

APPOINTMENTS

DOCUMENT NO.	APPOINTEE	POSITION	AGENCY	APPT. DATE	TERM LENGTH	DATE REFERRED	COMMITTEE REFERRED	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	SESSION DATE	DATE CONFIRMED	NOTES
38GL-25-0300	Felix C. Benavente	Member	Board of Commissioners Hagáña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority	3/11/25	Five (5) Years; From Date of Confirmation	3/14/25	Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation, and Hagáña Restoration.	4/2/25	5/15/25			

Office of Senator
SHELLY V. CALVO

MAJORITY WHIP & CHAIRPERSON

Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture,
Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration



I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THE 38TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov
(671) 989-5682/3

May 15, 2025

The Honorable Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Speaker
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
38th Guam Legislature
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

VIA: The Honorable V. Anthony Ada 
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

RE: Committee Report on the Executive Appointment of Felix C. Benavente to serve as Member of the Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners

Dear Speaker Blas:

Transmitted herewith is the Report of the Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration on the Executive Appointment of Felix C. Benevente to serve as Member of the Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners.

Committee votes are as follows:

7 TO DO CONFIRM
____ TO NOT CONFIRM
____ TO REPORT OUT ONLY
____ TO ABSTAIN
____ TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE

Sincerely,

SHELLY V. CALVO
Chairperson



COMMITTEE ON RULES

RECEIVED:

May 15, 2025 2:40 p.m.
Marie Crisostomo

Office of Senator
SHELLY V. CALVO

MAJORITY WHIP & CHAIRPERSON

Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture,
Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration



I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THE 38TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov
(671) 989-5682/3

COMMITTEE REPORT

**Executive Appointment of
Felix C. Benavente
to serve as Member of the
Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment
Authority Board of Commissioners**

Office of Senator
SHELLY V. CALVO

MAJORITY WHIP & CHAIRPERSON

Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture,
Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration



I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THE 38TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov
(671) 989-5682/3

May 15, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Members

FROM: Senator Shelly V. Calvo, Chairperson
Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs,
Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation & Hagåtña
Restoration

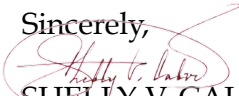
SUBJECT: **Committee Report on the Executive Appointment of Felix C. Benavente to
serve as Member of the Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority
Board of Commissioners**

Transmitted herewith for your consideration is the Committee Report on the Executive Appointment of Felix C. Benevente to serve as Member of the Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners.

This report includes the following:

- Copy of COR Referral of the Appointment
- Copy of the Appointment Letter to the Speaker
- Copy of the Appointment Packet & Support Documents
- Notices of Public Hearing & Other Correspondence
- Copy of the Public Hearing Agenda
- Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet
- Submitted Written Testimonies and Supporting Documents
- Committee Vote Sheet
- Committee Report Digest

Please take the appropriate action on the attached voting sheet. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

SHELLY V. CALVO
Chairperson



COMMITTEE ON RULES

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada, Chairperson
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
38th Guam Legislature

March 14, 2025

To: **Rennae V. C. Meno**
Clerk of the Legislature

Attorney Darleen Hiton
Legislative Legal Counsel

From: **Senator Christopher M. Dueñas** *SD*
Acting Chairperson, Committee on Rules

Subject: **Referral of Appointment**

Håfa Adai,

As per my authority as Acting Chairperson of the Committee on Rules and subject to §9.01, Rule IX of our Standing Rules, I am forwarding the referral of the following appointment:

Appointee:	Felix C. Benavente
Position:	Member
Term Length:	Five (5) Years; From Date of Confirmation

Please refer the following document:

“**Doc. No. 38GL-25-0300** – Office of the Governor – Appointment and Supporting Documents for Felix C. Benavente, Member, Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners.”

Ensure the appointment is referred to the Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women’s Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation, and Hagåtña Restoration chaired by Senator Shelly V. Calvo. I also request that the same be forwarded to Management Information Services (MIS) for posting on our website.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Kamarin Nelson, Committee on Rules Director at 671-472-2461.



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LT. GOVERNOR

UFISINAN I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

March 11, 2025

HONORABLE FRANK BLAS JR., Speaker
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
38th Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96932

RE: Board Reappointment

Håfa Adai Mr. Speaker:

By virtue of the authority vested in me pursuant to the Organic Act of Guam, 21 GCA § 79301, and all other applicable local laws, I am pleased to transmit the following reappointment and supporting documents:

APPOINTEE: Felix C. Benavente
POSITION: Member, Board of Commissioners
Hagåtña Restoration & Redevelopment Authority
TERM LENGTH: Five (5) Years; From Date of Confirmation

The appointment is subject to the advice and consent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*. Please schedule a hearing at your earliest convenience.

Senseramente,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lou Leon".

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
Maga'hågan Guåhan
Governor of Guam

cc: *Honorable* Joshua F. Tenorio, *Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*, Lt. Governor of Guam

38GL-25-0300
Office of the Speaker
Frank F. Blas, Jr.
March 12, 2025
Derek J. Sallean
Sallean 08:45am

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LT. GOVERNOR

UFISINAN I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

March 11, 2025

FELIX C. BENAVENTE



Håfa Adai Mr. Benavente.:

Pursuant to my authority under the Organic Act of Guam, 21 GCA § 79301, and all other applicable laws, I am reappointing you to serve as a:

**MEMBER, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HAGÅTÑA RESTORATION & REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Term Length: Five (5) Years; From the Date of Confirmation**

Your reappointment is a testament to your commitment to public service and your faithful execution of the great responsibilities that this position requires. I am confident that you will continue to fulfill your duties in a professional manner for others to follow. On behalf of the people of Guam, I extend my gratitude for your continued service in this important role.

As you are aware, this reappointment is subject to the advice and consent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*.

Should you have any questions, please contact Jean Taitano with the Office of the Governor at (671) 473-1121.

Senseramente,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero".

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
Maga'hågan Guåhan
Governor of Guam

cc: *Honorable* Joshua F. Tenorio, *Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*, Lt. Governor of Guam
Maria E. Leon Guerrero, Chairperson, Hagåtña Restoration & Redevelopment Authority



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

Nomination and Appointment Information Sheet

The following information is required for submission to the
Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* in accordance with Title 4, Guam Code Annotated Section 2103

NOMINEE INFORMATION

Last Name BENAVENTE	First Name FELIX	Middle Initial C
Mailing Address [REDACTED]		Apartment/Unit #
City [REDACTED]	State [REDACTED]	Zip Code [REDACTED]
Phone [REDACTED]	E-mail Address [REDACTED]	
Position to which Appointment is Made Member, Board of Commissioners, Hagatna Restoration & Redevelopment Authority		
Are you a citizen of the United States? Yes ☒ No ☐		
If no, are you authorized to work in the United States? Yes ☐ No ☐		

EDUCATION

SCHOOL (Name, City and State)	DATES OF ATTENDANCE	TYPE OF DEGREE	YEAR EARNED
High School George Washington High School, Mangilao, Guam		High School Diploma	1967
College University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire, Eau Claire, WI		BS - Secondary Ed, Major-Geography	1971
Graduate School University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA		Master of City Planning- Candidate	1976- DNC
Other Degree			

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Name of Present/Last Employer and Mailing Address FC Benavente, Planners 127 Bejong St., Barrigada, GU 96913	Position Title Owner and Principal Planner	
	Dates Held 2017 to Present	
Previous Employer and Mailing Address The Olympian Newspaper Olympia, WA	Position Title District Circulation Manager	
	Dates Held 1999-2000	
Previous Employer and Mailing Address Garvida Construction Company Seattle, WA	Position Title Construction Foreman	
	Dates Held 2002-2003	
Previous Employer and Mailing Address FC Benavente, Planners 1227 Bejong Street Barriagada, Guam 96913	Position Title Chief Planner	
	Dates Held 1990-1994	
Previous Employer and Mailing Address	Position Title	
	Dates Held	

PRIOR GOVERNMENT OF GUAM SERVICE

Agency or Department Name Department of Public Works		Position Title Chief Planner and Deputy Director	
Address Tumon, Guam	Phone No.	Dates Held 2016-2017	
Agency or Department Name Guam Preservation Trust		Position Title Program Coordinator	
Address Hagatna, Guam	Phone No.	Dates Held 2006	

PRIOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE (EXCLUDING GOVERNMENT OF GUAM)

Agency or Department Name Thurston County School District		Position Title Substitute Teacher	
Address Olympia, WA	Phone No.		Dates Held 2001-2002

Agency or Department Name		Position Title	
Address	Phone No.		Dates Held

TRAINING

INSTITUTE/SEMINARS/ON-THE-JOB TRAINING	DATE
US Army Corps of Engineers - Permitting	2016
Dept of Transportation - Hwy Safety and Pedestrian Management	2016-2017
Rutgers University - Zoning	1976

AWARDS

List all educational, professional, civic awards, and recognition for public service:
Young Mens League of Guam Barrigada Municipal Planning Council Lions Club Leadership Training

PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

List involvement on a local/national/international level. List organizations, activities participated in, and offices held:
American Planning Association - Member American Trails Association - Member World Cities Summit - Subscribing Member American Public Works Association - Subscribing Member

COMMUNITY / CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

List organizations, activities participated in, and offices held:

Hagatna Restoration & Redevelopment Authority, BOC Member
Young Mens League of Guam, Member. Vice Chairman-Council of Elders
Barrigada Municipal Planning Council, Member
Guam Tanota Lions Club, Secretary

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

List any published articles, papers delivered at professional meetings, etc.:

MILITARY SERVICE (Please attach Form DD-214)

BRANCH	DATES OF SERVICE	RANK AT DISCHARGE	TYPE OF DISCHARGE
US Army	1984-1988	E-4	Honorable

OTHER INFORMATION

(1) Have you ever been found guilty of a felony in any court, whether within or without the United States?

Yes ☐ No ☒ If so, please specify in detail: _____

Address of the Court: _____

Date(s) of Conviction: _____

Specific Infraction Committed: _____

(2) Have you ever been declared mentally incompetent by any court, whether within or without the United States?

Yes ☐ No ☒ If so, please specify in detail the reasons and facts related to such declaration:

(3) Have you ever been found not guilty or not punishable in any criminal proceedings by reason of insanity?

Yes ☐ No ☒

(4) Have you ever been confined to a mental institution for any reason?

Yes ☐ No ☒ If so, please specify in why the appointing authority believes you that you are not suffering from any mental illness or affliction:

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
Governor



JOSHUA F. TENORIO
Lieutenant Governor

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

Statement of Financial Interests

(Required by 4 G.C.A. §13104.1)

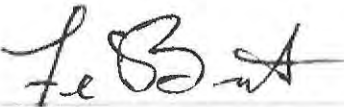
TO: The Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Governor of Guam
Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex
Adelup, Guam 96910

FROM: Felix C. Benavente

☐ I have no financial interest in any business

☒ I do have interest(s) in the following business(es):

NAME AND ADDRESS OF BUSINESS INTEREST	TYPE AND AMOUNT OF INTEREST
FC Benavente, Planners, 127 Bejong Street, Barrig	Sole Proprietor Owner
Pacific Eco Wise Systems, 127 Bejong Street, Bar	Sole Proprietor Owner
Blue Spot, 127 Bejong St., Barrigada, Gu 96913	Sole Proprietor Owner


Signature

3/04/2025
Date

AFFIDAVIT / DECLARATION UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY

I, the undersigned, do hereby depose and say that: (1) I have read and reviewed the information contained in the attached Appointment/Nomination letter from the Governor of Guam; (2) that the matters contained in the Appointment/Nomination letter, together with all attachments thereto, are true and correct and that I am competent to testify to said matters; and (3) that this Declaration is made for the purpose of complying with the requirements of 4 G.C.A. Section 2103.5.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of Guam (4 G.C.A. Section 4308) that the foregoing is true and correct.



Print Name and Signature

March 04, 2025

Date



Superior Court of Guam

Guam Judicial Center • 120 West O'Brien Dr • Hagåtña, Gu, 96910
Tel: (671) 300-7993 • Fax: (671) 475-0078



HON. ALBERTO C. LAMORENA, III
PRESIDING JUDGE

JANICE M. CAMACHO-PEREZ, ESQ.
CLERK OF COURT

VALERIE D. TENORIO
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

Name: **FELIX C BENAVENTE**

Driver's License ID #: [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED]

CERTIFICATE OF SEARCH

The undersigned Clerk hereby certifies the following results of a diligent search of the records of this Court:

Criminal Cases:
No Cases Found

Civil Cases:

Request for further information may be addressed at the Records Division of the Superior Court of Guam, Guam Judicial Center, 120 West O'Brien Drive, Hagåtña, Guam. Hours of operation are Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed Saturdays, Sundays and local/federal holidays. **Court Clearances are Non-Refundable.**

Dated: 02/27/2025

Janice M. Camacho-Perez
Clerk of Court

By: Ventura Salenga Jr

Prepared by: Ventura Salenga Jr,
Deputy Clerk I



The absence of an
Original Court Seal
Invalidates this
document. 263867

The Judiciary of Guam is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Note that the Legislature has taken steps to ensure that any protected personal identifying information has been redacted or excluded in whole or in part in order to protect the privacy of any individual(s) whose information has been included as part of this transmission.

Government of Guam
GUAM POLICE DEPARTMENT
RECORDS & IDENTIFICATION SECTION
P.O. Box 23909
Guam Main Facility, Guam 96921



February 27, 2025

SUBJECT: CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD

NAME:	Felix C. BENAVENTE		
DATE OF BIRTH:	[REDACTED]	FINGERPRINT#:	[REDACTED]
■	The individual has no record of criminal conviction(s) in the Guam Police Department files that are subject to Guam law.		

*****NOTHING FOLLOWS*****

THIS INFORMATION MAY BE LIMITED TO A LOCAL CRIMINAL OFFENSE ONLY AND IS NOT INTENDED FOR USE FOR ANY LOCAL, STATE, OR FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

The absence of an original GUAM POLICE
seal invalidates this police clearance.
REVISED 04/26/2019

By Direction: ~~that~~

STEPHEN C. IGNACIO
Chief of Police



Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

First Notice of Public Hearing – Wednesday, April 2, 2025, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

5 messages

Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

Wed, Mar 26, 2025 at 10:01 AM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov

Cc: [REDACTED] adas_trust@outlook.com, [REDACTED] Angie Taitague <angie.taitague@caha.guam.gov>, Jillette Leon Guerrero <jillette.leonguerrero@hrra.guam.gov>

March 26, 2025

MEMORANDUM**To:** All Senators, Stakeholders, Media**From:** Senator Shelly V. Calvo, Chairperson, Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation, and Hagåtña Restoration**Re:** First Notice of Public Hearing – Wednesday, April 2, 2025, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

Buenas yan hafa adai! Please be advised that the Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation, and Hagåtña Restoration ("Committee") will convene a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building, with the following agenda:

- Appointment of **Christina R. Flores** as a **Member** of the Board of Directors of the **Guam Council on the Arts & Humanities Agency**;
- Appointment of **Patricia Ann Perez Ada** as a **Member** of the Board of Commissioners of the **Hagåtña Restoration & Redevelopment Authority**;
- and
- Appointment of **Felix C. Benavente** as a **Member** of the Board of Commissioners of the **Hagåtña Restoration & Redevelopment Authority**.

How to Participate

Individuals wishing to attend in person or provide oral or written testimony may contact the Office of Senator Shelly V. Calvo no later than April 1, 2025, for further guidance.

Written testimonies should be addressed to Senator Shelly V. Calvo, Chairperson of the Committee, and submitted via hand delivery or electronic mail at least one day prior to the Public Hearing.

Watch Live

The Public Hearing will broadcast on local television on GTA Channel 21 and Docomo Channel 117; and stream online and will be recorded for later viewing on the Guam Legislature Media YouTube channel.

Special Accommodations

Individuals who require special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services may contact Mr. Jay Milan at the Office of Senator Shelly V. Calvo.

All requests, inquiries and submissions may be sent directly to the Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910; by phone at (671) 989-5682; or via electronic mail at officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov.

