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## City Council Creates Inclusivity Commission

On February 20, the Pasco City Council approved a resolution reinforcing the City's commitment to being an "Inclusive City" and creating a citizen Inclusivity Commission. The Resolution declares the City as "...committed to embracing diversity and promoting equality among our workforce, residents, businesses and visitors..." The Resolution further provides for a seven member, ad-hoc commission to assist the Council in its efforts to promote inclusivity in Pasco. The Commission is charged to "conduct activities... identify means... and make such recommendations to the City Council for action, education and guidance to foster an environment that includes, accepts, respects and appreciates all members of our community."

The members of the Inclusivity Commission will be appointed by Mayor Matt Watkins with confirmation by the City Council. The Commission is to have an ad-hoc term of 24 months which can be extended by vote of the Council.

Commission members must be residents who have lived within the Pasco City limits for at least one year, or who currently own a licensed business operating within the City. Residents interested in serving on the Commission, which is scheduled to meet monthly at a time/day to be determined, are invited to submit an application by May 4, which can be found online at the City's website, [www.pasco-wa.gov](http://www.pasco-wa.gov).

Councilmembers Pete Serrano, Blanche Barajas and Ruben Alvarado were appointed to a committee of the City Council to draft the Resolution ultimately adopted by the Council.

"I think this gives validity to every voice in Pasco," said Councilmember Blanche Barajas at the February 20 meeting. "It empowers people to now step forward and feel they're part of a community."



## Cinco de Mayo Events Highlight Downtown Revitalization

This year's Cinco de Mayo Festival will help highlight the positive energy building in Downtown Pasco. The vision is to raise the spirits of the community by providing unforgettable family friendly experiences that demonstrate pride in our culturally diverse community. Watch the parade, participate in the pageant, attend the "Noche Cultural" night of culture, join us for the Family Health and Wellness Day, volunteer, or simply come and enjoy the festivities!

Events are planned for May 4-6; more information can be found at [www.pasco5demayo.com](http://www.pasco5demayo.com).

# Finalist for "All-America City"

The City of Pasco has been named one of 20 finalists for the prestigious national "All-America City" Award (AAC) given by the National Civic League.

The award, given to 10 communities each year, celebrates and recognizes neighborhoods, villages, towns, cities, counties, tribes and regions that engage residents in innovative, inclusive and effective efforts to tackle critical challenges. The 2018 award theme is "Promoting Equity Through Inclusive Civic Engagement" and the communities involved are nationally recognized for their inclusive engagement processes, projects and community vision.

The AAC application involved a description of three community projects with a clear community-wide commitment to inclusiveness, equity, impact, innovation, civic engagement and cross-sector collaboration. The City, for its three projects, chose "Police-Community Relations", "Better Representation through City Council District-Based Elections", and "Somos Pasco (We Are



Pasco) to highlight the community's civic engagement.

The 20 finalist communities will compete June 22-24 to be recognized as one of ten All-America Cities for 2018. Each community will bring a team to participate in presentations and workshops for three days in Denver, Colorado.

More information on the All-America City Award can be found at: [www.nationalcivicleague.org/america-city-award/](http://www.nationalcivicleague.org/america-city-award/)

## MEET YOUR CITY COUNCILMEMBERS: Blanche Barajas



Blanche Barajas is one of the newly elected Councilmembers to serve on Council, starting in January, and serves District 1. Blanche was born and raised in the central coast of California, where she lived most of her life, except when she opted to connect with her heritage when, after graduating high school, enrolled in college in Mexico. After living with family until graduation, she returned home to enjoy the

beautiful weather and California beaches. Blanche left again in 2005 when she moved to Washington. Blanche has 2 teenage sons and enjoys spending her time off traveling with them.

Blanche holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration

(1991) and an Associate in Applied Science in Criminal Justice (2013). She currently works for a Not-for-Profit managed care organization and regularly works with underserved and underrepresented individuals throughout the state who lack health services.

