

Recommendation for Ruben R. Perez for the City of Houston's Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Lifetime Achievement Award

I am honored to nominate Ruben R. Perez for the City of Houston's Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Perez has dedicated his life to public service, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to justice, civil rights, and community empowerment throughout his distinguished career.

Educational Background and Early Career: Mr. Perez's journey began with a Bachelor of Science degree from Southwest Texas State University in 1974, followed by International Law studies at the London School of Economics in 1978. He earned his law degree from Texas Southern University in 1980, where he made the Dean's List and received American Jurisprudence Awards in multiple categories.

Professional Achievements: Mr. Perez's career as a prosecutor spans over four decades. Starting as an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Houston (1980-1981), he quickly moved to the Harris County District Attorney's Office (1981-1992), where he prosecuted numerous high-profile felony cases, including death penalty cases. His reputation for integrity and excellence led to his appointment as an Assistant United States Attorney in 1992.

At the U.S. Attorney's Office, Mr. Perez served as Chief of the Human Trafficking/Civil Rights Unit from 1999 to 2017. He was instrumental in founding the Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance, a multi-agency task force dedicated to combating human trafficking. His landmark prosecutions have included cases against hate crime perpetrators, human traffickers, and corrupt law enforcement officers, securing justice for countless victims.

In 2017, Mr. Perez returned to the Harris County District Attorney's Office as Chief of the Special Crimes Bureau, overseeing divisions focused on major offenders, gangs, organized crime, financial crimes, cybercrimes, consumer fraud and vehicular crimes.

Notable Cases and Impact: Mr. Perez's prosecutorial work has led to significant victories in the fight against hate crimes and human trafficking. He successfully prosecuted five defendants for a racially motivated cross-burning in Katy, Texas, and secured convictions in the largest human trafficking case ever prosecuted in the continental United States, rescuing over 100 victims. His efforts have not only brought perpetrators to justice but have also set legal precedents and provided crucial support to victims.

Community Involvement and Recognition: Beyond his legal work, Mr. Perez's community involvement goes back decades to when he was a student at Southwest Texas State University back in the early 1970's. As an intern, he successfully coordinated a massive effort involving many different agencies in South Central Texas to obtain potable water for twenty-one (21) underprivileged families in Guadalupe County, Texas. Mr. Perez is an active educator and speaker, addressing law enforcement, legal professionals, and community groups on topics related to civil rights, human trafficking, and immigrant issues. His dedication to community service is further evidenced by his numerous awards, including the Joe Campos Torres Justice Award from the Mexican American Bar Association and multiple Director's Awards from the Executive Office for United States Attorneys.

Personal Life and Legacy: Mr. Perez is a devoted husband to his wife Marisela and a proud father of two children, both of whom are lawyers. His personal and professional lives reflect his deep commitment to justice, equality, and the well-being of his community.

In recognition of his lifelong dedication to public service, his pioneering work in civil rights and human trafficking, and his profound impact on the Houston community and beyond, I wholeheartedly recommend Ruben R. Perez for the Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Lifetime Achievement Award. His exemplary career and unwavering commitment to justice make him a deserving recipient of this prestigious honor.

Sincerely,

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