We look forward to your attendance and participation. *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!*

Respectfully,

**Office of the People • Senator Shelly V. Calvo**

Majority Whip & Chairwoman,

Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation and Hagåtña Restoration

38th Guam Legislature

163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T +1 (671) 989-5682**E** officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov**First Notice of Public Hearing 4.2.25.pdf**
325K

tina flores [REDACTED]

Wed, Mar 26, 2025 at 10:52 AM

To: Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

Cc: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov, adas_trust@outlook.com, [REDACTED] Angie Taitague <angie.taitague@caha.guam.gov>, Jillette Leon Guerrero <jillette.leonguerrero@hrra.guam.gov>

Thank you for the information!

[Quoted text hidden]

Jillette Leon Guerrero <jillette.leonguerrero@hrra.guam.gov>

Wed, Mar 26, 2025 at 10:44 AM

To: Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

Thank you! Received and forwarded.

Jillette T. Leon-Guerrero

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Executive Director
Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority
(671) 922-2528
jillette.leonguerrero@HRRRA.guam.gov

Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

To: Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

Wed, Mar 26, 2025 at 10:44 AM

Hafa Adai,

Posted on calendar.

On Wed, Mar 26, 2025 at 10:01 AM Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

--



Edward S. Pocaigue, Jr.
Sergeant-at-Arms

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Guam Congress Building, 1st Floor
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

☎ 1-671-969-3514

✉ sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov

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Angie Taitague <angie.taitague@caha.guam.gov>

To: Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

Cc: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov, [REDACTED], adas_trust@outlook.com, [REDACTED] Jillette Leon Guerrero <jillette.leonguerrero@hrra.guam.gov>

Wed,

Hafa Adai!

I am confirming receipt of your email.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,



Angie Taitague

Director

Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency
DNA Building, Suite 202
238 Archbishop FC Flores Street,
Hagåtña, Guam 96910
Phone: 671-300-1207
Email: angie.taitague@caha.guam.gov

On Wed, Mar 26, 2025 at 10:01 AM Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Office of Senator
SHELLY V. CALVO
MAJORITY WHIP



I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THE 38TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov
(671) 989-5682/3 | www.guamlegislature.gov

COMMITTEES

CHAIRPERSON

Child Welfare, Youth
Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women's Affairs,
Disability Services,
the Arts, Culture,
Historic Preservation
& Hagåtña Restoration

VICE CHAIRPERSON

Transportation,
Tourism, Customs,
Utilities & Federal
and Foreign Affairs

MEMBER

Economic Investment,
Military Buildup,
Regional Relations,
Technology,
Regulatory Affairs,
Justice, Elections
& Retirement

Education, Libraries
& Public Broadcasting

Health
& Veterans Affairs

Land, Environment,
Housing, Agriculture,
Parks & Infrastructure

Rules



March 26, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media

From: Senator Shelly V. Calvo, Chairperson, Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation, and Hagåtña Restoration

Re: First Notice of Public Hearing – Wednesday, April 2, 2025, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

Buenas yan hãfa adai! Please be advised that the Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation, and Hagåtña Restoration ("Committee") will convene a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building, with the following agenda:

- Appointment of Christina R. Flores as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Guam Council on the Arts & Humanities Agency
- Appointment of Patricia Ann Perez Ada as a Member of the Board of Commissioners of the Hagåtña Restoration & Redevelopment Authority.
- Appointment of Felix C. Benavente as a Member of the Board of Commissioners of the Hagåtña Restoration & Redevelopment Authority.

How to Participate

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We look forward to your attendance and participation. *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!*

First Notice of Public Hearing – Wednesday, April 2, 2025, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

 PRINT

**First Notice of Public Hearing – Wednesday,
April 2, 2025, beginning at 2:00 p.m.**

PUBLIC HEARING



 **Posted on:** 03/26/2025 09:51 AM

 **Posted by:** Jay Milan

 **Department(s):**
GUAM LEGISLATURE (/notices?department_id=92)

 **Division(s):**
OFFICE OF SENATOR SHELLY V. CALVO (/notices?division_id=296)

 **Notice Topic(s):** PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?topic_id=74)

 **Types of Notice:** PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?type_id=7)

 **For Audience(s):** PUBLIC (/notices?public=1)

 **Share this notice**

March 26, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media

From: Senator Shelly V. Calvo, Chairperson, Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation, and Hagåtña Restoration

Re: First Notice of Public Hearing – Wednesday, April 2, 2025, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

Buenas yan hãfa adai! Please be advised that the Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation, and Hagåtña Restoration ("Committee") will convene a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, beginning at 2:00 p.m, in the Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building, with the following agenda:

-

Appointment of **Christina R. Flores** as a **Member** of the Board of Directors of the **Guam Council on the Arts & Humanities Agency**;

-

Appointment of **Patricia Ann Perez Ada** as a **Member** of the Board of Commissioners of the **Hagåtña Restoration & Redevelopment Authority**;

and

-

Appointment of **Felix C. Benavente** as a **Member** of the Board of Commissioners of the **Hagåtña Restoration & Redevelopment Authority**.

How to Participate

Individuals wishing to attend in person or provide oral or written testimony may contact the Office of Senator Shelly V. Calvo no later than April 1, 2025.

may contact the Office of Senator Shelly V. Calvo no later than April 1, 2025, for further guidance.

Written testimonies should be addressed to Senator Shelly V. Calvo, Chairperson of the Committee, and submitted via hand delivery or electronic mail at least one day prior to the Public Hearing.

Watch Live

The Public Hearing will broadcast on local television on GTA Channel 21 and Docomo Channel 117; and stream online and will be recorded for later viewing on the Guam Legislature Media YouTube channel.

Special Accommodations

Individuals who require special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services may contact Mr. Jay Milan at the Office of Senator Shelly V. Calvo.

All requests, inquiries and submissions may be sent directly to the Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910; by phone at (671) 989-5682; or via electronic mail at officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov (<mailto:officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>).

We look forward to your attendance and participation. *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!*

AGREEMENT



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CITY Hagatna
STATE Guam ZIP CODE 96910
TELEPHONE NO. 671-989-5682
EMAIL officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov
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BY: 
AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

Rick Hernandez Glimpses Media Sales Manager

GLIMPSES OF GUAM, INC. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE



Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

Second Notice of Public Hearing – Wednesday, April 2, 2025, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

3 messages

Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

Mon, Mar 31, 2025 at 8:49 AM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov

Bcc: [REDACTED], adas_trust@outlook.com, [REDACTED] Angie Taitague <angie.taitague@caha.guam.gov>, Jillette Leon Guerrero <jillette.leonguerrero@hrra.guam.gov>

March 31, 2025

MEMORANDUM**To:** All Senators, Stakeholders, Media**From:** Senator Shelly V. Calvo, Chairperson, Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation, and Hagåtña Restoration**Re: Second Notice of Public Hearing – Wednesday, April 2, 2025, beginning at 2:00 p.m.**

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- Appointment of **Christina R. Flores** as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Guam Council on the Arts & Humanities Agency.
- Appointment of **Patricia Ann Perez Ada** as a Member of the Board of Commissioners of the Hagåtña Restoration & Redevelopment Authority.
- Appointment of **Felix C. Benavente** as a Member of the Board of Commissioners of the Hagåtña Restoration & Redevelopment Authority.

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We look forward to your attendance and participation. *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!*

Respectfully,

**Office of the People • Senator Shelly V. Calvo**

Majority Whip & Chairwoman,

Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation and Hagåtña Restoration

38th Guam Legislature

163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T +1 (671) 989-5682**E** officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov**Second Notice of Public Hearing 4.2.25.pdf**
324K

Angie Taitague <angie.taitague@caha.guam.gov>

Mon,

To: Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

Cc: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov

HafaAdai! I will be attending and will send my letter of support.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,**Angie Taitague****Director**Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency
DNA Building, Suite 202

4/7/25, 3:06 PM

Guam Legislature Mail - Second Notice of Public Hearing – Wednesday, April 2, 2025, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

238 Archbishop FC Flores Street,
Hagatña, Guam 96910
Phone: 671-300-1207
Email: angie.taitague@caha.guam.gov

[Quoted text hidden]

tina flores

To: Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>
Cc: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov

Wed, Apr 2, 2025 at 9:10 AM

Thank you for the information!

