

Retirements

A heartfelt *thank you* to these City employees for their years of service.

CAO

Susan Sets Sail



Assistant CAO Tom Coultas and Susan Harbach. Tom presented the Council Resolution to Susan.



Harold Fujita, Personnel Director III, Rec and Parks, and Susan Harbach. Harold presented Susan with Personnel Director's Achievement Award.

Susan Harbach retires from CAO after 32 years of City service.

Story and photos courtesy Carolyn Cooper, CAO's Office

On April 29, Susan L. Harbach, Senior Labor Relations Specialist II, celebrated her 32 years of City service with a sweet and savory reception at the Office of the City Administrative Officer.

Here's a resolution prepared in her honor:

"Whereas, Susan L. Harbach, Senior Labor Relations Specialist II, has retired from the Office of the City Administrative Officer after more than 32 years of outstanding service to the people of the City of Los Angeles; and

"Whereas, Susan entered City service on January 3, 1978, as a Junior Administrative Assistant with the Personnel Department after having received her Bachelor of arts degree in history from California State University, Los Angeles; and

"Whereas, Susan quickly was promoted to Personnel Analyst in October 1979 and Senior Personnel Analyst in July 1984, and continued to excel in her career with the Personnel Department; and

"Whereas, Susan met her husband, Dennis, while both were employed with the Personnel Department, and with whom she will soon celebrate 30 years of marriage; and

"Whereas, as a Senior Personnel Analyst in the Employee Benefits Division of the Personnel Department, Susan developed the City's Sick Leave Monitoring and Control Program; and

"Whereas, Susan was commended for her exceptional public service to the City for conceptualizing, supervising, arranging and implementing the Personnel Department's first Citywide Health Fair – World of Wellness in 1985; and



CAO Employee Relations Division, from left: Carolyn E. Cooper; Kevin Hirose; Thomas T. Simonovski; Susan Harbach; Maritta H. Aspen (in back); Royce Menkus, Retired; Errol Griffin (in back); and Susan J. Ozawa.

"Whereas, Susan was appointed to Senior Administrative Analyst I on Nov. 3, 1985, with the Office of the City Administrative Officer, where she was assigned to the Employee Relations Division as an assistant labor negotiator, and was promoted to lead negotiator as a Senior Administrative Analyst II in July 1988, where she represented City management at the bargaining table, provided expert advice to City departments in labor relations matters, and successfully represented the City as an advocate in various administrative hearings, such as fact findings, grievance arbitrations, and unfair employee relations practice claims; and

"Whereas, on Oct. 13, 1988, Susan and Dennis became the proud parents of Kevin, who 21 years later made Susan a proud "Navy



Rob Sandiford, Systems Analyst II, serenades Susan with a song.



Susan Harbach and City Administrative Officer Miguel Santana.

Mom" when he joined the United States Navy after attending college and working part-time for the City of Los Angeles; and

"Whereas, in 1989 Susan developed and implemented the City's Joint-Labor Management Benefits Committee, of which she was the CAO's alternate member beginning with the Committee's first meeting in January 1990 until her retirement in March 2010; and

"Whereas, in addition to all of her responsibilities as a Senior Administrative Analyst II and then as a Senior Labor Relations Specialist II in the Employee Relations Division, Susan was also the CAO's Personnel Director for many years; and

"Whereas, in her more than 25 years in the field of labor relations, Susan earned the respect of her co-workers, City staff and labor unions for her unwavering professionalism, integrity and work ethic; and

"Now, therefore, be it resolved that the City Council of the City of Los Angeles by adoption of this Resolution congratulates Susan L. Harbach on her retirement effective March 13, 2010, after more than 32 years of dedicated, exemplary service to the City of Los Angeles and commends her for her commitment to duty and utmost professionalism. On behalf of the people of the City of Los Angeles, best wishes are extended to Susan L. Harbach for a long, healthy, happy, and rewarding retirement."

Congratulations from the Club, Susan!

HOUSING

Margie Moves On



Doug Guthrie, Housing General Manager, presented Margie Lopez a certificate of appreciation for 40 years of City service.



From left: Al and Margie Lopez, with their daughter, Angela.

Margarita Lopez retires after 40 years of City service.

Story by Teresa Campos-Singson, Housing; Photos courtesy Housing

On May 6, family, co-workers and friends celebrated the beginning of a new chapter of the life of Margie Lopez, who retired from Housing after 40 years of City service. The celebration took place at The Grill at the Sheraton Hotel Downtown Los Angeles.

Ralph Esparza, former Assistant General Manager for Housing Development, Housing, and Housing General Manager Doug Guthrie attended the event, among many others.

Margarita Lopez, Executive Administrative Assistant III to the General Manager, Housing, started her City service in July 1970 as a Clerk Typist for Building and Safety, where she responded to inquiries on building permits and certificates of occupancy, among her other duties, and provided assistance to the public. Margie was promoted to Senior Clerk Stenographer in 1978 and worked initially at Public Works/Contract Compliance, where she supervised clerical staff and processed and maintained the contract files for the Unit's Contract Investigators.

Margie later transferred to the City Clerk's

Office, Tax and Permit Division, which in 2000 became part of the Office of Finance, and reported directly to the Assistant Chief of the Division from 1978 to 1980. During the tax and permit renewal season, Margie, being the team player that she was, provided support in the processing of information into the TAPS computer system.

In recognition of her knowledge and skills, Margie was assigned to provide executive and administrative support to the head of the Tax and Permit Division in the Office of Finance, where she managed all clerical aspects of the front office and arranged appointments and meetings. Margie also provided business tax information and handled a large volume of telephone calls from taxpayers, City officials, and other government agencies. She coordinated Board of Review hearings for taxpayers, with the offices of the City Attorney and Controller, coordinated the yearly extension renewal requests from taxpayers, and made certain that all requests were processed and mailed timely. Margie interviewed, selected and trained contract workers to assist the front office, particularly during renewal season, or when support staff was on personal or medical leaves.

Margie left the Office of Finance on a promotion to Housing as an Executive Administrative Assistant II in 2001. Thereafter, she was promoted to an Executive Administrative Assistant III in



From left: Margie Lopez and Mary Arredondo.

Housing's Executive Office in 2008. Margie served as Executive Administrative Assistant to the General Manager of Housing until her retirement.

Throughout her career, she provided exemplary administrative support to the executives to whom she had been assigned, enabling them to focus on program management and policy development. She also found most rewarding the various opportunities that she had for assisting constituents seeking help from the City, be it in the form of inquiries about building permits and certificates of occupancy, processing of business permits, requests for housing assistance, and resolution of landlord tenant issues. During her four decades with the City, Margie used her bilingual skills to service the public.

Now that she is retired, Margie plans to attend art and dance classes. Margie is also looking at traveling locally at first and later to Europe. Margie loves animals in general and dogs in particular and hopes eventually volunteer in an animal shelter/protection-type organization.

Margie's colleagues and supervisors will surely miss her at work, but also wish her good health, happiness and success in all her future endeavors.



Former LAHD co-workers: Gayle Hall, Edna Meraz, Margie Lopez, Anabell Luna, Irene Scaduto (seated).



Former co-workers from Building and Safety expressed their best wishes to Margie Lopez. Standing, from left: Andy Harris, John Wilbourne, Evelyn Martinez and Margie Lopez.



Former co-workers from Housing wish Margie Lopez well. From left: Jerry Hunter, Gayle Hall, Margie Lopez and Kory Smith.