

## **LATINO LEADERS NETWORK TO HONOR MAYORS NELDA MARTINEZ AND ED LEE WITH ANTONIO VILLARAIGOSA LEADERSHIP AWARD**

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Dallas, TX – The Latino Leaders Network (LLN) will host the 22<sup>nd</sup> Tribute to Mayors on Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> in Dallas during the US Conference of Mayors annual summer meeting to honor Mayor Nelda Martinez of Corpus Christi and Mayor Ed Lee of San Francisco with the Antonio Villaraigosa Leadership Award. The reception will be held at the Omni Dallas Hotel, official site of the mayors conference.

“This year we are proud to recognize Mayor Martinez and Mayor Lee for their strong leadership and continued commitment to diversity and inclusion,” states Mickey Ibarra, LLN Founder & Chairman.

The award is presented to a mayor from a city with a significant minority population who has exhibited an outstanding commitment to bringing diverse communities together. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa will deliver tributes and present the award along with Mickey Ibarra. Special guests include Mayor Kevin Johnson of Sacramento, President of the US Conference of Mayors, as well as Texas elected officials Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, Rep. Roberto Alonzo, Rep. Rafael Anchia, Rep. Justin Rodriguez, Dallas County Community College District Boardmember Diana Flores, Dallas County Judge Juan Jasso, Dallas City Council members Philip Kingston and Adam Medrano, Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez, and Dallas County Constable Beth Villarreal.

A Corpus Christi native, Nelda Martinez broke historical barriers in her city council elections - becoming the first woman and first Hispanic to be the highest vote-getter in an at-large election, a feat she continued for three elections before becoming the first Hispanic Woman to be elected Mayor in October 2013. With a successful career in business, Martinez brings strong leadership to city governance and economic development. Mayor Martinez has worked to advance the Latino community and improve the lives of all citizens in Corpus Christi.

Edwin M. Lee was elected on November 8, 2011 as the 43rd Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco. Lee is the first Asian-American mayor in San Francisco history. He was elected while serving as Interim Mayor, appointed unanimously as successor mayor to fill the remaining year of former Mayor Gavin Newsom's term who was sworn in as California's Lieutenant Governor. Since serving as Interim Mayor, Lee has championed balancing the budget to keep San Francisco safe, solvent and successful, reforming City pensions, economic development, job creation and public safety as his top priorities. In addition, Mayor Lee has supported diversity by recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of community leaders and organizations through the Latino Heritage Awards.

LLN is pleased to have Bank of America serving as Signature Sponsor for the Tribute to Mayors reception as well as Walmart serving as Co-Sponsor and AARP as Gold Sponsor, with additional support from CH2M Hill, HDR, Inc., JP Morgan Chase & Co., TRUGREEN, Uber Technologies, Inc., and Southwest Airlines.

### **About The Latino Leaders Network™**

The Latino Leaders Network™ is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to *“Bringing Leaders Together”* to establish relationships, build unity, and foster dialogue on issues important to the community. Mickey Ibarra, founder and chairman, served as Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at the White House from 1997 to 2001. Other board members include: Ruben Alvarez, The Molera Alvarez Group; Soyla Fernandez, Fernández Government Solutions; David Ibarra, Ibarra Foundation; Maria Teresa Kumar, Voto Latino; Michelle Minguez, Voto Latino; Miguel Santana, Chief Administrative Officer of Los Angeles; and Ken Trujillo, Trujillo Rodriguez & Richards.

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