



The Leader of Houston's New Majority®

September 5, 2024

City of Houston
Attn: Jackie Schuessler-Kimsey (MHHA)
901 Bagby, 3rd floor
Houston, Texas 77002

Dear Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Award Committee,

It is my distinct honor and pleasure to recommend Benny Agosto as a recipient of the 2024 Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Award for his longstanding commitment to community, volunteerism, and leadership across the Greater Houston region.

I've known Benny for almost 20 years and consider him to be a steadfast champion for our community, as well as close friend. Throughout those years I've seen Benny dedicate his time, intellect, and resources to issues and organizations he cares deeply about. Benny has built an incredibly successful law practice that keeps him very busy. Even with his professional and personal commitments, Benny has committed his life to bettering his community and that dedication can be seen across countless organizations doing important work in our region.

I know this to be true not just because of his distinguished track record of service and philanthropy but the organization I lead, the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, has been the recipient of that generosity throughout the years. Earlier this year, Benny and his wife Nichole made a historic investment of \$1 million in our Foundation's Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI) program. This is the single largest investment in our Foundation's history and will have indelible impact on our work for many years to come. The Greater Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI) is a trailblazing program that launched nearly a decade ago.

The program takes young leaders who are already excelling in their career fields and connects them with the resources, training, and access to other leaders necessary to take their careers to the next level. The program is proud to have graduated more than 250 young leaders over the course of its existence, and this investment from the Agostos will ensure that the program continues to impact the lives of countless Houstonians. Their investment was monumental for our organization but, more importantly, it will change the trajectory of many young leaders in our region for generations.

That's just who Benny is. He's built an incredibly successful career and, rather than keep that success to himself, he has committed himself – and his resources – to empowering communities and organizations he cares about. He is the definition of a selfless philanthropist and our region – and its residents – are better because he calls Houston home.

I can think of no better recipient of the recipient of the 2024 Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Award and am proud to recommend Benny Agosto without reservation for this distinction.

Sincerely,

Dr. Laura Murillo
President & CEO
Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Chair
Scott Silvas
Fifth Third Bank

Past Chair
Mely Jimenez
Today's Business Solutions

Chair-Elect
Luis Silva
AT&T

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Carlos Abello
Vedado Corporation

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Morena Arredondo
Atkins Global

Roberto Contreras IV
Houston EB5

Jose Espinel
Comcast

Laura Urquiza Gump
Kroger

President & CEO
Dr. Laura Murillo

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