



## CHANGES TO SENIOR LEADERSHIP

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For Immediate Release

### Mayor Yenni Announces Changes to Senior Leadership



With the recent resignation of Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Prat Reddy, Mayor Michael S. Yenni is announcing several changes to the leadership infrastructure of his administration. “As the City of Kenner moves forward, we are leveraging the collective expertise of our dedicated senior staff to better serve the citizens of Kenner; I am very pleased to announce these updates to my leadership team.”

The following City of Kenner staffing changes were announced today:

#### **Jose Gonzalez, P.E.**

Jose Gonzalez, who has served as the City’s Public Works Director since 2010, will increase his current job duties; in addition to the projects he already oversees, he will assume oversight of the sewerage operations and DEQ correspondence for the City of Kenner. This supervision was previously managed by the former Deputy CAO, Prat Reddy. Mr. Gonzalez is well equipped to take on this increase in responsibility.

Gonzalez worked in the private sector for the consulting firm of Pepper and Associates for approximately 10 years gaining experience in design and construction management in several disciplines of civil engineering. In 1981, he began his career in Jefferson Parish starting as a Professional Engineer in Roads and Bridges, moving on to Director of Engineering for Roads and Bridges, Executive Assistant to the Parish President and Director of Public Works. As Director of Public Works for Jefferson Parish, he was responsible for approximately 1,200 employees, an operating budget of \$140 million, a capital budget of \$45 million and the management of 7 Departments: Streets, Water, Sewerage, Drainage, Capital Projects, Engineering, and Parkways. In 2009, he was promoted to CAO (now the Parish COO) and served in this capacity until his retirement in 2010.

A longtime Kenner resident, Gonzalez was born in Havana, Cuba, and immigrated to the U.S. with his family when he was 13 years old. He is a graduate of Holy Cross High School in New Orleans and holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Louisiana State University.

## **Natalie Newton**

Natalie Newton, who has been promoted to Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, joined Mayor Yenni's staff in November of 2010 as the Internal Auditor. "Mrs. Newton's ability to quickly grasp and enhance department functionality and her outstanding work exposing corruption, including the matters surrounding the KCVB, has convinced me she could better serve the City of Kenner in a more expansive role." Mrs. Newton's primary responsibility will be oversight of City Departments, with the exception of Finance and Public Works; those Departments will be managed by Chief Administrative Officer, Mike Quigley. She will continue her advisory role, as held during her tenure as Internal Auditor, and continue to work on reducing risk to the City and its employees and improving the efficiency of daily operations and government processes.

Her experience from the private sector in analytics, risk management, networking and compliance will serve her well in her new position. Although she started in the insurance industry, most of her experience was gained during her six (6) year tenure with a Texas homebuilder. Starting as a Cost Estimator, she was quickly promoted to Senior Estimator, Purchasing Analyst, and finally Information Analyst; all positions expanded her responsibilities within the company. In addition to auditing internal financials and managing cost, she was responsible for harmonizing senior executive staff and all departments to work efficiently and effectively to meet building deadlines. She served as an advisor to company division presidents regarding compliance for building in new subdivisions, evaluating start up costs and understanding market analysis to promote new communities. In 2008, she returned to the insurance industry working for an independent adjusting firm. Her duties included the development of an automated workbook to increase productivity and working alongside the company's President handling vendor relations, marketing and other projects as assigned.

Natalie grew up in Kenner's Driftwood Park subdivision and is a graduate of Mount Carmel Academy. She received her bachelor's degree in Business Administration, majoring in Managerial Finance, while on a soccer scholarship at the University of Mississippi.

## **Mike Quigley**

Mike Quigley has served the City of Kenner since 2006, starting as Deputy Chief Administrative Officer under Mayor Ed Muniz and currently holds the position of Chief Administrative Officer for the Yenni Administration. With the promotion of Mrs. Newton, Mr. Quigley's focus will be more concentrated on economic improvement projects going on throughout the city, such as Rivertown rehabilitation, airport relations, Laketown development and other external operations. He will intensify his involvement and assist Public Works Director Jose Gonzalez with the ongoing sewer projects and Veolia.

Yenni said, "I want the public to be assured that this Administration will not miss a beat regarding the sewer improvement projects. Our contracting partners are committed to maintaining a seamless operation; they have a long-standing, positive working relationship with me, Mr. Quigley and Mr. Gonzalez as well as LDEQ and Veolia. I appreciate Mr. Reddy's dedicated service to Kenner and I know there are concerns about his departure. You should never place all your eggs in one basket and we certainly did not place the sewer project with one person. We have always worked as a team and will continue to do so."



# City of Kenner Organization of Government

