



NEWS RELEASE

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NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:

Katie Casey, Deputy City Manager
(805) 816-4330 | katie.casey@oxnard.org

Oxnard's Housing Director Departs for New Role in Riverside;
Brenda Lopez Named Interim Director

OXNARD, Calif. – Housing Director Emilio Ramirez has left his position to serve as Chief of Staff to Riverside County Supervisor Jose Medina. City Manager Alexander Nguyen has appointed Assistant Housing Director Brenda Lopez as Oxnard's Interim Housing Director while the City begins a formal recruitment process for the position.

Said Nguyen, "Emilio gave Oxnard nearly six great years of service. His intellect and creativity were outsized only by his heart. He left the Housing Department in a much, much better position looking towards the future."

Since joining the City in April 2019, Ramirez has led the transformation of the Housing Department, improving the operations of the Housing Authority and beginning an Asset Repositioning Implementation Plan, which allows the City to preserve and improve its affordable housing stock by moving away from the traditional public housing model.

Ramirez was instrumental in aligning the Housing Department's efforts with the City Council's priority of addressing homelessness by establishing a year-round homeless shelter. He also led a two-year effort to secure a permanent site for the City's "shelter with housing" project, which resulted in the creation of Casa de Carmen and the Oxnard Navigation Center. Scheduled to open in summer 2025, the downtown facility will provide 56 permanent supportive housing units and a 110-bed, 24-hour emergency shelter with comprehensive case management services.

Additionally, Ramirez supported the Housing Department's mission to address unsafe housing conditions, expand affordable housing, and support individuals experiencing homelessness. He also strengthened the department's workforce by recruiting and retaining skilled professionals committed to improving the lives of Oxnard residents. This included the decision to promote Housing Programs Manager Brenda Lopez in April 2023 to one of two Assistant Director positions within the Housing Division.

Lopez, who joined the City in 2016, oversees the Oxnard Housing Authority, where she manages a team of 43 staff and oversees an annual budget of approximately \$31.5 million. With more than 17+ years of management experience in both the public and private sectors, she has played an important role in advancing the City's housing initiatives.

As Interim Housing Director, Lopez will continue overseeing the Housing Authority while also leading the City's Homeless Services, Grants Management, Economic Development, and Rent Stabilization and Tenant Protection programs.

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