

PHILCONGEN LA ATTENDS HISTORICAL MAYORAL TRANSITION IN THE CITY OF CERRITOS



Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz (right) and Cerritos Mayor Lynda P. Johnson (left) during the City of Cerritos Mayoral Transition

LOS ANGELES, CA - The Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles attended the City of Cerritos' Mayoral Transition held on Wednesday, 08 April 2026 at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts Theatre in Cerritos, California, where a new Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem were officially seated following the City Council's annual reorganization. The Consulate was represented

by Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz, Madam Catherine Amon Cruz, Consul Francis Maynard S. Maleon and Philippine Honorary Consul for Arizona Jenny Lynn M. Ho-Vijungco.

During the ceremony, the Cerritos City Council selected Councilmember Lynda P. Johnson as Mayor and Councilmember Mark E. Pulido as Mayor Pro Tem. The transition also recognized outgoing Mayor Frank Aurelio Yokohama, who will continue serving as Councilmember following his term as the City's chief elected official.

Mayor Johnson's appointment marks a historic milestone as she becomes the first Filipina American Mayor of Cerritos, as the city approaches the 70th anniversary of its incorporation. In her inaugural remarks, Mayor Johnson expressed gratitude to her colleagues and underscored her commitment to inclusive leadership, stating, *"I am deeply honored and humbled to stand before you as the first Filipina American appointed to serve as Mayor of the City of Cerritos."* She further highlighted the city's diversity, noting that more than 60 percent of its residents are of Asian descent, with Filipinos comprising one of the largest groups, and reaffirmed her commitment to serve seniors, youth, persons with disabilities, and residents of all cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

A long-time resident of Cerritos, Mayor Johnson has served on the City Council since 2022 and previously held leadership roles in the ABC United School District Board of Education. Her nearly four decades of public service, including her work with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, reflects her deep commitment to community development and public service. Her leadership comes at a significant moment in the city's history, as Cerritos prepares to commemorate its foundation in 1956 and reflect on its transformation from agricultural community into a dynamic suburban hub.



Newly seated Cerritos Mayor Lynda P. Johnson (center) and Mayor Pro Tem Mark E. Pulido (second from left) join members of the Cerritos City Council during the Mayoral Transition Ceremony on 08 April 2026 at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts in Cerritos, CA

The ceremony also highlighted the strong and sustained representation of Filipino Americans in Cerritos' civic leadership. Mayor Pro Tem Mark E. Pulido, a former two-time Mayor and the city's first Filipino American Mayor, returns to the leadership role as part of the Council's rotation system. Outgoing Mayor Frank Aurelio Yokohama, who is of Filipino and Japanese American heritage, likewise reflects the multicultural character of the Cerritos community.

Cerritos' current five-member City Council - composed of Mayor Johnson, Mayor Pro Tem Pulido, Councilmembers Jennifer Hong, Sophia M. Tse, and Frank Aurelio Yokohama - represents the city's first all-Asian American and majority female governing body. This milestone underscores the growing participation and leadership of Filipino Americans and women in local governance in Southern California, particularly in communities such as Cerritos, which hosts one of the largest Filipino American populations in the region.

As a city of approximately 50,000 residents in southeast Los Angeles County, Cerritos is recognized for its strong community institutions, including the Cerritos Library and the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, as well as its emphasis on education, public safety, and long-term urban planning. Under its council-manager system, the Mayor

serves in a rotating capacity, presiding over meetings and representing the city in official functions.

The newly constituted leadership will guide the City's policy direction, budget planning; and community programs for the 2026-2027 term. Mayor Johnson's appointment reflects both the city's rich history and its forward-looking vision, as Cerritos continues to strengthen its commitment to inclusive governance, community development, and diversity in leadership.