

Board of Directors

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San Francisco Municipal Executives Association

Newsletter | December 2022

Mission Statement: *To enhance the quality of life for all San Franciscans and visitors by promoting sound government practices, supporting professional excellence for our City's managers, and maintaining the highest ethical standards in the delivery of service to the public.*

Raquel Silva's Retirement and Farewell Message



It has been my privilege and honor to serve as your Executive Director since October 2015. In that time we have increased and maintained membership at an all-time high, preserved our MOU provisions despite pressure from the City to give up wage increases and the MCCP/MTAM bonuses, and together faced the challenges brought to us by the COVID pandemic and emergency procedures put in place since March 2020. I have experienced great pride in knowing that MEA members deployed on the front lines, managing the City during this period, in the trenches as well as in the Citywide and departmental Operational Centers. Given the unknowns of the virus and the startling figures daily updating hospitalizations and deaths, not only in this country but across the world, MEA managers performed the duties that helped to contain the virus in San Francisco at great risk to their own and their families' well-being.

The member leadership under President Jocelyn Quintos, has been extraordinary and the support of the Board and the membership of MEA has been unwavering. We have been called upon to maneuver within the political arena, through the bribery scandals at DPW with fallout affecting members in other departments. We have been tested by the Board of Supervisors' and the Ethics Commission' attempts to address these failing by negotiating on their proposed Ordinances and Charter Amendments that through overreaching language would have had a negative and unfair impact on MEA members' employment. We have negotiated Memorandums of Understanding that resulted in higher than usual COLA increases, as well as added benefits. We have responded to our members concerns when called upon and represented them fiercely in all aspects of their employment.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have served you. I wish you well.
Raquel Silva

Announcing MEA's New Executive Director, Criss Romero



The Municipal Executives Association (MEA) Board has appointed Criss Romero as the interim Executive Director of MEA, effective November 3, 2022. Criss has worked at MEA as a Sr. Labor Relations Representative since March 2019.

Criss' background in the labor arena is extensive, encompassing twenty-seven (27) years as a trade unionist who has dedicated most of his working life to improving the conditions of working people across multiple industries and occupations.

Criss first organized a union at his workplace in 1993 and shortly thereafter was hired by an SEIU Local. The SEIU union campaign to gain recognition and bargain a contract was vigorous in that it involved a union-busting campaign which triggered his interest in local politics. He worked at SEIU for five years, organizing nonprofit agencies, including New College of California, where he worked alongside former City Supervisors Harry Britt and Eric Mar.

In August 2000 he was hired by then Executive Director David Novogrodsky of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers, Local 21 (IFPTE). At IFPTE he worked directly under Associate Director Carol Isen, who is currently serving as the Director of Human Resources for the City and County of San Francisco (CCSF). Criss assisted IFPTE as the Lead Representative, supervising and training representatives on how to represent City professionals covered by the CCSF Miscellaneous/Municipal Transit Agency MOUs as well as employees covered by the San Francisco Unified School District MOU. He also managed the IFPTE Political Action Committee and organized phone banks and political campaigns for the Union.

In San Francisco, Criss was the first Afro-Latino President of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club. He was encouraged to run for the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee (DCCC) and served alongside San Francisco elected leaders Aaron Peskin, Dennis Herrera, and Eric Mar. He was also appointed to the Building Inspections Commission (BIC) in 2002 by Supervisor Matt Gonzalez and reappointed by Supervisors Aaron Peskin and David Chiu for four (4) terms. On the BIC, Criss served alongside California Assemblyperson Phil Ting and City Supervisor Rafael Mandelman.

Other work included working for the Marin Association of Public Employees (MAPE) for five years. There he represented employees at the largest labor union in Marin County until his employment by MEA.

Criss is a 31-year resident of the City he loves, San Francisco, where he lives with his husband and former City SFDPH employee John Melichar.

We encourage you to welcome Criss in his new endeavor as MEA Executive Director.

To Our Valued Members,

As another year comes to an end, it is time to look back and reflect on the past 12 months, which brought us all back together. Thank you for all your hard work, commitment, and invaluable contributions to the City integral to its progress and success.

Additionally, we want to express our sincere appreciation for you continuing to support MEA and all the work that we do on behalf of you, our members.

Wishing you all a Happy and Safe Holiday Season!

Raquel Silva, Executive Director (out-going)

Criss Romero, Executive Director

Christina Fong, Deputy Director

Lisa Lucas-Yap, Senior Labor Relations Representative

Mei Chung, Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

UPDATE

MCCP and MTAM are expected to be distributed on the December 20, 2022, pay period.

MEA Staff:

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Christina Fong, Deputy Director - christina@sfmea.com

Flor de Lyz Lucas-Yap, Sr. Labor Relations Representative - lisa@sfmea.com

Mei Chung, Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant - mei@sfmea.com

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