

GENERAL SERVICES

Tony to the Top

Club Member Tony Royster becomes the permanent General Manager of General Services.



From left: Beverly S. Pleasant, Club Member, Executive Administrative Assistant III, General Services; Tony M. Royster, General Manager, General Services; and City Purchasing Agent Biniko Y. Hawkins, Executive Administrative Assistant II, General Services.



Tony Royster, General Manager, General Services.

Photos by Robert Larios, Club Director of Operations

Tony Royster, who had been interim General Manager of General Services since the retirement of Alvin Blain in March, was appointed to the permanent position July 16 by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

Friends, coworkers, family and the City Council joined him in a swearing-in ceremony in City Clerk chambers in July. Here's the oath he took, as specified in City Charter Section 215:

"I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California and the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of General Manager and City Purchasing Agent, Department of General Services, according to the best of my ability."

Royster has 25 years of shared experience in General Services and general services management in both the public and private sectors. From 2004 until March 2008 he has served as the Assistant General Manager of General Services Administration and Building Support, serving as Acting General Manager as necessary, and directing the activities of 11 units in this section: Office of Public Safety, Budget and Finance, Accounting, Payroll, Personnel Services, Emergency Preparedness, Parking, Custodial, Mail, Recycling and Special Events. He has helped develop the Department's annual budget of \$261 million; overseen accounting for \$500 million in expenditures; and directed an operational staff of 1,300 employees and personnel activities for 3,000 employees.

Previous to this, Royster served as General Services' Chief Management Analyst from 2001 to 2004 and as General Service's Director of Building Services from 1993 to 2001, where he directed activities for four Departmental Divisions: Parking, Mail, Custodial and Recycling; lead the consolidation of 100 LAPD Custodians into GSD's existing staff; developed work standards for a staff of 300 employees; and increased employee productivity by 50 percent.

From 1985 to 1993, Royster was a District Manager for American Building Maintenance Industries in Los Angeles, managing 100 facilities for building maintenance and preventative maintenance, and Area Manager for Southeast Service Corporation in Memphis, Tenn., directing operations for building maintenance-related services for commercial and retail properties.



Tony's family, from left: Michael Royster; Daniel Royster; Tony's wife, Quinnaella, and Tony M. Royster.

Royster has been awarded a number of achievement and service honors over the last dozen years, including the City of Los Angeles Productivity Awards for 1993, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2002 and 2006; the City of Los Angeles Career Service Award in 2001; the U.S. Conference of Mayors Recycling Awards in 1989 and 1999; and the International Professional Manager Association Distinguished Service Award in 1997.

Royster holds an Educational Specialist Degree (ED.S.) in administration and supervision from Tennessee Technological University, and a Master's degree in administration and supervision from the University of Tennessee, where he also earned a Bachelor's degree in human services.

Congratulations, Tony, from the Club! And many thanks to Beverly Pleasant and Karen Kalfayan for their assistance.



Mr. L.A., Councilman Tom LaBonge, Club Member, with Tony Royster.



Tony Royster, Club Member, in the Council Chambers, answering various questions from the City Council.



Tony Royster takes the oath from Karen Kalfayan, City Clerk, in the City Clerk's chambers.



From left: Councilwoman Wendy Greuel, Councilman Bernard Parks, Tony Royster and Councilman Eric Garcetti.



From left: Valerie Melloff, Acting Assistant General Manager for General Services; Tony M. Royster; and Deborah J. Ramos, Assistant General Manager, General Services.



Tony Royster signs the "Oath Book" in the City Clerk's Chambers.



From left: Capt. Gerry M. Perez, Office of Public Safety, General Services, and Tony Royster, General Manager, General Services.



Tony DeClue, Assistant General Manager, General Services, Club Member, congratulating Tony Royster.



Even the notorious (and sometimes annoying) Zuma Dogg had something to say about Tony's new job.