

[CLOSE WINDOW](#)

PEREZ ELECTED HARBOR COMMISSION PRESIDENT

The Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners voted unanimously on Monday, July 9, to elect fellow member Carmen Ornelas Perez as the board's president for the 2001-2002 year. It is the third time that Perez, a hospital administrator, has been elected president in her 10 years as a member of the board.



In its annual rotation of officers, the commissioners voted John W. Hancock as vice president, John R. Calhoun as secretary and Roy E. Hearrean as assistant secretary of the five-member panel that governs the Port of Long Beach. Dr. John Kashiwabara is the other board member and the immediate past president.

As president, Perez will preside over the commission's weekly meetings, make committee appointments, and act as the port's chief spokesperson.

After being elected president, Perez identified two key issues that she will focus on in the coming year: the easing of traffic on the Long Beach (710) Freeway, and working with shippers, labor unions and port terminal operators to find ways to move cargo more efficiently.

"We need to start a conversation and a dialogue," said Perez.

Since being appointed to the commission in 1991 by then-Mayor Ernie Kell, Perez has used her extensive political experience to help the port on many issues. She is a former Democratic National Committee vice chairperson. She also served as assistant chief deputy to the late Los Angeles County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, whose son, James Hahn, was recently elected as the mayor of Los Angeles.

The director of patient support services for the Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center in Downey, Perez is a mother of four who began her civic involvement nearly 40 years ago as a Long Beach Unified School District teacher's aide and member of her local PTA. She went on to start the Long Beach Chicano Political Caucus and become a founding member of the Long Beach Chapter of the American Diabetes Association. She is a fundraiser for the Orange County Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

Perez is a member of the executive committee of the California Democratic Party, and chairman of its rules committee. She also is a member of the California World Trade Commission and maintains a position on the board of directors of the Pacific Coast Association of Port Authorities.

Perez has been involved in the United Way, Padres Contra El Cancer (Parents Against Cancer), Greater Long Beach Labor Coalition, the Los Angeles Chicano County Employees Association, Long Beach Mujeres Coalition, and the Girl Scouts Council. She is a member of the board of directors for

the Rancho Los Amigos Foundation, and for the Public Corporation for the Arts in Long Beach.

Her years of activism and dedication to her community earned her the Humanitarian Award in 1997 from the National Conference for Community Justice, and earned her honors at the 1998 Nuestra Imagen Awards presented by the Community Hispanic Association. Perez holds an Associate of Arts degree in social services and Bachelor of Arts degree in political science.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: ART WONG, Media Relations Manager

E-Mail: wong@polb.com

Website: www.polb.com

July 10, 2001

(562) 590-4123

[CLOSE WINDOW](#)