[Quoted text hidden]

Office of Senator
SHELLY V. CALVO
MAJORITY WHIP



I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THE 38TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
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COMMITTEES

CHAIRPERSON

Child Welfare, Youth
Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women's Affairs,
Disability Services,
the Arts, Culture,
Historic Preservation
& Hagåtña Restoration

VICE CHAIRPERSON

Transportation,
Tourism, Customs,
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and Foreign Affairs

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Technology,
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Justice, Elections
& Retirement

Education, Libraries
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Health
& Veterans Affairs

Land, Environment,
Housing, Agriculture,
Parks & Infrastructure

Rules

March 31, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media

From: Senator Shelly V. Calvo, Chairperson, Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation, and Hagåtña Restoration

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We look forward to your attendance and participation. Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!

Second Notice of Public Hearing – Wednesday, April 2, 2025, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

 PRINT

**Second Notice of Public Hearing – Wednesday,
April 2, 2025, beginning at 2:00 p.m.**

PUBLIC HEARING



 **Posted on:** 03/31/2025 08:46 AM

 **Posted by:** Jay Milan

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March 31, 2025 MEMORANDUM To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media From: Senator Shelly V. Calvo, Chairperson, Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation, and Hagåtña Restoration Re: Second Notice of Public Hearing – Wednesday, April 2, 2025, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Buenas yan håfa adai! Please be advised that the Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation, and Hagåtña Restoration ("Committee") will convene a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, beginning at 2:00 p.m, in the Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building, with the following agenda: Appointment of Christina R. Flores as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Guam Council on the Arts & Humanities Agency Appointment of Patricia Ann Perez Ada as a Member of the Board of Commissioners of the Hagåtña Restoration & Redevelopment Authority. Appointment of Felix C. Benavente as a Member of the Board of Commissioners of the Hagåtña Restoration & Redevelopment Authority. How to Participate Individuals wishing to attend in person or provide oral or written testimony may contact the Office of Senator Shelly V. Calvo no later than April 1, 2025, for further guidance. Written testimonies should be addressed to Senator Shelly V. Calvo, Chairperson of the Committee, and submitted via hand delivery or electronic mail at least one day prior to the Public Hearing. Watch Live The Public Hearing will broadcast on local television on GTA Channel 21 and Docomo Channel 117; and stream online and will be recorded for later viewing on the Guam Legislature Media YouTube channel. Special Accommodations Individuals who require special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services may contact Mr. Jay Milan at the Office of Senator Shelly V. Calvo. All requests, inquiries and submissions may be sent directly to the Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910; by phone at (671) 989-5682; or via electronic mail at officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov. We look forward to your attendance and participation. Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!



AGENDA

Public Hearing · April 2, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.
Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building

I. Call to Order

II. Opening Remarks/Housekeeping

III. Confirmation Hearing

- A. Appointment of Christina R. Flores as a Member to the Board of Directors of the Council on Arts and Humanities Agency
- B. Appointment of Patricia Ann Perez Ada as a Member to the Board of Commissioners of the Hagåtña Restoration & Redevelopment Authority
- C. Appointment of Felix C. Benavente as a Member to the Board of Commissioners of the Hagåtña Restoration & Redevelopment Authority

IV. Closing Remarks/Announcements

V. Adjournment



Office of Senator

SHELLY V. CALVO

Majority Whip & Chairwoman

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 38th Guam Legislature

PUBLIC HEARING

**Appointment of Felix C. Benavente to serve as a Member
of the Hagåtña Restoration & Redevelopment Authority, Board of Commissioners
Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.**

SIGN-IN SHEET

NAME	POSITION	AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION (IF ANY)	Please indicate with ✓				Contact Number	Email Address
			Written	Oral	Support	Oppose		
Felix Benavente HRA		HRA	✓	✓	✓			
Louise Benavente					✓			
Jillette Leon Guerrero HRA		HRA	✓	✓				
Carlos Madrid (HRA)				✓	✓			
Maria Leon Guerrero		HRA	✓		✓			
Jerome S. Espinoza		Self			✓			

**Testimony in Support of Felix Benavente's Reappointment
to the Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority**

Honorable Members of this legislative committee,

I am here today to wholeheartedly support the reappointment of Felix Benavente to the Board of Commissioners of the Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority. Mr. Benavente's extensive experience and dedication to the development and revitalization of Guam make him an invaluable asset to this board.

Throughout his career, Mr. Benavente has accumulated over 30 years of experience in both the private and public sectors. His roles have included serving as Chief of Highway Planning and Deputy Director with the Department of Public Works, CIP Coordinator and Deputy Director at the Port Authority of Guam, and Chief Planner with the Department of Land Management. Additionally, he has served as Chief of Development Planning for a major engineering consulting company and has recent experience as a planning consultant in the State of Washington.

As the Owner and Principal Planner of FC Benavente, Planners, Mr. Benavente has led numerous successful projects, including zoning variances, subdivisions, and development plans. His firm specializes in due diligence, research, and project feasibility analysis, ensuring that projects are well-planned and executed. His expertise in navigating complex land use issues and zoning constraints has been instrumental in facilitating development that aligns with community needs.

Mr. Benavente's commitment to community engagement is evident through his membership in various local organizations, such as the Barrigada Municipal Planning Council and the Young Men's League of Guam. His professional affiliations, including the American Planning Association, further underscore his dedication to best practices in planning.

Reappointing Mr. Benavente would ensure continuity and build upon the progress made under his leadership. His reappointment would be a testament to his hard work and dedication to the betterment of Hagåtña and Guam as a whole.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Jillette T. Leon-Guerrero, Executive Director

Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority

Office of Senator
SHELLY V. CALVO

MAJORITY WHIP & CHAIRPERSON

Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability
Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration



I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

THE 38TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov
(671) 989-5682/3

COMMITTEE VOTE SHEET

The Executive Appointment of **Felix C. Benavente** to serve as Member of the Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS	SIGNATURE/ DATE SIGN	TO DO CONFIRM	TO NOT CONFIRM	TO REPORT OUT ONLY	TO ABSTAIN	TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE
Senator Shelly V. Calvo Chairperson	 E-Vote 5/15/25	✓				
Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada Vice Chairperson	E-Vote 5/15/25	✓				
Speaker Frank Blas Jr. Member	E-Vote 5/15/25	✓				
Senator Jesse A. Lujan Member	E-Vote 5/15/25	✓				
Senator Telo T. Taitague Member	E-Vote 5/15/25	✓				
Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes Member	E-Vote 5/15/25	✓				
Senator Therese M. Terlaje Member	E-Vote 5/15/25	✓				



Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

REQUEST FOR E-VOTE - COMMITTEE REPORT for the Appointment of Felix C. Benevente

7 messages

Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

Thu, May 15, 2025 at
11:07 AM

To: "Speaker Frank F. Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, "Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada" <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Muna Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>, "Senator Therese M. Terlaje" <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Hafa Adai Committee Members,

Please see the attached Committee Report for the **Appointment of Felix C. Benevente** to serve as Member of the Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners, to serve for a term of Five (5) years; from Date of Confirmation, which your action is respectfully requested.

