of Aviation

Nuria I. Fernandez was named Commissioner of the Department of Aviation by Mayor Richard M. Daley on March 27, 2006.

Fernandez had spent the previous five years in Alexandria, Va. as Senior Vice President in charge of the Major Projects Division of Earth Tech, an international consulting, engineering and construction company serving the water, wastewater, transportation, environmental and facilities markets.

A civil engineer, Fernandez began her career in 1983 with the Chicago Department of Public Works, rising to Assistant Director in the Office of Program Management for the O'Hare International Airport Development Program, where she was responsible for managing the design and construction of all landside projects.

From 1990 to 1993, she was Senior Vice President, Development and Construction, for the Chicago Transit Authority, helping develop a five-year, \$1 billion capital improvement program.

In 1994, she became Assistant General Manager for Design and Construction of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. She joined the U.S. Department of Transportation in 1993 as Special Assistant in the Office of Budget and Programs.

Before joining Earth Tech, Fernandez spent four years with the Federal Transit Administration, as Deputy Administrator and Acting Administrator. During her tenure, the agency awarded over \$5 billion in grants for bus and rail projects.

Fernandez has a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Bradley University and a Master of Science in Business Administration from Roosevelt University.

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