



**Miguel Arias**  
City Councilmember, District 3

## **NOTIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT TO BOARD OR COMMISSION**

**TO:** Todd Stermer - City Clerk and Planning Department

**BY:** Councilmember Miguel Arias

\_\_\_\_\_ **Reappointment**

**X** **New Appointment**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Name of person replaced:**

**Name:** Matias G. Bernal

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Appointed to:** Immigration and Resident Affairs Committee

**Term:** At the pleasure of the Councilmember

*12/02/2024*

## Application Form

### Profile

#### Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Immigration and Resident Affairs Committee: Submitted

Matias

First Name

G

Middle  
Initial

Bernal

Last Name

Email Address

Home Address

fresno

City

CA

State

Postal Code

#### What district do you live in? \*

☒ District 3

Mobile:

Primary Phone

Business:

Alternate Phone

#### Briefly explain why are you interested in serving on this board or commission?

As an undocumented queer immigrant, I am confident in my ability to offer valuable guidance on how the city can enhance its provision of responsive and culturally sensitive services to our immigrant community. Currently serving as the Executive Director of the Education and Leadership Foundation, I oversee a Latino-founded organization dedicated to promoting equitable education and immigration support within our community. Our organization is committed to providing comprehensive immigration services, facilitated by Department of Justice representatives and specialized immigration attorneys proficient in affirmative and removal defense cases. Within our education department, we offer vital assistance to undocumented youth as they navigate the complexities of college access. Through our Empowerment Fellowship program, we provide financial stipends and ongoing academic support to empower these individuals. My dedication to advancing responsive measures by the city and county for newcomers stems from a deep-seated concern for their well-being. I have actively participated in initiatives such as the asylum response for recent Venezuelan asylum seekers, further solidifying my commitment to advocating for the rights and needs of our immigrant population.

#### Educational background, Schools Attended, Degrees and Certifications

I graduated from McLane High School in 2006, obtained my Bachelor's degrees in Spanish Literature, English Literature, Criminology, and Political Science from California State University, Fresno in 2011. Following that, I earned my Master's degrees in Criminology and Psychology from California State University, Fresno in 2012. Currently, I am on track to complete my PhD in Organizational Psychology from the University of Irvine in 2024.

**Briefly explain your qualifications or areas of demonstrated expertise for this board or commission.**

I've committed my career to serving within community-based organizations, focusing on assisting vulnerable populations, including victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, adults with developmental disabilities, and currently undocumented immigrants. Additionally, I've contributed to various boards, notably representing the central coast on the statewide California Partnership to End Domestic Violence.

**Do you or an immediate family member have any professional or financial relationship that may present a potential conflict of interest for this board, commission or similar body?**

☐ Yes ☒ No

### Work History

Education and Leadership  
Foundation

Employer

Executive Director

Job Title

### Work Address

### City, State, Zip Code

fresno, ca

**Provide 3 Personal and Professional References. Provide name, address, and phone number where they may be reached during the day.**

Marisela Ortiz, Ambar Alvarez-Soto,

Olga Nunez,

Question applies to multiple boards

**I declare under penalty of perjury the above information is true and correct.**

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to multiple boards

**The Political Reform Act of 1974 prohibits public officials from using their official positions to influence governmental decisions in which they have a financial interest. The Board Members in the designed positions must disclose their financial interests as specified in the agency's conflict of interest code.**

**I agree that I have read the above and agree to file a Statement of Economic Interest Form should I be appointed to a Board, Commission, or similar body according to the adopted resolution.**

☒ I Agree

Matias G Bernal