Please indicate your preferred action, based on the following options:

- _____ TO DO CONFIRM
- _____ TO NOT CONFIRM
- _____ TO REPORT OUT ONLY
- _____ TO ABSTAIN
- _____ TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE

Please submit your response **ASAP**. Your responses will be logged into the vote sheet which will be submitted as part of the final Committee Report to the Committee on Rules.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Respectfully,



Office of the People • Senator Shelly V. Calvo

Majority Whip & Chairwoman

Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration

38th Guam Legislature

163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T +1 (671) 989-5682

E officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov

**COMMITTEE REPORT -Felix C. Benevente.pdf**

9440K

Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>

Thu, May 15, 2025 at 11:45 AM

To: Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

Cc: "Speaker Frank F. Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, "Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada"

<vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Muna Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>,

Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>, "Senator Therese M. Terlaje" <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

To Do Confirm

**Office of Majority Leader Jesse A. Lujan***Chairman, Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs***259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910****senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov****(671) 969-6525**

[Quoted text hidden]

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>

Thu, May 15, 2025 at 12:09 PM

To: Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

To do confirm

On Thu, May 15, 2025 at 11:08 AM Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

--

**Office of Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada**

38th Guam Legislature

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Guam Congress Building, 2nd Floor

163 Chalan Santo Papa

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Phone: (671) 989-0855**Email:** vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov

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Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>

Thu, May 15, 2025 at 12:16 PM

To: Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

to do confirm

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,***Create a Great Day!***

Senator Telo T. Taitague

38th Guam Legislature

Chairperson

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

Suite 407 DNA Building

238 Archbishop Flores St.

Hagatna, Guam 96910

Tel: (671) 989-8356

Email: senatortelot@gmail.com

[Quoted text hidden]

Senator Tina Muna Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>

Thu, May 15, 2025 at 1:59 PM

To: Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

Cc: "Speaker Frank F. Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, "Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada" <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>, "Senator Therese M. Terlaje" <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

to do confirm

[Quoted text hidden]

Speaker Frank Blas Jr. <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>

Thu, May 15, 2025 at 2:07 PM

To: Senator Tina Muna Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>

Cc: Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, "Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada" <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>, "Senator Therese M. Terlaje" <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

To Do Confirm



Speaker, Frank F. Blas, Jr.

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahan 38th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagatña

(671)969-6456

speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov

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[Quoted text hidden]

Senator Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Thu, May 15, 2025 at 2:18 PM

To: Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

Cc: "Speaker Frank F. Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, "Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada" <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Muna Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>

Håfa Adai,

To Do Confirm

Si Yu'os Ma'åse',



Office of Senator Therese M. Terlaje

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa,

Hagatna, Guam 96910

☎ (671) 472-3586

✉ senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com

🌐 www.senatorterlaje.com

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[Quoted text hidden]

Office of Senator
SHELLY V. CALVO

MAJORITY WHIP & CHAIRPERSON

Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture,
Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration



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COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

The Executive Appointment of Felix C. Benavente to serve as Member of the Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners.

I. OVERVIEW

The Executive Appointment of **Felix C. Benavente** to serve as Member of the Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners was signed by Governor Lourdes A. Leon Guererro on **March 11, 2025**. The appointment packet was received by the Office of Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr. on **March 12, 2025**, and the appointment was subsequently referred to the Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration (Committee) on **March 14, 2025**.

The Committee convened a public hearing on **Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at 2:00 PM** in the Guam Legislature Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building. Among the agenda items was the Executive Appointment of **Felix C. Benevente** to serve as Member of the Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners.

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Public Hearing notices were disseminated via email to all Senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on **March 26, 2025**, and again on **March 31, 2025**, fulfilling the 5-Day Notice and 48-Hour Notice, respectively, of the Open Government Law requirement.

SENATORS PRESENT

Senator Shelly V. Calvo, *Chair*
Senator V. Anthony Ada, *Vice Chair*
Senator Therese M. Terlaje, *Member*

APPEARED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

Patricia Ann Perez Ada, *Appointee*
Felix C. Benevente, *Appointee*
Jillette T. Leon Guerrero, *Executive Director, HRRA*

Maria E. Leon Guerrero, *Chair*, HRRRA Board of Commissioners
Dr. Carlos Madrid, *Secretary*, HRRRA Board of Commissioners
Joe Nowell
Lorita Toves

SUBMITTED WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Jillette T. Leon Guerrero, *Executive Director*, HRRRA

II. TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo called to order the confirmation hearing for **Felix C. Benevente** to serve as Member of the Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners at 2:34 PM, provided general rules of conduct for attendees, and invited individuals to sit in the panel after providing her opening remarks:

Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority (HRRRA) is a government entity tasked with leading the revitalization of Hagåtña, Guam's historic capital. Its primary mission is to oversee the planning, coordination, and execution of development projects that enhance Hagåtña's role as a cultural, civic, and economic hub, while preserving its historical and architectural significance.

HRRRA's work supports the broader goal of transforming Hagåtña into a vibrant and sustainable urban center that reflects the island's identity and history. The HRRRA Board of Commissioners (HRRRA Board) serves as a governing body of the authority responsible for setting policy direction, approving redevelopment initiatives, and ensuring accountability in the implementation of the master plan. The board evaluates proposed projects, monitors progress, and ensures alignment with Guam's legal, cultural, and environmental standards.

The HRRRA Board also plays a key role in facilitating community engagement, securing funding, and promoting transparency in the redevelopment process. Through strategic leadership and informed decision-making, the Board ensures that the redevelopment of Hagåtña is conducted in a way that benefits the people of Guam and honors the island heritage.

Joe Nowell greeted Chairperson Calvo, and read his written testimony in support of Ms. Ada into the record (but did not submit the letter to the Committee):

It is of immense enthusiasm and unwavering belief in her exceptional capabilities that I submit this testimony in steadfast support of Patricia Ada's continued service on the [HRRRA Board]. Ms. Ada is more than a candidate. She is a steward of Hagåtña's soul. Her connection to our capital runs deep,

nurtured by the family legacy that has shaped this very landscape for three generations since the 1940s. This isn't just a business. It is a passionate commitment, a dedication poured into the very foundation of Hagåtña progress. Imagine the strength of vision that has consistently invested time, energy, and resources into the revitalization of our beloved capital.

Ms. Ada and her family possess not just experience, but a profound understanding of Hagåtña's potential. Their expertise in commercial development, amplified by the iconic Ada Plaza Center and the modern harbor view, speaks volumes among many other commercial buildings developed by her family in Hagåtña and throughout Guam. These structures aren't merely buildings. They are testaments to the belief of Hagåtña's vibrant future. But what truly sets Ms. Ada apart is her connection to our history. She carries within her the wisdom of three generations, safeguarding the stories and spirit of pre-war Hagåtña.

This is invaluable institutional knowledge, a living bridge to our past that will guide us as we build our future. Therefore, I implore you and the utmost respect and conviction to embrace Ms. Ada's nomination. She brings not just unparalleled expertise in development and restoration, but also the heartfelt passion of a true daughter of Hagåtña. Let us empower her to continue her family's legacy, to infuse our capital with renewed pride, and to forge a future that honors our rich heritage. Let us together build a Hagåtña that inspires generations to come. Thank you.

Jillette T. Leon Guerrero, Executive Director, HRRRA, read into the record her written testimony in support of Ms. Ada, which was submitted to the Committee.

Dr. Carlos Madrid, Secretary, HRRRA Board of Commissioners, introduced himself and provided oral testimony:

I've been [an HRRRA] Commissioner for the last six (6) years and I have had the opportunity to see both [Ms. Patricia A.P. Ada and Mr. Felix C. Benevente] working and giving service to HRRRA and I have seen firsthand that their role and their contributions are very meaningful and quite needed actually. They both combine a set of skills and experiences that are really needed by HRRRA.

In the case of *Señora* Ada, the balance between community engagement and know-how in business and that dedication to Hagåtña as a city has been mentioned already. In the case of *Señor* Benavente, the same way, but added also the fact that he knows zoning and urban planning and is one of, they're both probably the biggest assets that we have at HRRRA. And I wholeheartedly endorse their reappointment as [HRRRA] Commissioners. Thank you.

Maria E. Leon Guerrero, Chair, HRRRA Board of Commissioners, introduced herself as the Chief Operating Officer of Bank of Guam and the Chair of the HRRRA Board since 2019, and read her written testimony into the record (but did not submit the letter to the Committee):

Dear Members of the 38th Guam Legislature, I am writing to wholeheartedly recommend Patricia Ada for reappointment to the Board of Commissioners of the Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority. It has been my pleasure to work alongside Patty both as a commissioner at the HRRRA since 2019 when we both started, as well as on the board of Bank of Guam and Bank Guam Holding Company where I have witnessed her commitment to our community and our economy.

Patricia is not only a dedicated professional but also a passionate advocate for the people of Guam. Her deep-rooted ties to our island and her family's long-standing support of our local economy highlight her commitment to fostering a vibrant and sustainable future for all residents.

