

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**December 27, 2017**

**ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDERS PAY HOMAGE TO  
FREEHOLDER CYNTHIA D. TORO & FREEHOLDER ROLANDO BOBADILLA**



Freeholder President Britnee N. Timberlake (center) presents Commendations and plaques to Freeholders Cynthia D. Toro of District 5 (third from left) and Rolando Bobadilla of District 1 (right corner). President Timberlake is joined by (from left to right) Freeholder At-Large Patricia Sebold, Freeholder Wayne L. Richardson of District 2, Freeholder Leonard M. Luciano of District 4, Freeholder At-Large Rufus I. Johnson, and Freeholder At-Large Leby C. Jones. Photo by Glen Frieson

(Newark, NJ) – On December 14, 2017, the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders held its final meeting of the year at the Hall of Records in Newark, New Jersey. During the meeting, the Board paid homage to Freeholders Cynthia D. Toro of District 5 and Rolando Bobadilla of District 1. During a special presentation, the Board commemorated the roles Freeholder Toro and Freeholder Bobadilla each played in contributing to the overall success of the Board and the advancement of the county.

Freeholder President Britnee N. Timberlake stood alongside members of the Board as she presented Freeholder Toro and Freeholder Bobadilla with Commendations and plaques, celebrating their leadership and groundbreaking achievements during their terms.

In September 2011, Freeholder Bobadilla was sworn-in to fill an unexpired term as District 1 Freeholder. After six years of dedicated service, his role as an advocate for the people will continue. As the Board's District 1 Freeholder, which includes Newark's North Ward, East Ward, and parts of the Central, South, and West Wards, Freeholder Bobadilla has been a voice for underrepresented immigrants and the Hispanic community in Essex County.

During his tenure, he worked tirelessly to create equality in Essex. He served on several of the Board's Committees, including the Healthcare/Health Benefits Committee, the Labor Union Oversight Committee, and the Work First New Jersey Committee, to name a few. He also chaired the Public Safety Subcommittee and the Citizenship and Immigration Services Committee (CIS). Most notably, in 2016, he advocated for the establishment of a Sanctuary County to protect the rights of immigrants in Essex.

Freeholder Toro was elected as the first Latina to serve on the Board in November 2014. As the District 5 Freeholder, she represented Belleville, Bloomfield, Glen Ridge, Montclair, and Nutley. During her tenure, she served on the Land Use Committee, Public Safety Subcommittee, and Citizen and Immigration Services Committee. She also chaired the Economic Development Committee, the Finance Oversight Committee, the Housing and Community Development Oversight Committee, and the Committee to Review Funding For Nonprofit Organizations, to name a few.

As a social worker by trade, Freeholder Toro connected the ideals of community building, social service, and government policymaking to create positive changes in Essex. She made efforts to reduce foreclosures, built partnerships with the nonprofit community, and spearheaded the Mortgage Assistance Workshop, a joint program between nonprofit lender Boston Community Capital/Stabilizing Urban Neighborhoods (SUN) and the Freeholder Board to help homeowners facing foreclosure remain in their homes. In December 2017, she hosted the Board's second Nonprofit Symposium, a program she inaugurated to provide nonprofit organizations and governmental bodies with the opportunity to foster conversations about serving the needs of disadvantaged populations in Essex. Most recently, she introduced a Resolution to encourage vendors that hold, or seek to hold, contracts with the County to hire local to reduce poverty and unemployment.

Freeholder Toro and Freeholder Bobadilla both represented the County of Essex with honor, enthusiasm, and distinction. The Freeholders both promoted improvements to the socioeconomic, legislative, and budgetary needs of the County, and the advancements they have made on behalf of the people of Essex County will surely be remembered.

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