



CITY OF HARTFORD

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
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Hon. Pedro E. Segarra, Mayor
Keith Chapman, Interim Director of Public Works

Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 26, 2015

Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) Board of Directors Appointment

I extend my thanks to Co-chairs Senator Duff and Representative Jankowski; Vice-chairs Senator Looney and Representative Vargas and all the members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee for the opportunity to share my background.

Specifically, I am seeking appointment to the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) Board of Directors and a vacancy previously held by Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra.

My name is Marilynn Cruz-Aponte, I live in New Britain, Connecticut I have been in public service for over 30 years as an advocate for forward-looking environmental policy and as a senior manager with two municipal public works departments-New Britain and Hartford.

I began my environmental career in 1983 as an Administrative Assistant to Governor William O'Neill. I served as liaison for the Departments of Environmental Protection, Health, Agriculture and the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission. I was involved in preparing the 1988-89 solid waste management plan and in passage of the state's mandated recycling law in 1990-91.

My transition to the City of New Britain Public Works Department occurred in 1991 where I was invited to design and implement the City's curbside collection program, operate its transfer station and landfill. During the seventeen years with New Britain, I served on the Bristol Resources Recovery facility regional board. The last seven years have been dedicated to the City of Hartford as Assistant to the Director of Public Works and advisor to the Mayor and Common Council for environmental policies and programming.

This has been an industrious period where I assisted Hartford in implementing one of the first residential single-stream recycling programs in the state increasing Hartford's recycling 111% in the first year. I restructured the Public Works' refuse and recycling routes and developed an extensive, multi-cultural education program to promote recycling; reduce litter and bring change to resident waste disposal practices. Over seven years, Hartford reduced residential solid waste disposal by 10,000 tons saving over \$640,000 and, last year, the City avoided \$320,000 in tip fees by recycling 5000 tons.

I served as Co-chair of Governor Malloy's Modernizing Recycling Group and facilitated the preparation of the Mattress Recycling Bill which passed in 2013 and that will save Hartford over \$180,000 per year in disposal costs. The Connecticut Mattress Bill has become a national model.

During my time with Hartford, I have been Hartford's primary contact with MIRA representing the City's interest in closure of the Hartford landfill; establishing Hartford's transfer station and negotiating Hartford's waste/recycling disposal contract and solar array and proposed Power Purchase Agreement.

The City of Hartford is the host community for Mid-Conn. In principle, it seems practical and wise to have community representation. In addition, I believe MIRA is an evolving organization that can benefit from the views of its end users to ensure it will embrace innovation and expand recycling in the Hartford region. I believe I can provide leadership and creativity to improve MIRA services and operations while also promoting judicious stewardship of its financial resources.

I thank you for your consideration and I am pleased to respond to any questions you may have.

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