As General Manager of Ada's Trust and Investment, Inc. (Ada's Trust), Patty brings a deep understanding of our local commercial real estate market. Moreover, just like Bank of Guam, Ada's Trust is a long-standing corporate resident of Hagåtña, and so Patty is fully invested in helping our capital city develop and thrive. I have no doubt that Patty will bring the same dedication and passion to the board that she has consistently demonstrated in all her professional endeavors. Her commitment to our culture, economy, and community makes her an ideal candidate for this important role.

Thank you for considering Patty for reappointment to the HRRRA Board of Commissioners. I firmly believe that her contributions will have a lasting and positive impact on our community.

Jillette T. Leon Guerrero, Executive Director, HRRRA, read into the record her written testimony in support of Mr. Benevente, which was submitted to the Committee.

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo thanked the attendees who came to testify in support of Ms. Ada and Mr. Benevente.

Vice Chairperson V. Anthony Ada asked HRRRA Board Chair **Ms. Leon Guerrero** whether the HRRRA Board would still require additional members after Ms. Ada's appointment, to which **Ms. Leon Guerrero** replied that there remain vacancies left by the late Tan Rita Franquez, as well as Elizabeth Gayle and Betty Gayle, who did not renew her term. **Ms. Leon Guerrero** also affirmed that the HRRRA Board would at least have quorum with the reappointment of Ms. Ada and Mr. Benevente.

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo invited the appointees, Ms. Patricia Ann Perez Ada and Mr. Felix C. Benevente, to sit in the panel and provide their statements before the body.

Patricia Ann Perez Ada, *Appointee, HRRR Board of Commissioners*, introduced herself; stated that she works for Ada's Trust and Investment, Inc., and that she currently serves as Vice Chair for the HRRR Board, which she has been a member of since 2019; and proceeded with her statement:

I'd like to say that I've been working—or grew up pretty much most of my life here in Hagåtña, since Cathedral Grade School, then most of my working career out of Hagåtña. And I've seen a lot of changes go through the city. And I'd like to—one of the changes that I would really like to see come for Hagåtña is to bring back the government offices. This is our capital and I'd like to see Hagåtña thrive as a capital again. So, I'm seeking reappointment so that I can join the great team, the great board that we have with HRRR and see what we can do to make Hagåtña a better place.

Felix C. Benavente, *Appointee, HRRR Board of Commissioners*, greeted and thanked Chairperson Calvo and Senators present, and proceeded with his statement:

My name is Felix Crisostomo Benavente. I am a resident of Barrigada. I am a retiree of the Department of Public Works and I am presently in business with my wife Lourdes, running a planning consulting office, assisting clients with planning, coordinating and permitting in various stages of the land development process. Other than with several time breaks in between we have been in this type of business for well over thirty (30) years we additionally have two other small sole-proprietor businesses involving indent services and event planning services I just want to add that I would like to recognize and honor my wife and my family for all their support throughout my life.

As I mentioned in my first testimony for membership in HRRR, my parents were former Hagåtña residents living in Hagåtña decades before its destruction in World War II. My late father, Juan Camacho Benavente, family in Tseadu, his family lived in the old Padre Palomo school area along the shoreline of old Hagåtña. My late mother, Filomenia Perez Crisostomo, family in Bedzung, lived in the old Julale area below the cliff line. The Tseadu and Bedzung families were long embedded in the origins and history of pre-war Hagåtña. Herein lies the source of my passion and commitment to continue with HRRR, that is, to enliven and continue the contributions of Hagåtña in Guam history, spirit, and sense of community well into the present and into the far distant future.

My education and professional background is illustrated in the nomination and appointment information sheet submitted by the Office of the Governor. My education and professional background will support my ability to perform functions required as a Commissioner of the HRRA. I accept the responsibility that this position places on me as a Commissioner of the HRRA.

I accept the responsibility that this position places on me as a Commissioner. It is an honor and a privilege, and I thank Governor Leon Guerrero and Lieutenant Governor Tenorio and the Guam Legislature in previous confirmation for this trust and shared responsibility. These I carry always with the goal of restoring and redeveloping the City of Hagåtña in line with mandates established and its enabling legislation in Public Law 24-110.

I look forward to answering any questions you may have and thank you again for this opportunity to testify. Felix Benavente. Thank you.

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo thanked the appointees for their statements and recognized her colleagues for any remarks or questions for the attendees and appointees.

Vice Chairperson V. Anthony Ada thanked Chairperson Calvo, disclosed that he has familial relation to Ms. Ada, thanked the appointees for their continued service to HRRA, and proceeded with his remarks:

I know it's not an easy task, and I'm looking forward to how we can continue to rebuild our capital. And I totally agree with you, Ms. Ada. I think the seat of government needs to return to Hagåtña. And hopefully with all of you there and once your board gets fully complemented, we will be able to move these ideas forward.

I know that not everyone may agree, but at least we can all agree to disagree respectfully and just make Guam better and make Guam great, right? But [also to] make our capital once again revitalized to where it used to be. I remember my grandmother's house is right across Julale, and I would always go there every day, not by choice, but I had to, to pull grass between the pavement and the curb and to ensure that it always looked good because she was a caretaker for Archbishop Felixberto Flores. And it was such a great time to see Hagåtña at that time, growing up as a little boy and walking over to Tendan Mami, Marianas Sales, and then we're in the family shoe store where the current Bank of Guam is now. I mean, all the history that we have here, you know, we need to do what we can to reinvent that history and put it back where it belongs, and it belongs here in our capital. So, thank you for your continued acceptance of this nomination, and I look forward to voting on

your nomination in this next session.

Senator Therese M. Terlaje thanked Chairperson Calvo and all the attendees who provided testimony, and posed a question to Ms. Ada regarding moving government offices back to the capital:

Patty, when you say you want to prioritize the government offices, what is the status of that? I remember when I first became a senator, that was like one of the top priorities that I had heard about, that they had picked a property and that they were going to build a building and then I heard another idea that was going to be somewhere facing the ocean but then there was another idea they were going to rebuild it at the old Department of Administration but I thought that was part of Matrix's plan. I'm not sure. And then the HOT bonds—they talked about doing that, too, but I haven't seen anything. So maybe if you could just update us on what is the status of that.

Patricia Ann Perez Ada, Appointee, HRR Board of Commissioners, replied that HRR is "still working on the funding to be able to get started on those projects."

Senator Therese M. Terlaje asked Ms. Ada whether HRR intends to construct the building.

Patricia Ann Perez Ada, Appointee, HRR Board of Commissioners, replied that she's uncertain of the exact details but HRR is "not going to be in charge of building the building" but it is "going to work towards getting it started and coming up; there's already drawing and plans for that and [HRR] is working with Matrix on that."

Senator Therese M. Terlaje asked Ms. Ada where HRR plans to build the facility.

Patricia Ann Perez Ada, Appointee, HRR Board of Commissioners, replied that the building will be situated "right around where the former police department and the former [Department of Administration] (DOA)" building was located.

Maria E. Leon Guerrero, Chair, HRR Board of Commissioners, clarified the matter and opined that Senator Terlaje is referring to plans to restore the *Palasyo* ("the Palace") and also build an administration building where the former DOA building was located and where the police precinct is now, and added that the final project will depend on the priorities of the administration and funding opportunities available:

And so those are just all concepts and plans at this time. It really comes down to identifying, you know—how would that be built? All of those things remain to be decided. And a lot of the things in the master plan, it's really kind of like I look at it as a portfolio of opportunities. But which ones we will do, it largely

depends on what the priorities of the administration are, what funding opportunities are available, [i.e.,] if we can get grant funds and things of that nature. So, we're just trying to do the best that we have with the resources that we have, but that is definitely one of the bigger goals that we have, [which is] to bring back all three branches of government to Hagåtña.

Senator Therese M. Terlaje clarified her query:

Well, that's why I'm asking, because it was also discussed in the past that the *Palasyo* was going to be funded out of the [Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT)] bond—that that was a priority. And I questioned that priority at the time, because they had not taken care of the Tumon flooding with the HOT bond, like they said they would. So, between the *Palasyo* and the government offices, I mean, does HRRRA play a role in determining what is the priority?