Blanche Barajas serves as a volunteer board member with Elijah Family Homes, a mentor for ALAS (Ambassadors of Lakeview Achieving Success) youth, and a mentor with Ignite Youth Mentoring. She is a member of the Latino Professional Leadership group and serves in several youth health awareness coalitions. Most recently she has served as Co-Chair for the Downtown Pasco Cinco de Mayo planning committee and is regularly involved or volunteering to help her community.

You can contact Councilmember Barajas at [barajascouncil@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:barajascouncil@pasco-wa.gov) or call (509) 545-3404.

## MEET YOUR CITY COUNCILMEMBERS: Ruben Alvarado



Council Member Ruben Alvarado was elected to the City Council in November 2017. He serves the communities of District 2.

Ruben Alvarado lives and works in the Tierra Vida community and is married to Evelyn Alvarado whom he met in college in Southern California. They have since uprooted their lives and have fallen in love with the Northwest.

Ruben is passionate about Community Development and has built his experience around service, working specifically in economic mobility, homeownership, community impact, and as a minister.

Ruben is employed at C.A.S.A. LLC as its Community Impact Manager. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Cal Poly Pomona as well a certificate in Architecture from East Los Angeles College.

You can contact Councilmember Alvarado at [alvaradocouncil@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:alvaradocouncil@pasco-wa.gov) or call (509) 545-3404.

### CITY COUNCIL:

**Mayor Matt Watkins (At Large)**  
416-6696, [watkinscouncil@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:watkinscouncil@pasco-wa.gov)

**Mayor Pro-Tem Craig Maloney (Dist. 6)**  
545-3404, [maloneycouncil@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:maloneycouncil@pasco-wa.gov)

**Councilmember Blanche Barajas (Dist. 1)**  
545-3404, [barajascouncil@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:barajascouncil@pasco-wa.gov)

**Councilmember Ruben Alvarado (Dist. 2)**  
545-3404, [alvaradocouncil@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:alvaradocouncil@pasco-wa.gov)

**Councilmember Saul Martinez (Dist. 3)**  
545-3404, [martinezcouncil@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:martinezcouncil@pasco-wa.gov)

**Councilmember Pete Serrano (Dist. 4)**  
545-3404, [serranocouncil@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:serranocouncil@pasco-wa.gov)

**Councilmember David Milne (Dist. 5)**  
545-3404, [milnecouncil@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:milnecouncil@pasco-wa.gov)

### MANAGER & OFFICIALS:

**City Manager Dave Zabell**  
545-3404, [zabell@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:zabell@pasco-wa.gov)

**Deputy City Manager Stan Strebel**  
543-5760, [strebels@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:strebels@pasco-wa.gov)

**Interim Administrative & Community Services Director Dan Dotta**, 543-5757, [dottad@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:dottad@pasco-wa.gov)

**Public Works Director Steve Worley**  
545-3444, [worleys@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:worleys@pasco-wa.gov)

**Community Development Director Rick White**  
545-3441, [whiter@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:whiter@pasco-wa.gov)

**Finance Director Richa Sigdel**  
544-3065, [sigdelr@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:sigdelr@pasco-wa.gov)

**Fire Chief Bob Gear**  
545-3426, [gearb@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:gearb@pasco-wa.gov)

**Police Chief Bob Metzger**  
545-3481, [metzgerb@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:metzgerb@pasco-wa.gov)

The Pasco City Council meets every Monday at 7pm (except for 5th Mondays) at City Hall, 525 N. 3rd Ave.  
Watch the Council meetings LIVE on PSC-TV Channel 191 on Charter Cable, or on the web at [www.pasco-wa.gov/video](http://www.pasco-wa.gov/video).

Comments about the Pasco Pulse? Email to [communications@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:communications@pasco-wa.gov)



## HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE

City offices will be closed

**Monday, May 28  
for Memorial Day.**

For more information about the City,  
visit our website at [www.pasco-wa.gov](http://www.pasco-wa.gov)