



MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR &
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Henry L. Gardner

SUBJECT: Chief Resilience Officer Appointment

DATE: August 12, 2014

INFORMATION

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Victoria Salinas as the Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) for the City of Oakland, effective September 2, 2014. The CRO is a new position created to lead the City's efforts to prepare for, withstand and bounce back from catastrophic events and chronic stresses. The appointment marks a key milestone in the City's partnership with 100 Resilient Cities – Pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation (100RC), an organization dedicated to helping cities build resilience to the physical, social and economic threats that are increasingly part of a 21st century world.

Ms. Salinas has spent more than 10 years working with cities large and small—in the United States, Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe—to recover after large-scale disasters. She has worked for the United States Government, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery at the World Bank, and the United Nations, to design and implement initiatives that empower communities to reduce risk and prepare for potential disasters.

For the last three years, Ms. Salinas has been at the frontlines of international efforts to help high-risk, low-income developing countries better understand risk, reduce their vulnerabilities to natural hazards, and adapt to climate change. At the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery she managed a \$12 million grant portfolio for Latin American and Caribbean countries that is assisting governments and communities deepen their understanding of risk, and build their capacity to effectively prevent, respond to, and recover from disasters.

In order to increase global commitment to making disaster and climate resilience integral to development planning, Ms. Salinas also helped organize the Sendai Dialogue in the tsunami-affected region of Japan, during which world leaders committed to take on this challenge. After disasters, she has worked alongside government officials to help assess the impacts and conduct recovery planning.

Ms. Salinas has also created opportunities for national and local governments to share their own lessons learned with counterparts from other countries. For example, her research in Haiti informed the development of the *Disaster Recovery Framework Guide*, which is aimed at helping governments around the world better manage recovery.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Subject: Chief Resilience Officer Appointment

Date: August 12, 2014

Page 2

In addition to her international work, Ms. Salinas also has strong domestic experience. She joined FEMA in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina as a Presidential Management Fellow. As the Special Assistant to FEMA's Deputy Administrator for Gulf Coast Recovery, Ms. Salinas helped facilitate the resolution of difficult policy issues, bolster local governments' capacity to plan and implement recovery plans, and designed and ran a \$400 million recovery program that led to improved housing for thousands of displaced families. Later, as Deputy Branch Chief for Long-term Community Recovery, she helped build and deliver an interagency program that aids states and communities with redevelopment planning, coordination, and resource mobilization.

After multiple disasters, she worked directly with governors, mayors, tribal elders, and state emergency management officials to conduct needs assessments, coordinate federal agencies involved in recovery and setup teams of experts in over 30 communities to facilitate local level participatory recovery planning. Ms. Salinas also helped lead the development of the US National Recovery Framework that now guides recovery in the US by facilitating a nation-wide dialogue on what was needed, and collaborating with White House officials to design and implement reforms.

Ms. Salinas brings experience with post-conflict recovery as a coordinator of United Nations peace-building projects, Strategic Planner for the State Department's Office of Reconstruction and Stabilization, and as a researcher for the World Bank's Post Conflict Unit. She has a Bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and Masters in Public Policy from Harvard University.

Please join me in congratulating Victoria Salinas on her appointment.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

HENRY L. GARDNER
City Administrator