Jillette T. Leon Guerrero, Executive Director, HRRRA, replied in the affirmative, stating that HRRRA “develops the priority.”

Senator Therese M. Terlaje continued her query:

So, it will be the [HRRRA Board] that chooses the priority versus the Governor that chooses the priority? That's what I want to know. Is that how you see it? Is that how it works? Because if that is so, then what is the priority after all these years?

Maria E. Leon Guerrero, Chair, HRRRA Board of Commissioners, replied:

Well, I think they look to us for what we think. But it's kind of a fluid thing. [] About a year or so ago, we went through a process where we applied a rubric to all of the opportunities and tried to take a look and see which ones were a higher priority. And so, that definitely came near the top. But of course, that one requires a lot of capital, which we don't have readily available. So, in terms of what's priority, a lot of it just depends on what funding opportunities are available and what we can take advantage of at the time.

Senator Therese M. Terlaje proceeded to inquire about the land building:

All right, and then I saw on your agenda the land building. Is that within your purview, the land building also? That's for the Department of Land Management (DLM), supposed to [house the Commissions on] CHamoru Land Trust and Ancestral Lands.

Maria E. Leon Guerrero, Chair, HRRRA Board of Commissioners, replied:

I remember that there was a time when we had already become empaneled,

when that kind of came up again. And if I am not mistaken, the Governor had appointed the then-director of [DLM] to take the lead, and we were sort of a collaborator on it. But the idea was that, yes, our agency along with all the other land-related agencies would be housed in that building. I'm not quite sure if the funding source was identified but it was just a topic of conversation that was being talked about at that time.

Jillette T. Leon Guerrero, *Executive Director, HRRRA*, stated:

I just wanted to make a statement that all of these buildings and plans are important, but before we do any of this, we have to really set the foundation for the organization. And one of the major things that we need to have done is to actually have the [HRRRA] Master Plan approved.

And then the second thing that I feel is very important before we start to really address a lot of those things is having the flooding issue addressed. And I can tell you that I think it was just yesterday I got word that we actually received the funds that were put on hold for the feasibility study for the Hagåtña River have been lifted and we can now proceed with that. So, we're on the way. So that is very good news.

Maria E. Leon Guerrero, *Chair, HRRRA Board of Commissioners*, added:

I would agree with [HRRRA Executive Director Ms. Leon Guerrero], too, that the projects that you're talking about are big undertakings. But at this point, we've talked amongst the [HRRRA Board], and we feel that it probably makes more sense to us to focus on getting the organization on a firm footing with governance, with procedures, with staffing, and just kind of some basic things that we haven't really been able to achieve, like passing the master plan in the Legislature to begin with. So, I think it makes sense for us to focus and go back to basics before we start taking on these big projects that currently we don't have the resources to do that.

Senator Therese M. Terlaje asked whether all the projects mentioned have been included in the master plan, to which HRRRA Board Chair **Ms. Leon Guerrero** confirmed that they in fact are. Senator Terlaje then inquired about a project to fix the flooding issue:

The older minutes [refers to] a proposed \$44-million solution and that there was a motion to further pursue going through Army Corps [of Engineers] (ACE). What does that mean—that we're going to pay \$44 million?

Jillette T. Leon Guerrero, *Executive Director, HRRRA*, replied:

No, as far as I know, right now what we're working on is a feasibility study. So

that's less than a million dollars at this point, although we're waiting for ACE to come back to us. They're looking at the scope of work right now. So, I can't give you an exact number, but at this point in time, what we had negotiated with them was less than a million dollars for the feasibility study. Once we get the feasibility study, then we will know what it will cost to do the implementation of the project.

Senator Therese M. Terlaje asked whether the referenced project was the same that was quoted to cost \$44 million as was mentioned in prior meetings.

Maria E. Leon Guerrero, Chair, HRR Board of Commissioners, responded:

I don't think it was one of those orders of magnitude quotes. I don't even think it was detailed and from the last time that they took a look at something like that—I want to say it was pre-pandemic.

[ACE] came out [and] they did sort of a high-level—it wasn't even a feasibility study; it was more of a high-level thing where they kind of mapped out a few different options and then they told us which option that they could support which, to my recollection, it wasn't really doing anything to the flood plain itself but more so just hardening the buildings that are in the path of the flood plain.

And so, at that time you know we pretty much realized that their objectives and the long-term economic development of Hagåtña was not really in alignment. However, now that we have revisited with them, and they're open to a more comprehensive solution, [and] the first step is this feasibility study. And I think from there a feasibility study [will] include an estimate on the different options and we'll know better how much that will cost.

Senator Therese M. Terlaje posed a final question to the appointees:

Do you believe that you continue and are able to represent the smaller property owners in Hagåtña, the ones who live here night and day, and they are very concerned lately about their safety? They think crime has increased in this city. And are you able in this role to address [their concerns] as well or represent them fairly?

Patricia Ann Perez Ada, Appointee, HRR Board of Commissioners, responded:

I would like to see more of a police presence for Hagåtña. I do think that there are more people getting approached and are afraid for their safety. It would be nice to add a [police station] that's here full time to make people feel safe.

Felix C. Benevente, Appointee, HRR Board of Commissioners, responded:

I just want to add that the new mayor of Hagåtña has been an active member in all of our meetings since he's been elected. So, we have a sense of the power of the community from him. And yes, we do feel that we're representing the 902 residents of Hagåtña as shown in the 2010 census.

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo thanked Senator Terlaje for her discussion, and asked the panel to apprise her of the legal status of the HRRRA Master Plan.

Maria E. Leon Guerrero, Chair, HRRRA Board of Commissioners, responded:

Well, since [HRRRA Executive Director] Jillette [Leon Guerrero] has come on board—I have to give her a lot of credit—she's been doing a great job and doing a lot of legwork and trying to help us figure out the status of it, which [involved] a lot of run around.

But I think based on the last correspondence that we received from the Speaker [Frank F. Blas, Jr.], he did mention that the Legislature's position is that it was not passed. It did not lapse into law. And therefore, at this point, we are looking at basically putting together our effort to put it through the process again and bring it before you all once again.

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo stated that the Committee looks forward to expediting the legislative process for the HRRRA Master Plan, and asked **Ms. Ada** to provide the Committee with her vision for the future of Hagåtña and how she plans to contribute once again, moving forward and furthering the plans to redevelop the capital.

Patricia Ann Perez Ada, Appointee, HRRRA Board of Commissioners, responded:

I would like to see more activities and more things for people to do here in Hagåtña. I'd like for tourism to be picked up and not only rely on being in Tumon and the beaches, but also to be able to come to Hagåtña. We have this beautiful museum here, but why not have more activities where the locals and tourists can enjoy more. And then I also feel like Hagåtña, we're getting a lot of demand for more businesses wanting to come into Hagåtña. And so, it'd be nice to have more businesses come in.

Also, another thing that I do a lot with handling the finances with our company is every time I have to go to pay taxes, I have to go to Tamuning. And I just feel like what we used to do, everything used to be done here in Hagåtña. But now it's like we have to move out of our way to go to other places that carry these government offices that aren't in our capital. So, I just feel that these are some of the things that I would like to see brought back to Hagåtña.

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo added:

It's something that we should probably recalibrate on, you know, to bring that foot traffic, yes. Considering we call this the capital of Guam, right? How do you plan to engage? Well, you mentioned more foot traffic and more things to do. So how do you plan to engage the local community in that aspect and to tie it in with your mission with HRRRA? Have you already started facilitating conversations for businesses, too?

Patricia Ann Perez Ada, Appointee, HRRRA Board of Commissioners, replied that she would like to see more cultural events and more sports activities.

Jillette T. Leon Guerrero, Executive Director, HRRRA, added:

I just wanted to talk about engagement and the local residents because the initiative that we started, the Hagåtña Barrio Project, is doing just that. And a part of that is actually doing surveys, one survey specifically with focus groups for the business community in Hagåtña. We've actually got all of the business licenses, the addresses and everything, so we'll be putting that out there to the business community, and the same thing for the residents of Hagåtña. On top of that, I have a housing assessment planned for the village as well, so these are things that we're just getting started to do, but we're trying to get the input from the community to know what type of development and how they feel about it and the business community and actually bring them into the process of it.

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo thanked HRRRA Executive Director Ms. Leon Guerrero, and asked Mr. Benevente to share with the Committee any past contributions or key initiatives that he was involved with during his previous tenure on the HRRRA Board.

Felix C. Benevente, Appointee, HRRRA Board of Commissioners, responded:

Unfortunately, as a past board member, I cannot list that many. [] The key item in all of our efforts was to pass the HRRRA Master Plan because legislation says we shall put together a master plan and then follow the elements of that master plan as approved. We have been struggling to get this master plan approved. We were in limbo for a long time, and then finally we're told after several months that the master plan needs to be resubmitted and approved. So, we did create planning committees to work without acting as a board. So, these will be working committees and in these working committees at the guidance of the chair we develop matrices for priorities listing down how much they would cost, listing all the projects that were listed in the master plan, developing timelines and rating them as most feasible or not likely in

five (5) years. And we made a selection list but these were all working documents and many times we could never get it to the level where we could ask the board to approve it because it was just conversations and then we went back and forth. But we did meet in working sessions not as a board but as a working group and that's the one of the biggest things that I think we did, was we tried to gather the master plan that was developed by Matrix and so where do we rate them as Senator Terlaje brought up, what are our priorities? And the only way we could do it was to develop this matrix with plusses and minuses, cost, timeline resources required and just to find out that that process is well—it's a good learning opportunity but it really came to nothing because we have to start all over again.

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo thanked Mr. Benevente; added that the Committee is working with HRRRA Executive Director Ms. Leon Guerrero here, and she looks forward to working with the HRRRA Board to move the HRRRA Master Plan through the legislative process; and posed a final question to Mr. Benevente:

Because Hagåtña is our capital and there are so many historical places or spots here—I'm just curious—how do you plan to ensure that the redevelopment efforts respect and preserve the historical and cultural integrity of Hagåtña?

Felix C. Benevente, *Appointee, HRRRA Board of Commissioners*, responded:

I'm glad you brought that up, Senator. I always thought that Hagåtña was the oldest city in the United States. The city of St. Augustine, Florida, claims that [title] but there's literature that says, no, Hagåtña was created before St. Augustine. Senators may know about this as well. So, I see Hagåtña as more the historic and cultural center of the whole island of Guam.

From an economic standpoint, Tumon is our money generator. Businesses go there. There's businesses in Hagåtña, but Hagåtña's biggest feature is its historical significance. It was the capital of the Spanish regime for 300 years or more. Many of our families came from Hagåtña. So, we want to keep that and I think a lot of our efforts, in fact the first word of our [agency's] title is "Hagåtña." So, it pays attention to that part of Hagåtña that we need to restore some of these things that made Hagåtña what it is today. So, I do place a high emphasis on Hagåtña's historical value in Guam.

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo thanked Mr. Benevente, and added:

As the oversight chair for arts and culture, I am very mindful and I'm really going to push forward—along with the Committee members here—we are going to push for preservation of our cultural heritage. I'd like to [thank Mr. Benevente for offering that historical info about Hagåtña]. People of Guam most likely are not aware that [Hagåtña is] the oldest city [in the USA]. So,

thank you for that.

Maria E. Leon Guerrero, *Chair, HRRR Board of Commissioners*, added:

I just wanted to add on the culture aspect that we have a number of sister organizations [and] partner organizations that are actually listed in the HRRR Master Plan and that we that we are supposed to collaborate with but our new director [Ms. Jillette Leon Guerrero] has really taken that to a new level. She used to be the director of Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities (CAHA) and as a result, she's a historian herself. She has a lot of connections in that community. And so, we're actually in the process of reigniting our partnerships with the Commission and, for example, the Guam Preservation Trust. Because all these organizations have that expertise in making sure that when we do restore our capital, that it's culturally tasteful and appropriate, that it makes sense, that it's authentic. And so, we want to make sure that we bring in all the experts to do their part in that, and Jillette has done a really great job of that, and we're actually in the process of drafting some [memoranda of understanding] or [memoranda of execution] so that each of them understands what their role and responsibility will be when we come together on projects.

Vice Chairperson V. Anthony Ada added:

So, I just [want to elaborate] on Ms. Ada's comment about bringing more tourists down out of Tumon into Hagåtña, and lately we've been seeing that. Since the start of the 38th [term], the Guam Legislature has been doing its part to help keep Hagåtña clean, [including government] facilities and also the Plaza de España. We work wholeheartedly towards the upkeep and the maintenance of these areas and also that a visitor safety officer is there every day from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and that helps keep our tourists safe during their visitation time. As we work together and we move forward in bringing our capital back to life again we can see how we can establish perhaps a [police station] and those things and keep working together and I think as long as we keep working together and see what the plans are and how we can ensure and incorporate old Hagåtña with modern-day Hagåtña then I think the two can live simultaneously in harmony. That's what I look forward to and thank you all for your hard work and all that you do for HRRR.

Senator Therese M. Terlaje added:

Si yu'os ma'ase' for that work. I don't know if you did or you're doing a historic kind of review so that should all be documented for your purposes, right? I think HRRR could play a big role in educating all of us. It wasn't until I was a lawyer already after school when I learned about some of the history of Hagåtña. I'm sure I don't know it all, but I never knew that the Spanish parts,

the plaza, the *Palasyo*, all of it was built, what it was built on top of. And thanks to the archaeologists and the studies that were done, we know, well I know that. Maybe everybody else knew that, but I feel like the new generations know that because they don't talk about it. It's completely undocumented. There's nothing that represents that. And I feel like that is really where the pride comes from. And that is where I travel to other places, to see that really long-standing history. And I think that that would be what attracts people to Hagåtña. Not only our activities, but that we are a city built upon an ancient village, then, you know, different, just kind of a revolving history.

And I really like to see that, and I really would like to see the [government] offices [relocate to] Hagåtña. I just like the offices to be a little bit more centralized. But even the Senators—we're all over the place, right, because we couldn't fit in this one building, unfortunately. I just feel like that will help us to collaborate. When you go to the Hawaii capital, you see the Governor, the Senators and they're all in the same building. They have to go up and down the elevators together. They share the facility and I just feel like that might increase opportunity to collaborate and the same thing with the agencies. I like it when they're convenient [because we can] meet them more often face to face. I feel like it's just much more productive.

So, I want to thank you as well, Director [Leon Guerrero], for meeting all of us—or at least with me—and explaining all your plans, and they're very exciting. And I know almost all of us our parents came from the barrios here in Hagåtña and we are very proud of that and they're very proud of that and that's how they have their lifelong friends from those that neighborhood right they've really perpetuated those relationships based on that very old neighborhood.

Si yu'os ma'åse' to all of you for all your work, and I'm looking forward [to the submission of the HERRA Master Plan], if it's going to come back again. What I want to know is, what are going to be your priorities? Because this plan is massive, [but I want to see if we can] get one project that we can complete to show that this is what we're doing for the people of Guam. *Si yu'os ma'åse'* and thank you to all of you.

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo thanked Senator Terlaje, and added:

(To Senator Terlaje) Actually, you're very conservative. You're only asking for one [project]. [HERRA Executive Director Ms. Leon Guerrero] and I were actually talking about three (3) [projects].

With Ms. Gillette [Leon Guerrero] at the helm, Ms. Maria [Leon Guerrero] as chair of the board, and, obviously, our appointees—Ms. Ada and Mr.

Benevente—I think [HRRA is] on a good path. And with the help of the 38th Guam Legislature and this Committee in particular, we're going to see to it that we move forward.

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo thanked the attendees and those who provided testimony, stated that the Committee will continue to receive testimony on the appointment of Ms. Ada and Mr. Benevente, and adjourned the public hearing at 3:31 PM.

III. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration hereby reports out the **"Executive Appointment of Felix C. Benavente to serve as Member of the Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners"** to *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* with a recommendation **TO DO CONFIRM.**